

Sunday between June 19 and 25 – year C

Preparation

Read [Galatians 3: 23-29](#) and [Luke 8: 26-39](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/properc7.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115790_ENG_HTM.htm:

scroll down to find this week's lesson

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwv.htm#p12>: word puzzles

http://www.sermons4kids.com/extreme_makeover.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent3les.htm>

http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children%20flip%20charts/demons_pigs_flipchart.html

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children to tell you about the most exciting or surprising thing they have ever taken part in.

Take some time for their responses and share one of your own if you have one.

We all have times when something surprises us and makes us sit up and take notice in a different way. Explain to the children that in today's story there will be people who get surprised and have to pay attention to Jesus in a new way.

Story Time

Instructions

- Teach the children the following chant to be used throughout the story:

**All are one in Jesus.
All can come to Jesus.
We will go to Jesus.**

Jesus and his friends continued travelling around Galilee visiting all the towns and the villages that they came to. Jesus was teaching the people about God's love. Jesus was healing the people who came to him for healing. More and more people were getting to hear the good news of God's love for all.

**All are one in Jesus.
All can come to Jesus.
We will go to Jesus.**

They came to the country across the lake from Galilee, called Gerasene by boat. As soon as Jesus came onto the land, a man who was full of demons came up to him. This man had not worn clothes for a long time. He did not live in a house but out in the graveyard. The man's family tried to keep him safe by tying him up with chains and ropes. The demons gave him a lot of strength and he would break free and end up out in the graveyard.

When the man saw Jesus he fell down on knees and shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want of me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Do not torment me!"

**All are one in Jesus.
All can come to Jesus.
We will go to Jesus.**

Jesus commanded the demons to get out of the man. After this Jesus asked the man, "What is your name?"

The man replied, "Legion".

He said this because there were many demons inside him and a legion is a big number. They asked Jesus not to send them too far away. Just on the hillside there was a herd of pigs. They asked Jesus to send them into the pigs when they came out of the man. So Jesus sent them into the pigs.

**All are one in Jesus.
All can come to Jesus.
We will go to Jesus.**

The demons went into the pigs. Right after the whole herd of pigs went over the cliff and into the lake where they all drowned. The demons were gone forever.

The people looking after the pigs went into the city. They told everyone they could what had happened. The people of the city came out to see it for themselves. What they saw when they came to Jesus and the man surprised all of them.

**All are one in Jesus.
All can come to Jesus.
We will go to Jesus.**

They found the man with clothes sitting down having a real conversation with Jesus. The man was obviously restored to health. They began to feel afraid of Jesus. The people who had seen what had happened told the others who had from the city what had happened. They told them how the man had been healed and released from the demons.

The people in the area asked Jesus to leave. For they were afraid of the power of God that he had shown them. Jesus decided to get into the boat and return to the other side of the lake. The man who had been healed begged to go with Jesus.

**All are one in Jesus.
All can come to Jesus.
We will go to Jesus.**

Jesus told him, “Go home and tell everyone you meet what has happened for you. Tell them how God has worked in your life!”

The man did as Jesus told him. He told everyone he met what God did for him through Jesus. He praised God everyday for being able to live a healthy life.

**All are one in Jesus.
All can come to Jesus.
We will go to Jesus.**

Response

Project Idea 1: Spinning Top

This will be a fun way for the children to share today's story with their families.

Materials needed

- card stock or heavy cardboard
- scissors
- very sharp pencils
- markers
- paper clips

Instructions

Draw circles the size of 10 cm (4 in) in diameter on the card stock or heavy cardboard. For younger children cut the circles out ahead of time. For older children you can let them cut out their circles. Have the children use the markers to decorate their tops however they would like. Suggest that they use circles or swoosh's that will look interesting when the top is spinning. When they have finished decorating their tops, help them to push their sharp pencils through the centre of the circle. Practice spinning together. Now have them add the paper clip to one side of the top and then try to spin the top. They will probably find that it doesn't spin as well. Explain that like the man with the demons who needed them to go away to be healthy, the top needs the paper clip to be gone in order to spin properly. Suggest that they can use the tops to share today's story with their families by showing how it doesn't spin with the paper clip and then spins better without it. Just as we can live our lives better with Jesus in our life than without Jesus.

Project Idea 2: Marble Painting

This fun type of painting will be a way for the children to share the joy of the man healed from his demons with their families and friends.

Materials needed

- cookie trays with rims
- newsprint
- tempera paints
- small bowls and water
- marbles
- markers
- scissors
- slotted spoon

Instructions

Cut the newsprint so that it fits inside the cookie tray. Put the tempera paints into the small bowls and put 3 or 4 marbles into each colour. Have the children print in the centre of the newsprint “**All can come to Jesus**” with a marker. Then have them place their newsprint sheets onto a cookie tray. Show them how to use the slotted spoon to lift a marble out of each of the different colours. Once they have the colours onto the paper that they want get them to tilt the cookie tray around and watch the marbles paint the paper. When all the paint has come off the marbles get them to place them back in the paint or wash them off with the water.

As the children are marble painting talk with them about the joy the man must have felt when Jesus sent the demons out of him. Get them to think about all the wonderful colours and how they can share that joy with others. If they want to add other marbles with different colours and there is time have the children add other marbles and paint again by tilting their cookie trays. Encourage the children to share their paintings with their families by telling them the story of Jesus healing the man with demons and the joy of the man at being healed.

Project Idea 3: Journey Cards

These cards will help the children to share today’s story and think about the journey the man made after Jesus freed him from the demons.

Materials needed

- card stock
- markers
- glue sticks
- glitter
- tissue paper
- seasonal stickers

Instructions

Fold the card stock in half. Have the children print inside the card “**Come and journey with Jesus and me**”. Suggest that they think about someone that they would like to give the card to as they look at the craft materials that are available. Invite them to decorate the outside of the card with that person in mind. When they are done, have everyone share the outside of their cards with each other, and then have them sign their names inside the card. Remind the children to give the card to person that they were thinking about as soon as they can.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle.
Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.