

# DISCUSSION NOTES

**DECEMBER 11, 2016**

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more deeply, & strengthen you to live what you learn.

## GETTING STARTED

1. Read Mark 5:1-20. If this were a scene in a movie, what would the the scene feel like? Who would you want as a director? Who would play the role of the demoniac?

## DIGGING IN

2. In Mark 5:1-20, when and where does this event take place? Where had Jesus and the disciples been just prior to this? What had we learned about Jesus' power and authority in the previous event?
3. When Jesus gets out of the boat, he encounters a man. What are some marks of the demonic in this man? What all do we know about this man? Can you list 5-10 things?
4. In the Old Testament, God gives detailed laws to his people that distinguishes that which is clean from that which is unclean. Can you find 3-5 things in this passage that would be considered unclean (or against the law) to the Israelites? Why is this significant?
5. In Jesus encounter with the demonic (in verse 6-13), who has the upper hand? What evidence is there to support this? What do we learn about Jesus from this encounter?
6. How do the townspeople and observers respond to this event? Why do you think they responded in this way? Does this seem reasonable? Is this the correct response? What do we learn about trusting Jesus from this?
7. How does the freed man respond to Jesus (verse 18)? How does Jesus respond to his request (verse 19)? What effect did this opportunity have (verse 20)?

## LIVING IT OUT

8. In what ways must faith be more than merely intellectual understanding of who Jesus is? Read James 2:19. What does this say about the kind of faith that we need to possess?
9. While our stories may be different from the demoniac's story in some obvious ways, in what ways are all salvation stories similar to this man's story?
10. Reread Mark 5:19. All Christians have a redemption story they can tell. Have you ever acknowledged the presence of evil in your life and your need of a Rescuer? Have you trusted Jesus in a way that changed your life? How much has the Lord done for you? How has God had mercy on you?
11. After experiencing freedom in Christ, this man was overjoyed to follow Jesus, but Jesus sent him home with an amazing opportunity to tell his friends what God had done in his life. What friends need to hear your redemption story this Christmas season? Would you commit to tell them about God's mercy?