

Unit 29, Session 4: Jesus Has Power Over Evil

Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

Christ Connection:

Preschool: Jesus used His power to help the man, and then Jesus told the man to tell others what He had done. Jesus came to earth to free people from the power of sin. He was going to die on the cross to defeat evil once and for all. We can trust in Jesus to rescue us from sin, and we can tell others what Jesus has done for us.

Kids: Jesus has power over evil. Only Jesus had the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Jesus used His power to free the man. He has power over everything. Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.

Adult Connection Point: We can see a distinction between righteous anger and sinful anger perhaps most clearly in Ephesians 4:26-27. The issue is not with anger per se—because, again, some anger is justifiable—but with anger *uncontrolled*. As Paul said, if left unchecked where it is able to fester, anger gives the Devil an opportunity to tempt us toward sin. Anger is associated with Satan in a few places in Scripture, such as Revelation 12:12 where John writes that “the Devil has come down to you with great fury, because he knows he has a short time.” Anger is an area where we humans are especially vulnerable on account of our sinful natures, thus making it a target area for Satan (see Jas. 1:19-20).

When given to anger, human beings resemble the beasts of the field more than their Creator. It stands to reason that such is the influence of the Devil. In fact, we see his demons influencing men in this way in Matthew 8:28-34 where it is said that two possessed men “were so violent that no one could pass that way” (v. 28). Human rage is the work of the Devil. But the good news is that Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil (1 John 3:8). Jesus did not leave the two men to the influence of demons but cast them out, and neither will He leave us to the ploys of the Devil. Jesus defeated Satan at the cross and in His resurrection (Col. 2:13-15), a victory that will be completed upon His return to reign with us in the fullness of His kingdom (Rev. 11:15-18; 12:10-12). God will pour out His divine and holy wrath against Satan and all those who follow Him on that day (1 Thess. 1:9-10). Only by trusting in Jesus can we be rescued from the power of the Devil and saved from the righteous wrath of God. We must repent from our unrighteous anger so that we do not face God’s holy anger. And through Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins, we can be forgiven for our unrighteous anger.

Family Devotion:

Guide your family to think of evil acts they have heard in the news or at school. It could be real evil or evil personified in movies. Keep the discussion age-appropriate, especially if you have preschoolers.

Recall the Bible story of Jesus having power over evil.

Ask: “How did the evil spirit respond to Jesus’ command?”

Remind your kids that the man had an evil spirit in him that hurt him and made him suffer, so he lived among the tombs. When Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out, the spirit knew who Jesus was—the Son of the Most High God!

Ask: “What happened after the evil spirit was cast out of the man?”

Remark how Jesus commanded the spirits to go into the pigs. All 2,000 pigs ran into the water and drowned. Afterwards the man was in his right mind again. Jesus had commanded the evil spirits to come out, and they had to obey because Jesus has power over all things—good and evil.

Summarize the story by reminding your kids that Jesus came to earth to destroy evil and the Devil by dying on the cross. Only Jesus had the power to free the man. Only Jesus has the power to destroy the Devil. One day, all evil will be destroyed forever.

Sing a victory song with your family using one of the songs from the curriculum or a favorite praise and worship song.

Pray, thanking God that Jesus has power over the Devil and his evil spirits.

Thank Him that one day evil will be no more.