

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Echoes of the King”**  
**Complement to lesson on 11/19/23 – “Go to Reclaim”**

**ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. What is the coolest reclaimed wood project or piece of reclaimed furniture you have ever seen?
2. What made it so unique? Why are we attracted to these repurposed items?

**MEMORIZE – Mark 1: 14-15**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

**READ – Read Mark 5: 1-20**

**Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
  - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
  - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
  - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?  
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. This story of Jesus healing the demonized man is also found in Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-39. Take a minute to read these accounts as well.
  - a. What similarities do you see? What differences?
  - b. What additional insight did you find from looking at multiple accounts?
  - c. The gospel writers wrote from different perspectives and to different audiences, but Matthew, Mark and Luke all found it important to include this account... why might that be? What does it teach us about Jesus and his kingdom?
3. Everyone involved had a different response to this encounter with Jesus (the man with the unclean spirit, the demons (“Legion”), the herdsman, and the people from the city and country). What were their responses? Can you relate to any of the responses more than others? In what ways might God be calling YOU to echo and/or learn from these responses?

## EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY “Light Conquers Darkness”

Sometimes, if we’re honest, we fear entering the “darkness” of our world to bring the good news of the kingdom of God... and this is a natural response! There are plenty of outcomes that could be difficult, discouraging, or even what we would typically call “bad” if we obey the call of the Sent & Sending one and carry the light to the places we have been sent. We must remember, though, that whether an outcome is “good” or “bad” depends on our *priorities* and our *outlook*. As our Master and Lord, God has a right to call us to hard things. “For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (Romans 14:8) As our Faithful Friend, he promises to never leave our side. His Spirit leads, guides, and protects. He provides brothers and sisters in the faith family to walk alongside us and support us.

As we look to enter the darkness, we must remember that we carry the light. **Jesus is the light of the world**, and this light has authority over darkness.

To center your mind on this truth, find a place of complete darkness. (A bedroom with no light, an empty field or wooded area on a night with no moon or stars.) Sit with the darkness for a few minutes, acknowledging that a space such as this can be intimidating. Then, with a small light, read a few Scriptures to remind yourself of the truth about light’s position of authority over darkness:

**John 8:12 / John 1:1-5 / Ephesians 5:8-15 / Psalm 119:105 / Matthew 5:16 / Psalm 27:1**

After reading and meditating on these truths, bust out the biggest source of light you have on hand. (A large flashlight, or preferably, a spotlight!) Watch as the darkness becomes powerless as the light drives it out, reminding yourself that this is great picture of the spiritual reality in Jesus’s “now but not yet” kingdom!

**SING** (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Give Us Your Heart - <https://youtu.be/UfuiBuusquw?si=MwMdcGdhjJATPQDh>

This is My Father’s World - <https://youtu.be/NwqTvmprnKeE?si=vXabQYQ48y2lu6JV>

Joy to the World – Mennonite Hymnal #122

Listen: Skillet- Terrify the Dark (Reimagined) - <https://youtu.be/IWsSkL8SMjo?si=fhknECM4gBqMPV4K>

## PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

**Sending prayer based on the message:**

Almighty God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit, you have called me to be a part of reclaiming what is rightly yours. At the cross, you disarmed the rulers and authorities, putting them to open shame. Give me confidence to walk in this authority, as an ambassador of your “now but not yet” kingdom. Help me to have open eyes to the ways you are calling me - to demonstrate and declare the good news where I live, work, study, play and worship this week.