

# Life of Christ

## Jesus helps 2 crazy men **Matthew 8:28-34**

Younger Verse

Share with God's people who need help. Romans 12:13

Older Verse

Share with God's people who need help. Romans 12:13

Lesson Goals

Explain the story in their own words  
Tell what happened to the two men and what they did after they met Jesus  
See how we must share Jesus with others

Welcome Time

Have you ever seen a person change and become totally different than they were?  
Today's lesson shows us how two men changed when they met Jesus.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

“AAAAH”  
“Did you hear that?” said one of Jesus' friends nervously as he stepped out of the boat.

“What was that noise?” the others said.  
Suddenly two men ran towards them.  
“What do we do?” they said frightenedly.

Jesus remained calm and peaceful. He knew that God brought these men to them for a reason.

Jesus knew that the men had evil spirits from the devil inside them. They caused them to do evil things. People tried to chain them up, but they were so strong that they would always break the chains. They lived in the graveyard and would often cut themselves with rocks or scream out loudly.

When the men got to Jesus, they shouted as loud as they could, “What do you want with us, Jesus, Son of God?”

Then the spirits asked Jesus not to hurt them. They begged Jesus not to send them out of the area.

Then, they saw some pigs feeding on a hill. They asked Jesus to send them into the pigs. Jesus agreed. The spirits went into the pigs. There were about 2,000 pigs on the hill.

Suddenly, all the pigs rushed down the hill and into the lake and were drowned.

The people who were taking care of the pigs saw what happened; they were shocked. They told all the people in the town what had happened.

The people couldn't believe that all the pigs had died. They had to come see for themselves. When they came to Jesus, they saw the men who had been evil. However, this time they were different. They were sitting peacefully and calm by Jesus.

When the people saw this, they were afraid. The people who saw what happened to the men shared the news with the newcomers. They also told them about the pigs.

When the people heard what happened, they begged Jesus to leave.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the men who had been crazy asked to go with Jesus.

Jesus did not let them go, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he cared for you."

So the men went away and began to tell people all over the area how much Jesus had done for them. All the people who listened were amazed at what Jesus had done.

The crazy men were changed because of Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, He changes us too. Instead of doing things our way, we want to obey God. Instead of focusing on ourselves, we want to help others. Just like the man, we will want to tell others about how Jesus changed us.

Would you like Jesus to change your life? You must talk to God and tell Him that you are sorry for all the wrong things that you have done. You must ask Him to forgive you and tell Him that you believe that Jesus died and came back to live to pay the punishment for all the wrongs that you have done. Next, ask Jesus to come into your life and stay with you forever. God will hear your prayer and change your life. Jesus will come and clean out all the wrongs in your heart. He will help you do things God's way instead of your way. If you want to know more about believing in Jesus, talk to us about it.

This part of the story is found in Mark 5:19-20.

#### Learning Activities

Try activities that will help the kids understand the reason for the story in the Bible.

#### Memory Verse Activities

Roll up a piece of paper to make a megaphone. Write the verse on the side and shout it through the megaphone!

#### Prayer Time

Jesus was able to be peaceful and in control because He had been praying and talking to God. God helped Him know what to do and how to help the man. Pray that God can help you treat others like Jesus did—with love and care.

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

Ask everyone to help clean up. Encourage each person and help them know that you love and care for them.

Planning for April 6th  
A woman gives Jesus a present  
Matthew 26:6-13

# Preschool Lesson for Jesus and the Crazy Man

“AAAAH”

“Did you hear that?” said one of Jesus’ friends nervously as he stepped out of the boat.

“What was that noise?” the others said. (Look scared)

Suddenly two men ran towards them. “AAAAH”

“What do we do?” they said frightenedly. They were ready to get back in the boat and paddle as quickly as they could away from the shore.

Jesus was calm and peaceful. He knew that God brought the men to them for a reason.

He stepped out of the boat and wanted to help them.

Jesus knew that the men had evil spirits inside him. They made him act evil. People tried to chain them up, but they were so strong that they would always break the chains. (Pretend like you are breaking some invisible chains.) They lived in the graveyard and would often scream out loudly. (Let everyone yell out loud—if you can quickly get back to the story.)

When the men got to Jesus, they fell at Jesus’ feet. Then they shouted as loud as they could, “What do you want with us, Jesus, Son of God?”

They knew who Jesus was! Can you believe it?!

Then the spirits asked Jesus not to hurt them. They begged Jesus not to send them out of the area.

Then, they saw some pigs feeding on a hill. (Make oinking noise.) They asked Jesus to send them into the pigs. Jesus agreed. The spirits went into the pigs. There were about 2,000 pigs on the hill.

Suddenly, all the pigs rushed down the hill and into the lake and were drowned. (Make a gulping noise like the pigs might as they are drowning.)

The people who were taking care of the pigs saw what happened; they were shocked. They told all the people in the town what had happened.

The people couldn’t believe that all the pigs had died. They had to come see for themselves. When they came to Jesus, they saw the men who had been evil. This time they were different. They were sitting peacefully and calmly by Jesus.

When the people saw this, they were afraid. The people who saw what happened to the men shared the news with the newcomers. They also told them about the pigs.

When the people heard what happened, they begged Jesus to leave.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the men who used to be evil asked to go with Jesus.

Jesus did not let him go, but said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he cared for you.”

So the men went away (make walking motions) and began to tell all over the area how much Jesus had done for him. All the people who listened were amazed at what Jesus had done.

The evil men were changed because of Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, He changes us too. Instead of doing things our way, we want to listen to God and do what He wants us to do. What did the men do?

They told many people how Jesus helped him. We can tell people how Jesus can help them and how much He loves them.

Sing, “My best friend is Jesus.”

Hands On Activities  
for  
Jesus and the Crazy Man

Act out the story. Be imaginative! You may want to use a tarp for the water, fake handcuffs, paper chains, cardboard for the gravestones, etc.

Using marshmallows and toothpicks, make a pig treat.

It's neat to see how the men totally changed. They were evil, but Jesus helped him to be normal. Make or bring Play Dough and talk about how we can mold it and change shapes with it. Let everyone make two men shapes. Now let them change it to a different shape after Jesus healed them.

The men told many people how Jesus had changed his life. Make a list of some things you would notice that were different about the men's lives.

Jesus loved the men—even when they were filled with evil spirits. Most of us would have run away or been really scared to talk to him. This is a great example of how Jesus wants us to treat others—with love and care. Jesus didn't look at what the men looked like on the outside. He didn't see the mean person. Jesus saw what the men could be—men who were changed because they believed in Jesus.

Can you think of someone who is like these people in your life? What is one way we can be nice to them this week?

Create a picture of what these men looked like before they met Jesus. Then make a picture of what they looked like after they met Jesus. Use macaroni, beans, string or other objects to make it interesting.

Fold a paper boat and make pipecleaner figures to reenact the story.

Talk about some things that change. Examples may include forms of water, caterpillar to a butterfly, tadpole to a frog, seed to a plant etc. Let them come up with some ideas. Share how Jesus has changed your life and how glad you are for Him.