

WE NEED JESUS

**We need
Jesus to win**

MATTHEW 8:28-34

faith  **kids**

We need Jesus – We need Jesus to win

MATTHEW 8:28-34



Big Idea:

Jesus has power over evil. He cares for people.
I have nothing to fear.



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who know that Jesus wins against evil so they look
to him for protection.



Where are we going?

Jesus is stronger than any other power, even the devil. The two men we meet in this story are prisoners of the evil power at work in their lives. They have a sad life without choices. No-one else can help them – people are too afraid to even come close. But Jesus is not afraid, because he is stronger. He will always win. Evil forces even need his permission to run away! Afterwards, the men are so changed and free that the

local people are frightened of Jesus. So much fear!

The devil uses his power to lie, to imprison, to hurt and to destroy. But Jesus is powerful and good. He sets the men free. He cared for them and he cares for us. We can trust him to protect and release us from the devil, and everything evil. We don't need to be afraid.

We don't have to be strong enough to fight evil on our own, we can trust Jesus to protect us.



Prisoner or free?

Give two of your family the task of building a tower out of Jenga blocks, Lego or plastic containers. Both do it at the same time. One is free to do their best. Tie some rope or string to the wrists of the other, explaining that he/she is a bit like a puppet. When this second person is building their tower, give their wrists an occasional tug, making it impossible to build a tower.

Or just ask the question: If you could

have a superpower, what evil force would you want to beat?

➡ **Link:** In our story today we will meet two men who were prisoners of a strong power. But we'll see that Jesus was even stronger. No-one can beat Jesus!



**Click here
to watch**

or scan the code





Teaching Time

Younger children

One of you will be one of the demon-possessed men in the story. He/she needs to have their wrists held by someone else, holding them captive, like a prisoner or a puppet.

When Jesus got out of the boat, two men came to him from the caves. These men, who lived in the caves had evil spirits controlling them. They were like puppets. They were not in control of themselves. By holding their wrists, show that they cannot do as they choose. They are like a prisoner.

These men were so sad. They lived alone. They couldn't escape from the control of the evil spirits. They could hurt others, so everyone else stayed away.

The men saw Jesus and knew exactly who he was. The evil spirits shouted in a loud voice, (The one holding the wrists can say this) "What will you do to us Jesus? You are the Son of God! Please don't hurt us."

There was a large herd of pigs eating on a hill near

there. So the evil spirits shouted, "If you're going to send us away, please send us into those pigs." Jesus sent the evil spirit into the pigs. (The one holding the wrists now lets go so the other person is free).

Then the herd of pigs rushed down the hill into the water and died. The men who took care of the pigs ran away. They went to the town and to the countryside, telling everyone about this.

They came to Jesus. They saw the two men who had had the many evil spirits. They were now free. No longer dangerous.

The people were frightened of Jesus, because they had seen his power over evil spirits.

Jesus is the strongest. Lots of people (and the evil spirits) in the story were frightened but Jesus wasn't. We don't have to be afraid because Jesus is the strongest and he will always look after us.

Older children

Have ready some pieces of paper or toys to represent the following

- Jesus (could be a stick man with a crown)
- Two possessed men: (could be stick men with scary faces on one side of the paper, and two men with smiling faces on the back)
- A crowd
- Some pigs
- Three labels; 'Not much power', 'Most powerful' and 'The Devil', and a piece of string/wool/skipping rope

Use the string/wool/rope to make a line with 'Not much power' at one end and 'Most powerful' at the other.

Open the Bible passage (Matthew 8:28-34). Read it one verse at a time, asking the questions below as you go. Get the children to put the pictures/toys in the right place along the line as you go.

Read v.28. These men had demons in them. That means that they were prisoners of the devil. Who has

the most power – the devil or these two men? Put the pictures in the right places to show that the devil had power over the men. Use the scary side of the two men picture. What about all the other people – who was more powerful, the two men or everyone else? Put pictures down to show that the two men had power over all the other people.

Read v.29-30. Where do the demons think Jesus belongs on our line? Put Jesus above the others. Put the picture of the pigs at the 'not much power' end of the line.

Read v.31-32. What happened to the men? The demons left them. Turn the picture over so that they are no longer frightening. Where on the line should we put Jesus? At the most powerful end – the devil does what Jesus tells him to do.

Read v.33-34. Why do the crowd respond like this to Jesus helping the two men?

What shows us that Jesus is the most powerful in this story?



Hearts and Hands

Younger children

Craft time

Make a pig-themed craft. Take a paper plate or cut a circle from thin card. Cut out and stick on paper ears and stick on a segment from an egg box, or a plastic bottle top, to make a piggy nose. Paint/colour the face and nose pink and draw or stick on eyes.

Did you spot it?

- What were the men like before Jesus helped them? They were not in control of themselves. They were lonely and sad. They hurt other people. The devil was in control of them.
- Who told the evil spirits what to do? Jesus!
- Where did Jesus send those evil spirits? Into the herd of pigs.

Work it out

- How did Jesus help the men? He sent the evil spirits out of the men. He set those men free.
- Why wasn't Jesus afraid of the two men, when everyone else was? Because he is stronger. He doesn't have to be afraid of anyone.

So what?

- Think of something you are afraid of. Why isn't Jesus afraid of it? He is stronger/more powerful than it. (Remind them of the previous 2 lessons, where we saw that Jesus is stronger than sickness and creation).
- What can you say to Jesus next time you feel afraid?
- Next time you feel afraid – how will it help to remember that Jesus wins?

Pray

Thank you, Jesus, that you are stronger than all evil powers. Please help us when we feel afraid. Amen.

Older children

Make time

Use playdough or pens to make or draw something strong to keep you safe. It might be real (e.g. a strong building, a tough shield) or imaginary (e.g. a hat with hidden defences to fight off attackers!)

Did you spot it?

- What were the men like before Jesus helped them? They were not in control of themselves. They were lonely and sad. They hurt other people. The devil was in control of them.
- How did the evil spirits treat Jesus? They knew who he was. They were afraid of him. They obeyed him.
- Where did Jesus do to those evil spirits? He sent them into the herd of pigs.

Work it out

- How can we see that the devil's power is real from this story? The men were prisoners to his power. The pigs were equally controlled by the evil spirits. The people at the end give in to the devil's temptation to fear Jesus, even though he has only shown care to the men.
- Why wasn't Jesus afraid of the two men, when everyone else was? Because he is stronger. He doesn't have to be afraid of anyone.

So what?

- We don't often meet people like the men in the story who are possessed by demons, but the devil still likes to frighten people. Name one example of where we see evil today that scares us?
- If we met that evil, how would we respond? What do we want to remember?
- Imagine: Think of a pair of people or creatures. Who would win in a fight between them? E.g. dog or cat, rhino or elephant, mum or dad, shark or T-rex, Jesus or evil? How does knowing that Jesus wins the fight against evil help calm your fears?

Extra Stretch

- Why did the crowd beg Jesus to leave at the end?
- Does this help explain why some people want to keep Jesus far away? What do you want them to understand about Jesus?
- The battle with evil is not over yet, but we do know the outcome. Read Revelation 19:11-20 to see the final battle with evil, in the form of 'the beast'. Who is this glorious conquering king? How does seeing both Jesus' great power and his great kindness encourage you?

Pray

How does this story want to make you want to thank Jesus? Is there evil you see that you want to pray about?