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## Lives Changed by Jesus

Week Nine | The Gerasene Demoniac – A Drowning Man (Mark 5:1-20)

*For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the Guideline For Growing on our website*

<https://www.gymeabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

### OVERVIEW:

In this series we will be exploring several New Testament characters whose lives were changed by an encounter with Jesus. Over the course of the series we will dive into the transformation they experienced, the focus of their encounter, the required response, any friends who were involved, and the invitation into mission. The importance of these five aspects will vary but will be a consistent part of the discipleship menus.

As in previous “menus” there will be a variety of activities to take up. These can be done by yourself (God and You), with a couple of friends (You and a Few), or in a Life Group (You and a Crew). As with any menu, choose what resonates with you. In other words, there is no need to do all of the menu!

Just one more reminder that you can listen to the sermon that accompanies the discipleship menu - it can be found on our website or wherever you listen to podcasts. You may also want to listen to The Big Ill podcast; a mid-week podcast that explores three big questions raised by the sermon.

### PASSAGES TO READ

Make Mark 5:1-20 the central reading this week. Read it aloud multiple times.

As you do, you may want to picture the scene in your mind and picture where you are in the scene (This might be particularly interesting this week!). Who do you associate with? How close are you to the “action”? This kind of imaginative reading is a very helpful way to read narrative texts.

You may also want to use the four questions we use when we “Read the Bible Together”: What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What is the invitation to you? And Who can you tell?

## QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON (JOURNAL)

1. Mark has already spent time developing the themes of Jesus' authority, mission, and compassion in his gospel. Read the first four chapters and note where Mark mentions these things and what each text reveals about Jesus.
2. The image of 'binding the strong man' and 'plundering his house' is an interesting one for salvation. Like all images, it is imperfect. However, it tells us certain things that are true about salvation. Explore this image and consider the kind of salvation it describes.
3. The rescued man begs to follow Jesus but is, instead, sent on mission. What are the things that keep us from "going to our own people and telling them what God has done for us"?
4. Jesus was asleep during the storm, just like the prophet Jonah. What are the similarities and differences between these two stories?

## A THEME TO PRAY ABOUT

Pray for greater insight into the mission, compassion, and authority of Jesus especially as it relates to our participation in his ongoing mission.