

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

EVEN SATAN

Scripture: Mark 5:1-20

Pastor Miles McPherson – 13 Dec 2015

Today, Pastor Miles began with a recap of this year's Toys For Joy event, and shared some amazing stories and evidence of God's work. Pastor Miles thanked the over 4,000 volunteers at 4 locations, who were used by God to bless almost 20,000 people with toys, food, groceries, clothing, music, fellowship, love, Bibles and most importantly, a Gospel message. Over 3,000 salvations were recorded!

Pastor Miles then asked everyone to think of someone who does not know Jesus at all or who does not know Jesus as well as we do. Over the next year, Pastor Miles asked that we pray for that one person as we prepare and get equip[ped] to disciple to that individual in the next year.

In today's message, a demon possessed man encountered Jesus and even the demons worshiped Jesus because He was God. Worship is a response of respect. If Satan and his demons recognise Jesus as being worthy of worship, shouldn't we as believers who are in the presence of God all the time do the same?

MEMORY VERSE

When he (the demon possessed man) **saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of Him.**

Mark 5:6 (NIV)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. What was the best Christmas present you ever received?
2. Pastor Miles asked the church to return to saying "Merry Christmas". What is your reaction or response when someone says "Happy Holidays" to you?

Group leader note: After discussing this question, refer to the tip Pastor Miles offered in this situation. Respond with "Merry Christmas", and then pause in silence to allow the other person to respond. This can be a very powerful technique. Try a short role-play demonstrating this.



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Miles talked about a Christian 'on-fire' for God compared to a complacent or lukewarm Christian.
 - * What does it look like or how can one tell if someone is an enthusiastic, 'on-fire' Christian?
 - * What does it look like when someone takes God for granted?
2. Share about a time the devil has lied and told you "You are good", or "Don't worry about that" or "You don't have to do that".
 - * How did that manifest? Perhaps it involved attending Church, reading the Bible, praying or even a relationship with someone.
 - * What helped to overcome that complacency?
3. **Read Mark 5:6-7, Mark 3:11, Luke 4:33-34, James 2:19.**
 - * What do all these passages have in common?
 - * Were the demons relaxed and taking Jesus for granted, or was there an immediate response?
 - * How did the demons know it was Jesus when they saw Him?
(HINT: **Read Revelation 12:7-12**)
4. Refer back to the passages in question 3 above. The demons knew Jesus would destroy them. How can we live a life that is transformed and overcome the demon's attempts to destroy our relationship with Jesus?
5. **Read 1 Peter 5:5-9** Are we being asked to flee or resist the devil? How can we as Christians avoid being devoured by the "roaring lion" (the devil)?

For these questions, suggest breaking into groups of 2 or 3.

6. **Take a few moments, and meditate in prayer about an area in your life where you take God for granted or need to worship Him immediately like the demons did.** Take turns sharing where we fall short or are not really an 'on-fire', enthusiastic Christian. What would it take to treat God with greater respect, awe and worship Him better or immediately?



7. Read Mark 5:1-5 What self destructive behavior was the demon possessed man doing? Share what self-destructive behavior you have overcome *or* are now currently struggling to overcome?
How can we pray for you about this?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Pastor Miles discussed that the demons worship or respond out of fear, whereas we are to respond out of love. What are three ways you can worship God this week?

TAKE IT HOME!

Invite someone to Christmas Eve service!

