

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2017
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 11

Introduction: *Open with the problem of evil.*

During the week before your group meets, forward to your group members this link to an article about evil in our world and challenge them to read it:

<https://www.cru.org/train-and-grow/life-and-relationships/hardships/a-world-of-evil-and-suffering.html>

To open class, invite a volunteer to summarize the author's perspective on evil. Invite other learners to recall and share additional information.

Say something like this: "We are fully aware of the evil in this world. But evil becomes quite different when we see it personified. Today we'll look at a real person in whom evil dwelt. Perhaps it will help us look at others not just with compassion but with confidence in the power of Jesus over evil."

Point 1: *Turn to TV to boost imagination.*

After discussing Mark 5:1-8, say something like, "We may not think of demonic possession as a current issue. Like leprosy or any other ancient ailment, you likely can't think of being in the presence of demonic forces. But consider the 1978 television show *The Incredible Hulk* and how it might compare to what demon possession looks like."

Then play extended introduction to the television show (1 minute, 31 seconds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7Hh063ZtsA>

Ask, "Do we live with people who suffer from demon possession today? What forms does it take?" Use some of the examples in the Leader Guide or the Personal Study Guide to foster discussion.

Ask, "What did Jesus do with this man who was possessed by an unclean spirit? How was His interaction with the man different from what yours might have been?" Encourage learners to be compassionate to those

overwhelmed by evil, understanding that Jesus has the power to set them free.

Point 2: *Survey what the Bible says about demon possession.*

Invite a few volunteers to read aloud Revelation 12:7-12, 1 Peter 5:8, and the following article (“What Happens When a Person Is Demon-Possessed?”):

https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_59.cfm

Compare the passages to Mark 5:1-20 (the passage for our session), discussing how God’s explanation of demonic powers is revealed in this man found among the tombs.

Conclusion: *Teach the place for testimony.*

Say the following: “Jesus told the man freed of the unclean spirit to ‘Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you’ (Mark 5:19).”

Encourage group members to consider how they can do the same thing: report to others how much the Lord has done for them and has had mercy on them. Allow several minutes for them to practice telling their testimony of God’s power and mercy to the person seated closest to them. Then close with prayer.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Demon possession involves the overwhelming presence of evil in the life of a person; it is not to be confused with mental instability. Encourage learners to be aware of evil in their lives, allowing Jesus to have control of their minds and hearts, regardless of the degree that supernatural forces might be at work.