

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Matthew

LESSON 31

**JESUS HAS POWER
OVER EVIL**

**MATTHEW 17:14-23;
8:28-34**

Life of Christ

Jesus Has Power over Evil

Matthew 17:14-23; 8:28-34

Younger Verse

The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

1 John 4:4

Older Verse

The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

1 John 4:4

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus has power over evil
Learn that Jesus commanded evil spirits to leave people
Learn that Jesus' disciples needed more faith and prayer

Welcome Time

Have you ever seen a person change and become totally different than they were? Maybe they got a makeover or changed hair color. Today we will learn about some people who got changed by 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 before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

In the last lesson, we learned that Jesus and three of His disciples went up on a mountain. Do you remember which three men Jesus took with Him? (Peter, James and John) These men got to see Jesus display His glory. It must have been an awesome sight to see Jesus shining brightly, then to see Moses and Elijah there with Jesus!

When Jesus, Peter, James and John returned to the other disciples, a man approached them. He begged Jesus to help his son. The boy had an evil spirit in him that made him do things that hurt him. He would fall on the ground, foam at the mouth and even jump in fire or water! The boy's father was desperate to help his son get rid of the bad spirit. So he came to Jesus. He had probably heard that Jesus had healed the sick.

The man told Jesus that he had asked His disciples to help the boy, but they were unable to do anything. Jesus said that His followers still didn't have enough faith. Then Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out of the boy. And the spirit left him. The boy was able to have a normal life again, thanks to Jesus.

Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked Him why they couldn't get the evil spirit to leave the boy. Jesus told them that they needed more faith. He also said that they had to pray. When we have faith in God, we *will* pray. And we will trust Him to answer our prayers.

That was not the only time Jesus showed His power over evil. Once, Jesus and His disciples encountered two men who had evil spirits in them. These men lived alone, and they were dangerous to themselves and others. People stayed away from them so they would not get hurt.

The two men approached Jesus and began shouting at Him. The evil spirits knew who Jesus was! They asked Jesus what He wanted from them. Jesus sent the evil spirits out of

the men and into a herd of pigs nearby. The pigs ran toward the lake, jumped in it and drowned.

It is good to know that Jesus is stronger than the Devil. Sometimes we may see evil things and feel scared or discouraged. But we need to remember that **Jesus has more power than Satan. We do not have to be afraid. We can call on Jesus anytime, anywhere, and He will be right there beside us to help us.**

Jesus showed His great power over evil when He rose from the dead. He died on the cross to set us free from sin's power over us. Then three days later He was alive again! We can put our faith in Jesus to save us from our sins. He will help us to live for Him. His Holy Spirit will help us to resist temptation.

Review Questions

1. What was wrong with the boy that the Father brought to Jesus? (He had an evil spirit in him that made him do things to hurt himself)
2. Why couldn't the disciples make the evil spirit leave the boy? (They needed to have more faith and pray.)
3. What happened to the evil spirits that were in the two men? (Jesus sent them into a herd of pigs.)
4. Is there anything stronger than God? (No.)

Prayer Time

Thank God that He made a way for us to be free from our sins. Pray that we will have more faith in God and His power over evil.

Life Application

Jesus told His disciples that they needed to pray more to have power over evil. The same is true for us. Satan doesn't like it when we pray, because he knows it brings us closer to God. We are able to resist temptation and do what God wants us to do.

Ephesians chapter 6 talks about the armor of God. It says that faith is like a shield. A shield protects the fighter from the enemy's weapons. When we have faith in God, He is able to protect us from Satan's attacks.

It also says that the sword, which is a weapon, is God's word. When we read the Bible and have it in our hearts, we can say Bible verses to help us when Satan tempts us.

God has given us many tools to help us live the way He wants us to. When we accept Jesus into our heart, He gives us the Holy Spirit. His Spirit guides us and helps us make good choices. We do not have to be afraid of evil, because we are on God's side!

Planning for Next Lesson
Who is Greatest?
Matthew 18:1-11; 19:13-15

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Has Power over Evil

Jesus and a few friends were walking to meet the rest of the group. When they arrived, a huge crowd of people was gathered around Jesus' helpers.

One man in the crowd came to Jesus. He asked Jesus to help him. His son had an evil spirit in him. The evil spirit made him fall into fire or throw himself into water. He would shake and have seizures. Sometimes he would even have foam coming out of his mouth.

The man had asked Jesus' friends to help his son, but they could not heal him. Jesus said it was because they needed to have more faith in Him. That means that the disciples needed to trust that God's power can do amazing things.

Jesus asked the man to bring his son to Him. Jesus told the evil spirit to leave the boy, and the boy was healed! Everyone was so excited that the boy was able to have a normal life again, thanks to Jesus.

Jesus' disciples must have remembered another time when He healed some men with evil spirits. These men lived alone, and they were dangerous to themselves and others. People stayed away from them so they would not get hurt.

The two men approached Jesus and began shouting at Him. The evil spirits knew who Jesus was! They asked Jesus what He wanted from them. Jesus sent the evil spirits out of the men and into a herd of pigs nearby. (Have kids make oinking noises like a pig.) The pigs ran toward the lake, jumped in it and drowned.

The men went and told everyone that Jesus had taken the evil spirits out of them!

It is good to know that Jesus is stronger than the Devil. Sometimes we may see evil things and feel scared or discouraged. But we need to remember that **Jesus has more power than Satan. We do not have to be afraid. We can call on Jesus anytime, anywhere, and He will be right there beside us to help us.**

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Hands-on Activities for Jesus Has Power over Evil

If you know the Veggie Tales song, “God is Bigger than the Boogie Man,” sing it with the kids. Remind them that God is bigger and stronger than ANYTHING!

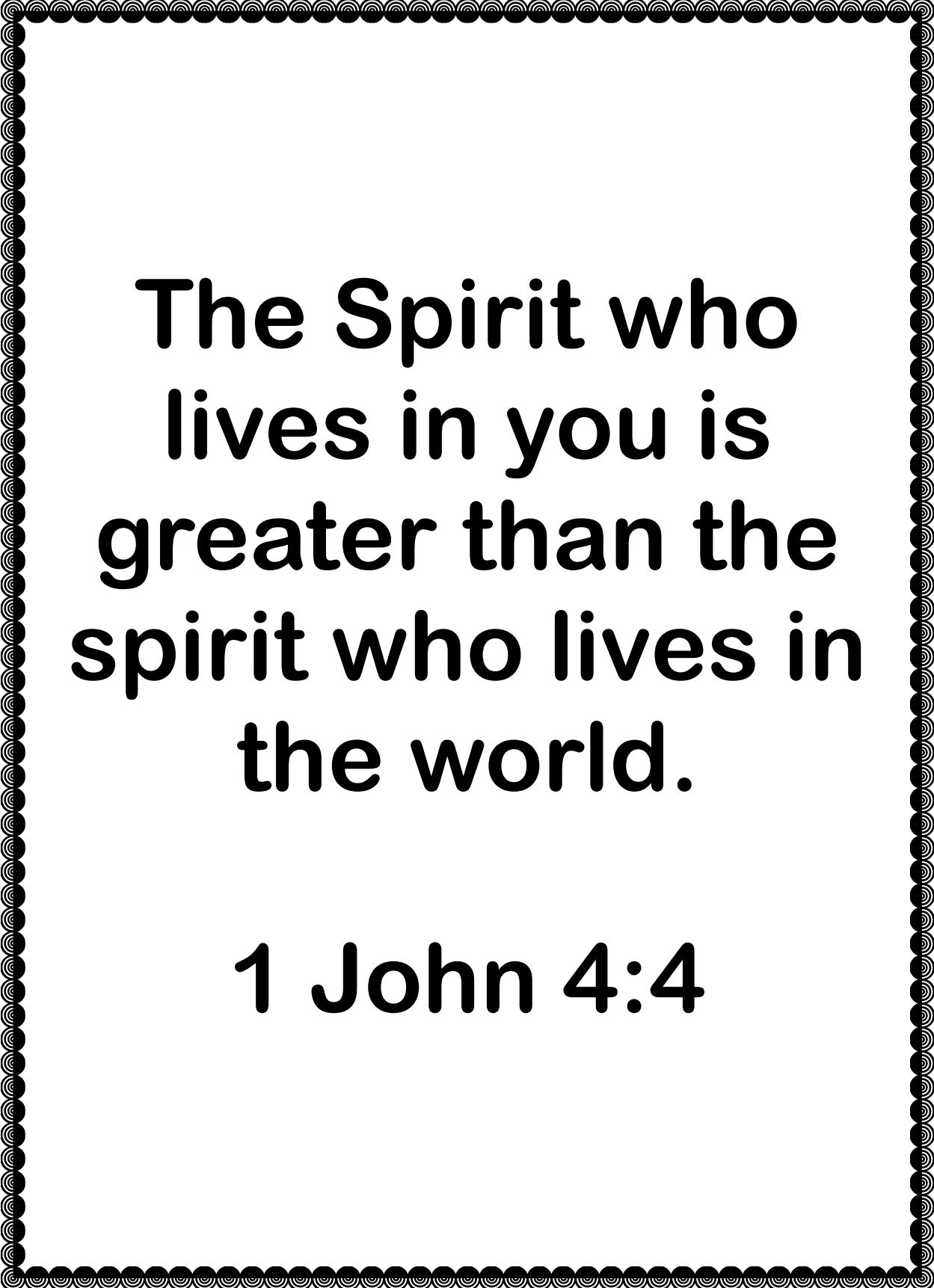
Bring pictures of different superheroes (Superman, Batman, Spiderman, etc.). Ask kids if they think God is stronger than these characters. Remind them that God is the strongest and *He is real!*

It’s neat to see how the men totally changed. 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.

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.

Bring a can of Deviled Ham or some pork rinds and talk about how the evil spirits went into the pigs.



**The Spirit who
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1 John 4:4

T T G O N E T O T R A Y
D H R C I P L E S D N W
S E E T E J A H A E I I
D D A S I U O Y N I S M,
N S T E P R H H H E E O
D E E V H I I C A F V U
W S R I M J R P H A I N
H O T L Y O P I S N L T
G M H O S H S E T E O A
I L A H O N T R I O H I
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The Spirit
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I John

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H	O	T	L	Y	O	P	I	S	N	L	T
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The Spirit
greater than
the world

who lives
the spirit

in you is
who lives in
I John