

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 17

**JESUS HAS POWER
OVER EVIL**

MARK 5:1-20

Life of Christ

Jesus Has Power over Evil

Mark 5:1-20

Younger Verse

God's Spirit . . . is greater than the devil.

1 John 4:4

Older Verse

God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus has power over evil

Understand that Jesus can change our lives

Recognize that we need to share about how God changed us

Opener

Do you ever get scared when people act strange? In today's story, a lot of people were afraid of one man! But Jesus showed that He has more power than anything! Let's find out what happens.

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. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we learned that the wind and the waves obeyed what Jesus told them to do. Jesus was teaching His disciples and us that we can trust Him all the time, even when things get hard or scary.

Once Jesus had calmed the wind and the waves, He and His disciples crossed the lake. He was traveling to an area called Gerasenes. They had been in the boat for some time. As Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man ran up to see Him. Something was different about this man. He had come running from a cave where they bury dead people. This man had many evil spirits living inside of him. The evil spirits made Him do some strange things. People would try and tie him up, but he would break free even from chains. Nobody was strong enough to control him. All day and all night the man walked around screaming and cutting himself on the rocks. How do you think the people felt about him? They were afraid of him.

The man ran up to Jesus and fell down at His feet. Jesus knew that the evil spirits were inside the man. He wanted to help the man. Jesus said to him, "Evil spirit, come out of this man!" The man shouted at Jesus, "What do you want to do with me, Jesus, Son of God? Promise that you won't hurt me!" The evil spirits knew they were not stronger than Jesus.

Jesus asked the man, "What is your name?" The man answered, "My name is Legion, because there are many spirits inside of me." Still being afraid, he asked Jesus over and over to let them stay in the place where they were.

While they had been talking, many pigs had been eating on a hill nearby. The spirits begged for Jesus to let them go live inside of the pigs. Jesus said they could. Suddenly the spirits left the man and rushed into the crowd of pigs. Very quickly, the pigs began to run.

They ran down a hill and into the lake. They all drowned, about 2,000 pigs in all.

The people who had been taking care of the pigs saw what happened. They ran into the town to tell everybody. All the people came to see Jesus. They looked around and did not see any pigs, but they could see Jesus and the man. They remembered that this was the man that used to do crazy things. Now he was sitting down and wearing clothes. Seeing him act differently made them even more afraid. The people who had seen everything told the crowd the whole story. Once the people had heard what happened to the man and the pigs, they begged for Jesus to leave. Why do you think the people wanted Jesus to leave? He had just done a miracle for this man. Maybe they were afraid of losing more pigs, or maybe they were afraid of Jesus' power. No matter what it was, they had decided that they did not want Jesus to be with them.

As Jesus was leaving, the man that He had helped came running up to Him. He asked if He could go with Jesus. Jesus said no, but He told Him to do something very important. Jesus said, "Go home to your family and friends. Tell them about all the things God has done for you." So the man left and told the people what had happened. The people were amazed when they heard and saw the change in the man.

Jesus loved the man in the story, and He loves us. He showed how much he loved us when He died on the cross and came back to life. He wants us to know Him as our Lord and Savior. We can ask Him to forgive our sins and come into our life. Then we can have a relationship with Him. We can know that we have eternal life.

Review Questions

1. What was wrong with the man who came to Jesus? (He had evil spirits in him.)
2. What did Jesus do for the man? (He commanded the evil spirits to leave him.)
3. Where did the evil spirits go? (into a herd of pigs)

Prayer Time

Pray that we will allow God to get rid of the things in our lives that don't need to be there. Ask Him to change us and make us more like Jesus.

Life Application

This story happened many years ago, but God is still changing lives today! The man acted differently once he had meet Jesus. Once we have Jesus in our lives, we will change as we spend time with Jesus. He helps us to know what kind of things we should do and how we should treat people.

Just like the man went and told everyone what had happened, we can do the same. Whenever God answers a prayer, helps us do well on a test, or shows us the right choice to make, we can share that with other people.

Planning for Lesson 18
Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter
Mark 5:21-24; 35-43

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Has Power over Evil

Last time, we were in a boat with Jesus and His friends. In today's story, they are about to arrive on land. As the boat stops upon the shore, Jesus steps out. (Step out of a boat.) Suddenly a man comes running up to Him. This man was very sick. He had evil spirits inside of him. The spirits made him do bad things. He lived by himself in nearby caves. The people that knew him were afraid of him. Do you think Jesus was afraid of him? No, you're right. Let's see what will happen.

The man fell down at Jesus' feet. (Bow down) The man was afraid of Jesus. Do you know why? Because the evil spirits knew they were not stronger than Jesus. Jesus is God's Son and can do amazing things. The man asked, "Jesus, Son of God, what are going to do to us? Promise you won't hurt us!"

Jesus made the evil spirits inside the man leave. Next to them, a bunch of pigs were eating on a hill. The spirits begged for Jesus to let them live in the pigs. (Oink, Oink) So Jesus sent them inside of the pigs. At that moment all the pigs ran straight into the lake!

Some people who were watching could not believe what had happened. They went to tell other people. (Say, "Let's go tell others" to the children.) When the people all came to see what they were talking about, they looked around. (Look around the room.) All they could see was the man. But this time he looked different. He was sitting down, wearing clothes, and being nice. Why was the man acting different? Yes, because Jesus helped him when He made the evil spirits leave him.

When the people saw that the man was acting differently and that all the pigs were gone, they became scared. They asked Jesus to leave. As Jesus was leaving, the man that Jesus helped came up to Him. He wanted to go with Jesus. Jesus said "No." But He gave him an important job. Jesus said, "Go home to your family and friends. Tell them what God has done for you." The man left and told many people what happened. (Say, "Guess what Jesus did?") People were amazed when they heard how Jesus helped the man.

Jesus cared for the man when other people did not. Jesus was showing us how important it is to be kind and to love others, even when it is hard. Jesus loves us, even when we do something that is mean. We all do bad things. Jesus changed this man and He can change us! We also see how important it is to talk with Jesus. The man talked with Jesus and was changed. When we talk with Him, He helps us to know how we can be just like Him. Let's pray.

Sing, "My God is So Big."

Hands-on Activities for Jesus Has Power over Evil

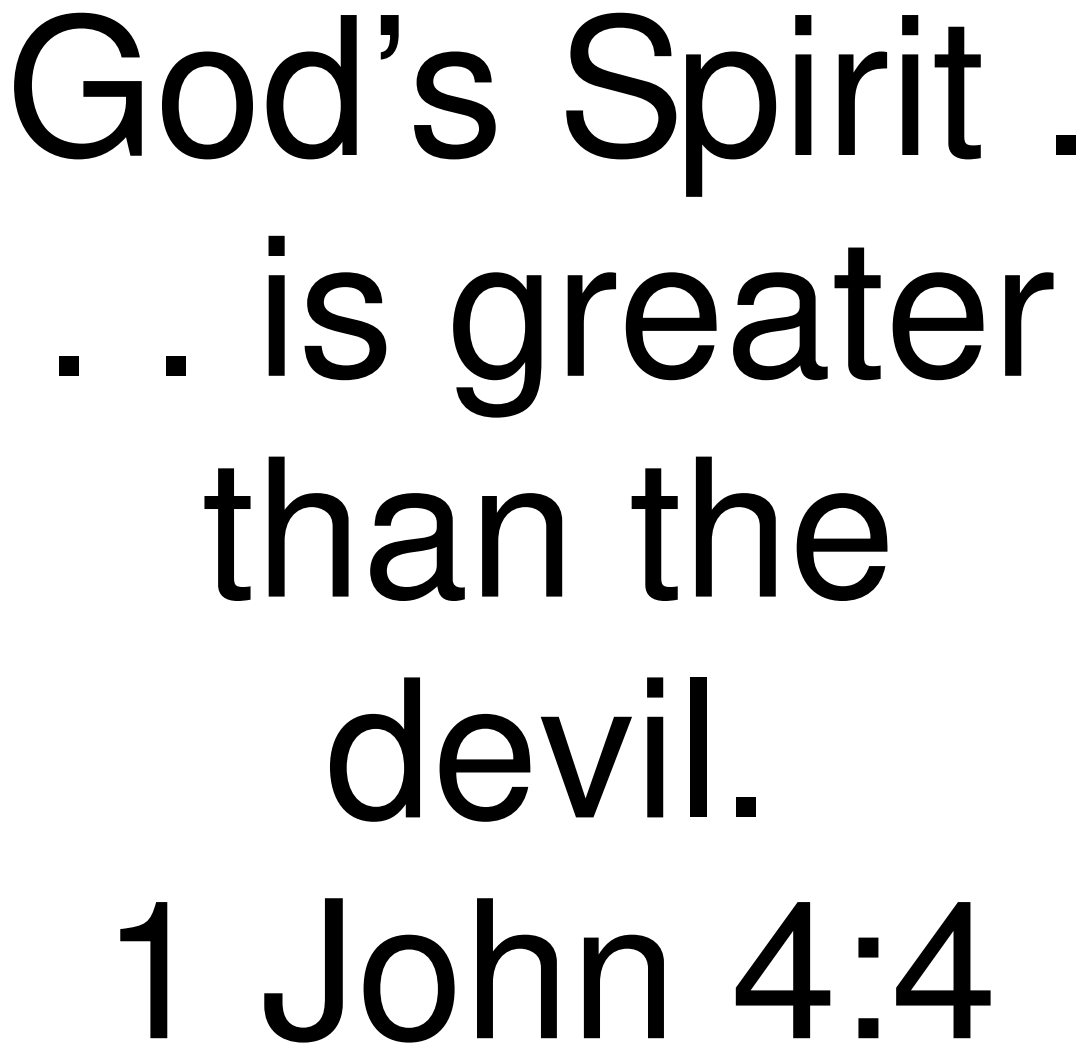
Jesus loved the man—even when he was filled with evil spirits. Most of us would have run away or been really scared to talk to him. This is a great example of how Jesus wants us to treat others—with love and care. Jesus didn't look at what the man was like on the outside. He didn't see the mean person. Jesus saw what the man could be—someone who was changed because he believed in Jesus. *Can you think of someone who is like this person in your life? What is one way we can be nice to them this week?*

Create a picture of what this man looked like before he met Jesus. Then make a picture of what he looked like after he met Jesus. Use macaroni, beans, string or other objects to make it interesting.

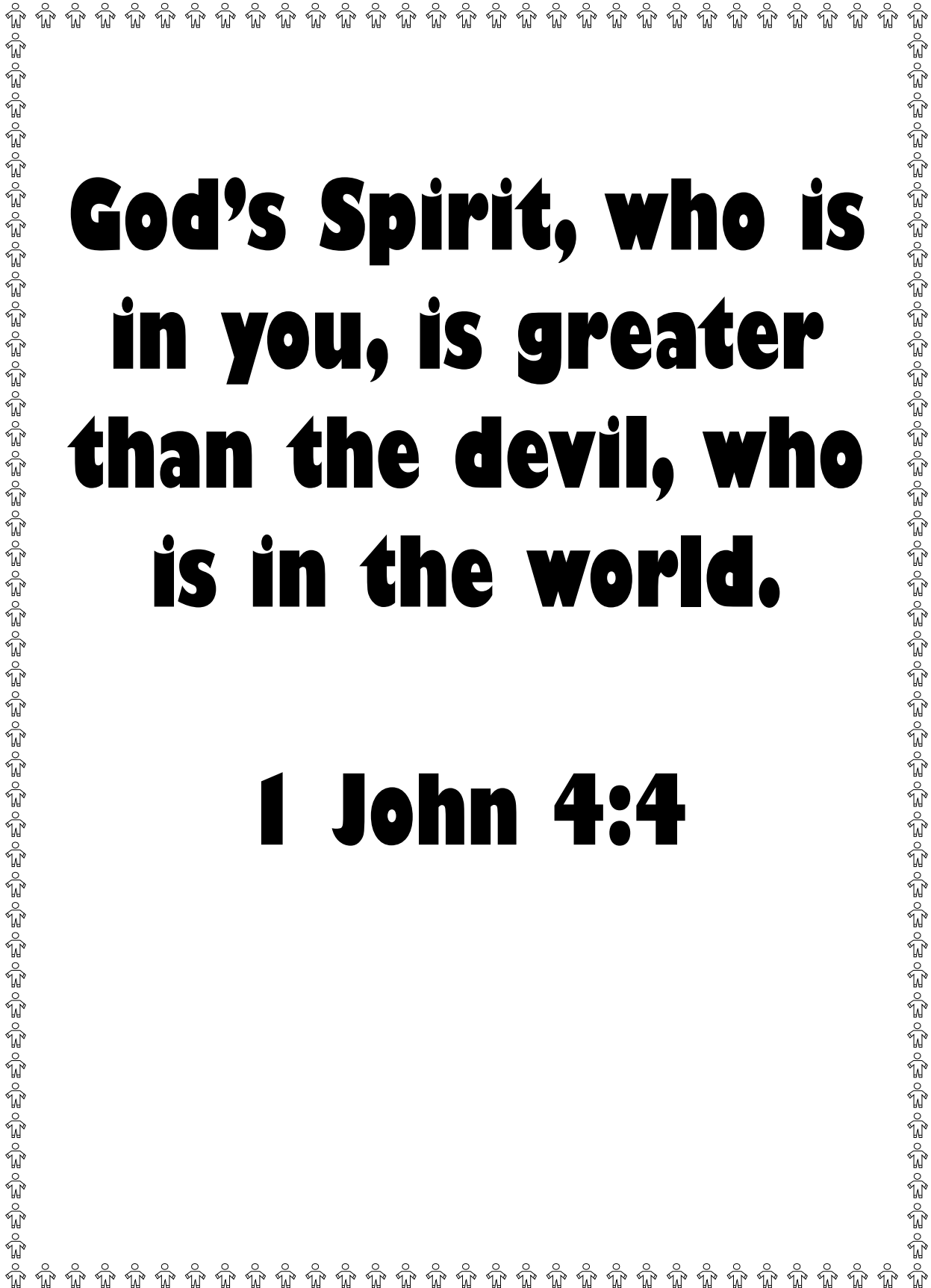
Talk about some things that change. Examples may include forms of water, caterpillar to a butterfly, tadpole to a frog, seed to a plant, etc. Let them come up with some ideas. Share how Jesus has changed your life and how glad you are for Him.

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!*



God's Spirit .
 . . is greater
than the
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1 John 4:4

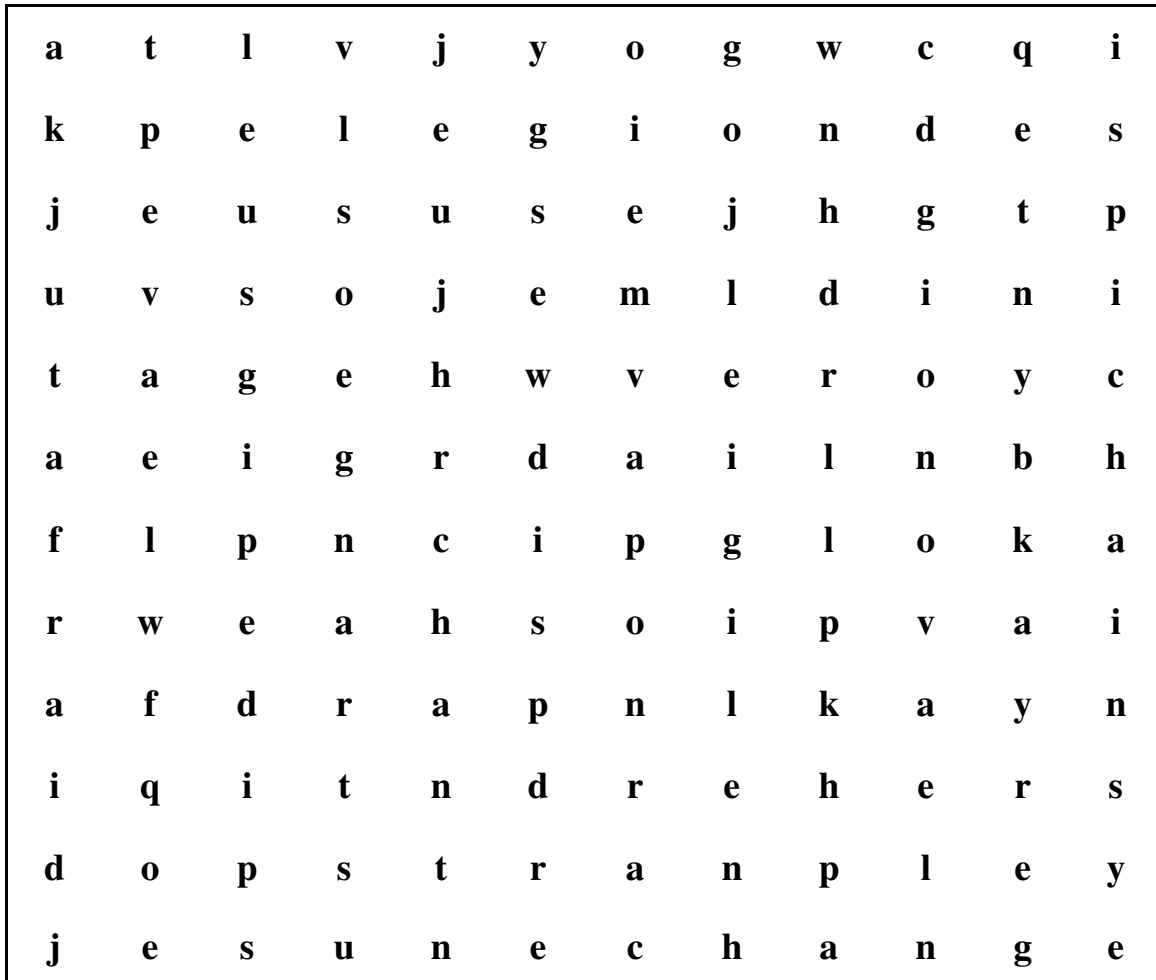


**God's Spirit, who is
in you, is greater
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1 John 4:4

Word Search

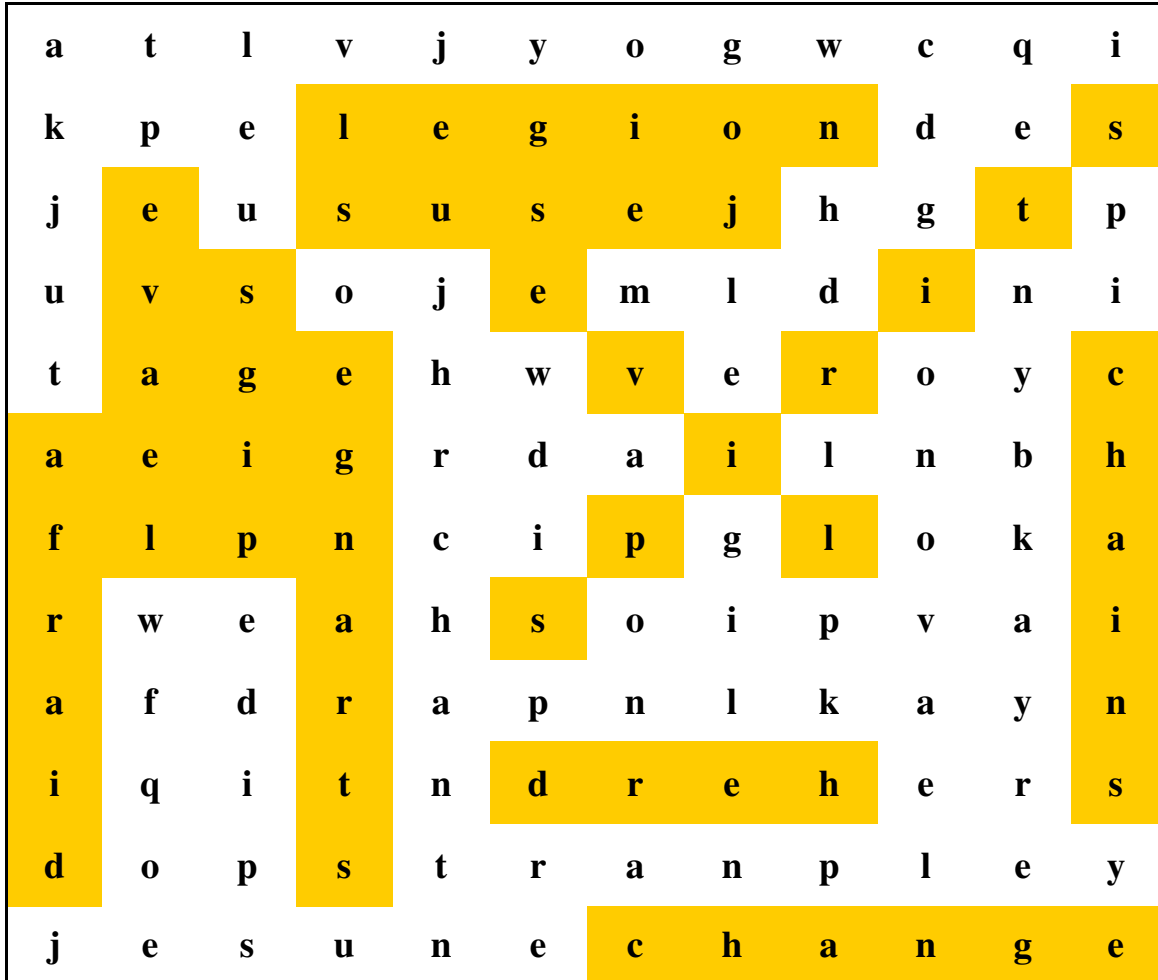
Jesus Has Power over Evil



evil	spirits	pigs
herd	chains	Legion
strange	change	afraid
Jesus	leave	

Word Search

Jesus Has Power over Evil



evil	spirits	pigs
herd	chains	Legion
strange	change	afraid
Jesus	leave	

The man who came to Jesus had

E__I__
SP__R__TS

in him.

Jesus sent the spirits into a herd of

PIGS

