



2011

# **Go And Make Disciples**

**The Cross and Beyond**

## **Lesson 30: A Miraculous Change!**

**Scripture**

Matthew 8:28-34  
 Mark 5:1-20  
 Luke 8:26-39  
 John 8:31-47  
 Romans 6

**Memory Verse**

Christ has set us free. He wants us to enjoy freedom. So stand firm. Don't let the chains of slavery hold you again.  
 Galatians 5:1 (NIRV)

**Lesson Goals**

Understand that Jesus has power over evil spirits.

Understand that only Jesus can bring freedom from sin.

Understand that once we experience that freedom, we must stand firm, so that we don't allow ourselves to become slaves to sin again.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Who remembers what we have been learning about over the last few weeks? Jesus has been telling stories, or parables. Who was listening to Jesus? A large crowd of people, right? And where were they? Do you remember that they were at the Sea of Galilee? Jesus had gotten into a boat, pushed out from the shore, and from there He taught the people. After Jesus told the parables of the sower and of the weeds, and after He talked about selling everything to buy priceless treasure, He and his disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee. They went to an area called the Gadarenes, or Gerasenes.

As soon as Jesus stepped on the shore, “two men controlled by demons met Him. They came from the tombs. The men were so wild that no one could pass that way.” (Matthew 8:28-34 NIRV) You see, some time before, one of the men had been tied up and even chained, “but he tore the chains apart. And he broke the iron cuffs on his ankles. No one was strong enough to control him.” (Mark 5:4b NIRV) Once his chains had been broken, “the demon forced him to go out into the lonely places in the countryside” where he would scream, day and night. (Luke 8:29b NIRV)

While the men approached Jesus, but were still far away from Him, they shouted, “Son of God, what do you want with us?” (Matthew 8:29 NIRV) Did you notice that they knew who Jesus was? Jesus ordered the spirit to come out of them. The man who had once been chained had been full of evil spirits. These evil spirits begged Jesus to send them into the pigs that were feeding on the hill nearby. “Jesus allowed it. The evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. There were about 2,000 pigs in the herd. The whole herd rushed down the steep bank. They ran into the lake and drowned.” (Mark 5:13 NIRV)

Those who had been taking care of the herd of pigs saw what had happened. They ran into town to tell everyone. “The people went out to see for themselves.” (Mark 5:14b NIRV)

When they arrived, they found something miraculous. The man who had once been chained was now free of the evil spirits that had controlled him. “He was sitting at Jesus’ feet. He was dressed and thinking clearly.” (Luke 8:35b NIRV) The Bible doesn’t tell us anything more about the second man, but we know that he was also free of the demons.

Instead of being amazed and excited by this miracle, the townspeople were afraid. They were so afraid that they begged Jesus to leave the area.

### Application

Our memory verse says, “Christ has set us free. He wants us to enjoy freedom. So stand firm. Don't let the chains of slavery hold you again. (Galatians 5:1 NlrV)

Once you enjoy a relationship with Jesus, you have been set free from the hold sin had on you. Our memory verse warns us not to let the chains of slavery hold us again. What does that mean?

Well, what do you remember about the enemy that you and I have? The devil, our enemy, wants to destroy us. (1 Peter 5:8) Because of that we must control ourselves and be on our guard. We must stay alert and stand firm. Pretending that we will always be okay is not wise.

Following Jesus may seem like nothing more than a list of things you can't do. It is so much more than that! In that list of things to stay away from there is protection from things that can harm us. Jesus wants us to enjoy the freedom He has made possible for us. Are you living in that freedom?

Jesus didn't stay where He wasn't wanted. As He was getting in the boat, the man who had once been controlled by the evil spirits begged to go with Him. “Jesus did not let him. He said, ‘Go home to your family. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you. Tell them how kind He has been to you.’” (Mark 5:19 NlrV) The man did just that. He went all over the area telling people how much Jesus had done for him.

You know, this is not an easy lesson. We don't really like to think about evil spirits. It's hard to imagine a man so controlled and tormented by those spirits that he would wander around screaming and that he couldn't be kept in chains! And even though we may not really be able to connect to the story, we do have something in common with this man. This man was under the control of something else, for him it was evil spirits. He was a slave to those spirits. You and I find ourselves slaves to something as well. Maybe you are about to say that you have never been a slave, but the Bible tells us that anyone who sins is a slave to sin. (John 8:34) Think about your sin. Has it sometimes felt that you had no control, that you couldn't help yourself? That is slavery.

I hope that slavery is not the only thing you have in common with the man from our lesson today. I say that because the Bible also says that “if the Son of Man sets you free, you will really be free.” (John 8:36 NlrV) Maybe you aren't free, but you can be! Jesus says, “If you obey My teaching . . . You are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth. And the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32 NlrV) Freedom begins with a relationship with Jesus Christ. It happens as we obey the things we learn in the Bible. That leads to a knowledge of the truth and truth brings freedom! Do you want to be free from the chains of sin that control you? Will you trust in Jesus today? Let me help you take the first step.

### Preparing for the Next Lesson

A Sick Woman is Healed



## Preschool Lesson

### Teachers:

Bring a smiley face/frowny face puppet. (See the activities page.)

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Do you remember that Jesus had been teaching stories from a boat in the Sea of Galilee? After Jesus told the parables, He and his disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee. They went to an area called the Gadarenes.

As soon as Jesus stepped on the shore, two wild men met Him. (Show the frowny face side of the puppet.) They came from the tombs. One of the men had been tied up and even chained, “but he tore the chains apart. And he broke the iron cuffs on his ankles. No one was strong enough to control him.” (Mark 5:4b NIV) He spent his time wandering around screaming.

The wild men knew who Jesus was. Jesus helped them. Jesus healed them. (Show the smiley face side of the puppet.)

Jesus did something miraculous. The man who had once been chained was now free. “He was sitting at Jesus’ feet. He was dressed and thinking clearly.” (Luke 8:35b NIV)

Jesus didn’t stay there very long. As He was getting in the boat, the man who had once been wild begged to go with Him. “Jesus did not let him. He said, ‘Go home to your family. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you. Tell them how kind He has been to you.’” (Mark 5:19 NIV) The man did just that. He went all over the area telling people how much Jesus had done for him.

What has Jesus done for you? Who can you tell?



## Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Cut 24 2"x10" strips of construction paper. Print one word from the memory verse on each strip. Be sure to include the reference. Then, make a paper chain with all 24 strips. Be sure to review the story and discuss the memory verse.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring something sweet and sour for snack today. Talk about the "sourness" of slavery and the "sweetness" of freedom.
- Make "Pigs in a Blanket" with your students. You will need crescent rolls and mini sausages.
- Sing "He's Changing Me," "Trust and Obey," "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," "Amazing Love," or another song related to the lesson.
- Find the Sea of Galilee on a map of Israel. Today's lesson, takes place in an area called the Gadarenes, or the Gerasenes. When Jesus told the man who had been controlled by demons to go tell people about the kindness of God, he went to an area of ten cities, or Decapolis. Find those cities on the map.
- Make a puppet. Cut out two identically sized circles, one yellow and one gray. Draw a smiley face on the yellow circle. Draw a frowny face on the gray circle. Glue the two together and place a craft stick in between. Talk about how sad it is to be a slave to sin. Talk about how nice it is to be free from sin because Christ has set us free.
- Dig Deeper: Read John 8: 31-47 and Romans 6. Talk about these verses in light of our lesson. Talk about the difference between slavery and freedom and what that means for believers.
- Dig Deeper: Read Ephesians 4:17-32. These verses talk about taking off what lingers from the old life (before Christ) and putting on what encourages our walk with Him. Look especially at verses 26-27. Discuss those in light of today's lesson.

# **CHRIST**

has set us free.

He wants us  
to enjoy freedom.

So stand firm.

Don't let the  
chains of slavery  
hold you again.

Galatians 5:1

Trace the letters.

CHOOSE

FREEDOM

# Focus on the Story

○  
**Story Title:**

**Scripture References:**

**Main Characters:**

**Story Summary:**

When?

○  
Where?

What?

How?







# Word Search

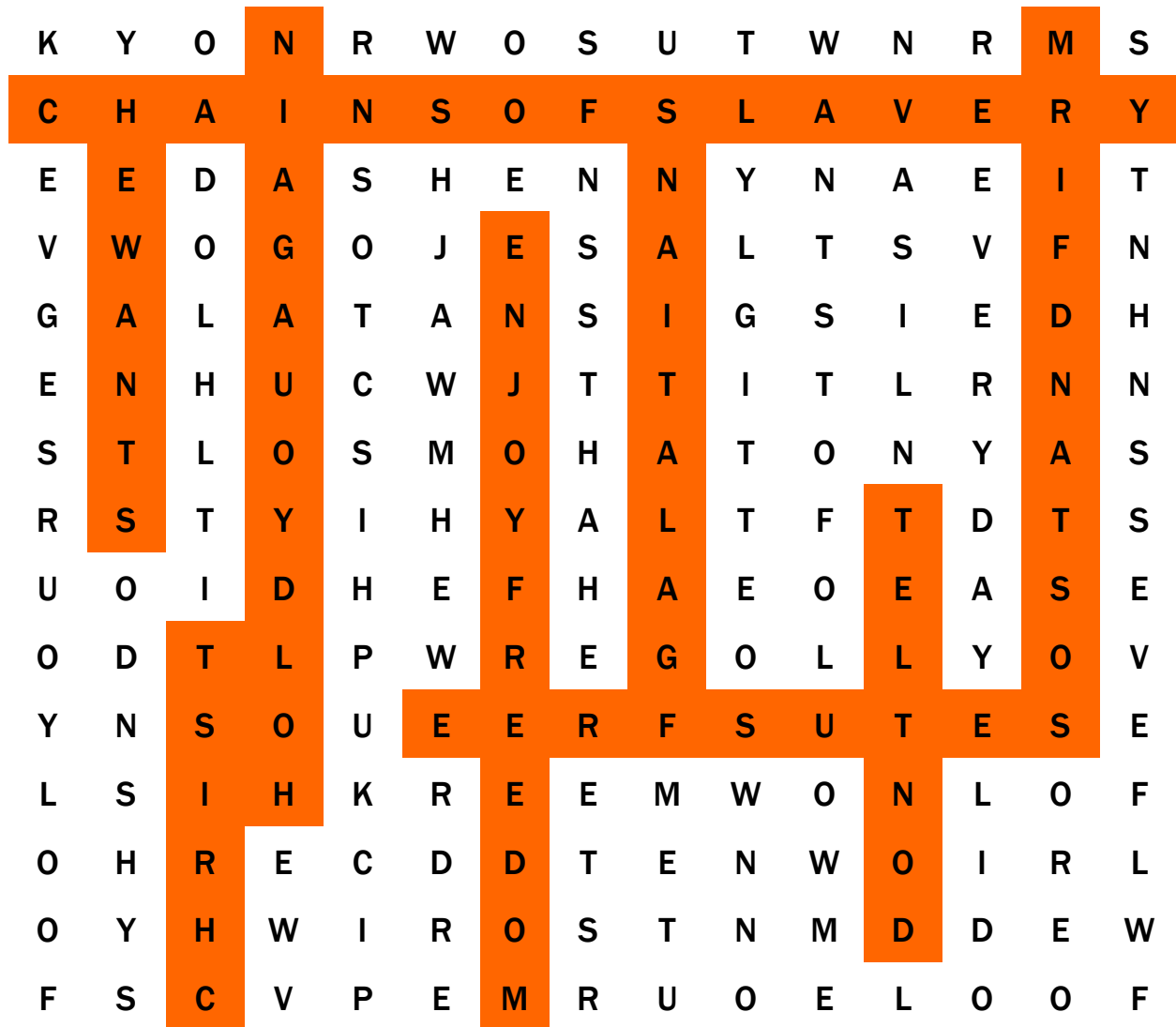
K Y O N R W O S U T W N R M S  
C H A I N S O F S L A V E R Y  
E E D A S H E N N Y N A E I T  
V W O G O J E S A L T S V F N  
G A L A T A N S I G S I E D H  
E N H U C W J T T I T L R N N  
S T L O S M O H A T O N Y A S  
R S T Y I H Y A L T F T D T S  
U O I D H E F H A E O E A S E  
O D T L P W R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

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

Christ has set us free. He wants us to enjoy freedom.  
So stand firm. Don't let the chains of slavery hold you again.  
Galatians 5:1



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Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

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So stand firm. Don't let the chains of slavery hold you again.  
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# Preschool Word Search

R F I B O A T A S U R E  
T Y B E Y L L E C T O R  
H A P E M A N N T E W S  
R I V D I S H E N E D S  
J E S U S I V F N Y L S  
Q J E T E L L M A N E O  
S T O R Y I V E N M R E  
S A Y T H B W I L D R S  
M D I L T W E T E R T S  
D I E S S E R D O R B N  
L C H E L P E N E R S J  
R O M L N S H V E A R N

JESUS

BOAT

MAN

WILD

HELP

TELL



# Preschool Word Search

R F I **B O A T** A S U R E  
T Y B E Y L L E C T O R  
H A P E **M A N** N T E W S  
R I V D I S H E N E D S  
**J E S U S** I V F N Y L S  
Q J E **T E L L** M A N E O  
S T O R Y I V E N M R E  
S A Y T H B **W I L D** R S  
M D I L T W E T E R T S  
D I E S S E R D O R B N  
L C **H E L P** E N E R S J  
R O M L N S H V E A R N

JESUS

BOAT

MAN

WILD

HELP

TELL