

## Jesus Power over Demons

CHARACTERS: 24, doubling and tripling possible, Jesus, TOL (Teacher of the law) 1, 2; Legion, Phillip, Bartholomew, Demon, James (brother of Jesus), Man, Thomas, Woman 1 & 2

SETTING: Israel at the time of Christ,

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Mark 4, 5, 6, and 9

## Crowds Follow Jesus in Mark 3

JAMES THE LESS: Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed.

PETER: When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon.

BARTHOLOMEW: There's a big crowd, master.

PHILLIP: You have healed many, now those with diseases are pushing forward to touch you.

JESUS: Go and have a small boat ready for me, to keep the people from crowding me.

PETER: Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him.

DEMON: You are the Son of God.

JAMES THE LESS: But Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.

JESUS: Be still!

## Jesus and Beelzebub

PHILIP: Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered

PETER: He and his disciples were not even able to eat.

PHILIP: When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said

JAMES (the brother of Jesus): (*upset*) He is out of his mind!

PETER: And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said

TOL 1: (*accusingly*) He is possessed by Beelzebub

TOL 2: (*angry*) By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.

PETER: So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables:

JESUS: How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

**ALL:** If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

**JESUS:** And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man.

ALL: Then he can rob his house.

**JESUS:** I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.

PHILIP: He said this because they were saying

TOL 1: He has an evil spirit.

## The Healing of a Demon-possessed Man in Mark 5

*Before you begin: Imagine seeing a dangerous criminal break a chain or rip apart leg irons. Suddenly this person is loose. How would you feel? What would you do?*

JOHN: We went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.

PHILIP: When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him.

WOMAN 1: *(frightened)* See that man? He lives in the tombs

WOMAN 2: No one can bind him any more, not even with a chain.

WOMAN 1: He has often been chained hand and foot, but he tears the chains apart and breaks the irons on his feet.

WOMAN 2: No one is strong enough to subdue him.

WOMAN 1: Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he cries out and cuts himself with stones.

JOHN: When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice

LEGION: What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?

JESUS: Come out of this man, you evil spirit!

LEGION: Swear to God that you won't torture me!

JESUS: What is your name?

LEGION: My name is Legion, for we are many. (*begging*) Do not send me out of the area.

PHILIP: And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

JOHN: A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus

LEGION: Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.

PHILIP: Jesus gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs.

WOMAN 3: Look at the pigs!

WOMAN 2: They are rushing down the steep bank into the lake

WOMAN 1: They have drowned!

WOMAN 2: That herd had about two thousand pigs in it.

WOMAN 1: We better report this in the town and countryside,

PHILIP: The people went out to see what had happened.

JOHN: When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons

WOMAN 2: (*amazed*) The demon possessed man is just sitting there

WOMAN 1: (*afraid*) He's dressed

WOMAN 2: (*afraid*) And in his right mind.

PHILIP: Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well.

WOMAN 1: Jesus cast out the demons and they went into the pigs.

WOMAN 2: They rushed down the steep bank into the lake

WOMAN 1: They have drowned!

WOMAN 2: Didn't that herd have about two thousand pigs in it?

WOMAN 1: Yes.

JOHN: Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

WOMAN 2: Please leave us.

WOMAN 1: Yes, Jesus; go away.

PHILIP: As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.

LEGION: (*begging*) Please, Jesus, let me go with you.

JESUS: No. Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.

PHILIP: So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him.

JOHN: And all the people were amazed.

## Jesus Sends Out the Twelve in Mark 6

BARTHOLOMEW: Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

PETER: Calling us Twelve to him, he sent us out two by two and gave us authority over evil spirits.

BARTHOLOMEW: They went out and preached that people should repent.

PETER: They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

## The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit in Mark 9

*Before you begin, imagine how your father would feel if you had a medical condition like epilepsy. Several times you almost drown when you fell into water. You have had bad burns from falling into a fire. Your father has pulled you out but is concerned about not being there one time and you dying. If your father were the man, how would he deliver his lines with all this on his mind?*

BARTHOLOMEW: When Peter, James, John and Jesus came down the mountain to the rest of us disciples, a large crowd gathered around us and the teachers of the law arguing with us.

PETER: As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

JESUS: What are you arguing with them about?

MAN: Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.

JESUS: O unbelieving generation, how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.

PETER: So they brought him.

BARTHOLOMEW: When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion.

PETER: He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

JESUS: *(to the boy's father)* How long has he been like this?

MAN: From childhood, It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. *(begging)* But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.

JESUS: If you can'? Everything is possible for him who believes.

BARTHOLOMEW: Immediately the boy's father exclaimed

MAN: I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!

PETER: When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit.

JESUS: You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.

BARTHOLOMEW: The spirit shrieked,

DEMON: *(shriek)*

BARTHOLOMEW: Convulsed him violently and came out.

PETER: The boy looked like a corpse

WOMAN 1: He's dead.

BARTHOLOMEW: But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

PETER: After Jesus had gone indoors, we disciples asked him privately

THOMAS: Why couldn't we drive it out?

JESUS: This kind can come out only by prayer.

BARTHOLOMEW: We left that place and passed through Galilee.

JESUS: I do not want anyone to know where we are so I can teach you, my disciples.

THOMAS: Yes, Lord

JESUS: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days, he will rise.

PETER: But we did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

