

APPLY

- In this intense chapter, Jesus is shown to have power over nature, disease, spirits, and even death. What is the central point Luke is making in all of these demonstrations of Jesus' power? And why is it important for our understanding?
- This is one of the most dramatic demonic deliverances in scripture. What is most challenging to you personally about the Bible's portrayal and teaching on demonic spirits?
- Have you ever had an experience with what you think might have been a demonic or evil presence? Explain.
- Some people become afraid or uncomfortable in talking about or seeing the supernatural, even when it's God. Why?
- The man in the story underwent a visible change. Discuss the before / after changes Jesus brought to him and other before / after changes you have experienced with Jesus.
- Despite the positive change Jesus' brought to this man's life, Jesus also disrupted things for the town. What are some of the ways coming to Christ brings both change / disruption?

DISCUSSION CLOSE/HOMEWORK

Every one of us has a story. Every believer has a story to share of coming to Christ – a before / after.

- List some of your 'before Christ' issues
- Make a list of the 'after Christ' changes you have seen
- Ask Jesus for opportunities to share your story.
- Meditate on how God has fulfilled Col. 1:13 in you so far.

GROUP PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask Jesus for courage and opportunities to tell your story.
- Ask Jesus to continue to deliver us from the influence of the kingdom of darkness.

Investigating JESUS in the Gospel of Luke

15

Week 15: What's Your Story?

Key Text: Luke 8:26-39

OPEN

Our modern cultural lenses make the subject of the demonic and the supernatural a challenge for many to accept or understand. This week we look at a story in Luke of a man who had become severely oppressed by darkness and demonic spirits but who found deliverance and a new life in Jesus. The New Testament makes it clear that such forces of darkness are real. More importantly, the gospels illustrate for us that Jesus has ultimate power and authority over the forces of darkness – even when confronted by a 'legion' of them! This man had become demonically oppressed, driving him into isolation and into a violent life of self-harm to the extent that no one could help him - except Jesus. After being delivered, Jesus told him to go and share his story. What is your story of finding new life in Christ?

REFLECT

- From the passage, what are some of the multiple symptoms of that this man suffered from that were manifesting in his life?
- There was an array of human responses to this man's deliverance, what were some of those responses?
- After being delivered, the man begged to go with Jesus and the disciples. Instead, what he is told to do? Why?
- Why do you think Jesus asked the spirit(s) for its name?