

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of October 1st - 7th

Please read Luke 8:26-39.

1. The possessed man from our text refers to Jesus as "Son of the Most High God" in verse 28.
 - a. Do you think that it is significant that the disciples have just asked, "Who is this that he commands even winds and water and they obey him?" Please explain your answer.
 - b. How did the man know that Jesus was the Son of God?

2. The man asks Jesus "What have you to do with me?"
 - a. Does the fact that Jesus is the Son of the Most High God imply an answer to that question? Why or why not?
 - b. Why did the man think that Jesus would torment him?
 - c. Did Jesus command the unclean spirit to come out from him before or after the man cried out? Please explain.
 - d. Were the demons able to resist the command of Jesus? Please explain your answer.

3. There is no other account in the Gospels of Jesus engaging in a dialog with demons.
 - a. When Jesus asks the man his name, is he speaking to the demons, or to the man himself? Please explain.
 - b. Is the answer given, "Legion" from the man or the demons? Please explain.

4. There was a herd of pigs in the area. Jews do not eat pigs.
 - a. Do you think the owners of the herd were Jews or Gentiles? Please explain your answer.
 - b. Why did the demons want to enter the pigs? (See 2 Peter 2:4)
 - c. Is there something appropriate about swine as the dwelling place for demons? Please explain.
 - d. Is the drowning of the pigs after the exorcism in any way connected with the life of the man prior to the exorcism? Why or why not?
 - e. Did the demons get what they wanted? Please explain.

5. What do you think the Gerasenes were afraid of?
 - a. Why did this fear prompt them to ask Jesus to leave?
 - b. Why didn't the man from whom the demons had gone share their fear?

c. Why does Jesus grant the request of the demons, but decline the request of the man?

6. Jesus tells the man to "declare how much God has done for you."

a. How does the man alter this message?

b. What does this imply about his understanding of who Jesus is?

c. What does this imply about the answer to the disciples' question in verse 25?