

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (STUDENT)

MARK CHAPTER 5

Discussion Starter

- “It is true that God may have called you to be exactly where you are. But, it is absolutely vital to grasp that he didn’t call you there so you could settle in and live your life in comfort and superficial peace.” From Francis Chan’s book “Forgotten God”
 - What do you think this quote means in your own words?
 - Do you agree or disagree with this quote? Why?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Mark 5:1-43)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don’t feel tied to the questions and don’t feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit’s lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Mark 5:1-8

- What is the recorded timing of Jesus’ encountering the man with the unclean spirit and why is this significant?

- How would you characterize Jesus' interaction with this man with unclean spirit? Would anything about this scene make you afraid, uncomfortable, or unsafe?
- How powerful was this unclean spirit and how do you know?

□ **Mark 5:9-15**

- Of all the questions that Jesus could have asked this unclean Spirit, why do you think He asked, "What is your name?"
- Why do you think powerful and strong legion (in common usage in that day, a legion was the largest unit in the Roman army averaging around 5,000 fighting men, meaning that the man wasn't just possessed by one unclean spirit but by thousands of unclean spirits) has to ask Jesus for permission to enter the pigs?

□ **Mark 5:16-20**

- Prior to reading verses 16-20 or even prior to not knowing what came after verse 15, how would you expect the people to respond to seeing the man who once had legion, now in his right mind?
- Why don't you think Jesus allowed the man to go with Him and what's significant about what He told the man instead?

□ **Mark 5:21-34**

- Why do you think Jesus allowed Himself to be interrupted by this woman, especially under such dire circumstances that He knew were dire?
- Consider the following questions in light of reading Leviticus 15:25-27 because at the time of Mark 5, the people would have still been under the Old Covenant.
 - What risks was the woman taking in coming to Jesus?
 - How was the woman viewed by society, her own people?

- Was the woman's condition just physical?

□ Mark 5:35-43

- How would you characterize the scene before Jesus raised the little girl to life? What stands out to you about the scene?
- Why do you think that Jesus instructs those around to give the little girl something to eat? This seems a bit odd and out of place in the story.

□ Personal Reflection & Application

- There were at least three major transformations that occurred in Mark chapter 5, possibly more.
 - The man with the unclean spirit
 - The woman who had been bleeding for 12 years
 - The little girl that died and then was raised
 - Would you characterize any of these transformations as safe or uncomfortable? Why or why not?
 - In light of this, what do you think God wants us to learn about spiritual transformations?
- If you consider the bleeding woman, would you say that it is a good thing to be desperate for God? Do you think your desperation for God matches the bleeding woman's desperation for God? Why or why not?
- In what ways do you need to stop bringing human solutions to spiritual issues?

□ Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?

- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

□ Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Mark 6) if you haven't already done so.

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (FACILITATOR)

MARK CHAPTER 5

Discussion Starter

- “It is true that God may have called you to be exactly where you are. But, it is absolutely vital to grasp that he didn’t call you there so you could settle in and live your life in comfort and superficial peace.” From Francis Chan’s book “Forgotten God”
 - What do you think this quote means in your own words?
 - Do you agree or disagree with this quote? Why?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

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Read the Story (Mark 5:1-43)

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Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don’t feel tied to the questions and don’t feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit’s lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Mark 5:1-8

- What is the recorded timing (**IMMEDIATELY AFTER STEPPING OUT OF THE BOAT**) of Jesus’ encountering the man with the unclean spirit and why is this significant?

- Jesus was constantly and consistently faced with obstacles, interruptions, and issues both in His life and ministry. The demands on Him and His time were many.
- How would you characterize Jesus' interaction with this man with unclean spirit? Would have anything about this scene made you afraid, uncomfortable, or unsafe?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so just listen as the facilitator.
- How powerful was this unclean spirit and how do you know?
 - See verses 3-5.

□ Mark 5:9-15

- Of all the questions that Jesus could have asked this unclean Spirit, why do you think He asked, "What is your name?"
 - Names had everything to do with identity, power, and legacy. Notice that in verse 7, the unclean spirit recognized who Jesus was. It wasn't the Jesus was unclear about who the unclean spirit was or what its intentions were. It was that Jesus was stripping this unclean spirit of its power, legacy, legitimacy, and identity in this man's life.
- Why do you think powerful and strong legion (in common usage in that day, a legion was the largest unit in the Roman army averaging around 5,000 fighting men, meaning that the man wasn't just possessed by one unclean spirit but by thousands of unclean spirits) has to ask Jesus for permission to enter the pigs?
 - Regardless of the power and strength of legion (and both were immense), this power and strength simply paled in comparison to the power and strength of Jesus.

□ Mark 5:16-20

- Prior to reading verses 16-20 or even prior to not knowing what came after verse 15, how would you expect the people to respond to seeing the man who once had legion, now in his right mind?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so just listen as the facilitator.
- Why don't you think Jesus allowed the man to go with Him and what's significant about what He told the man instead?
 - The condition of the man had been transformed but Jesus wanted Him to understand that this didn't mean his context needed to change. Jesus wanted Him to know that He now had a responsibility to share His transformation within His context.

□ Mark 5:21-34

- Why do you think Jesus allowed Himself to be interrupted by this woman, especially under such dire circumstances that He knew were dire?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so just listen as the facilitator.
- Consider the following questions in light of reading Leviticus 15:25-27 because at the time of Mark 5, the people would have still been under the Old Covenant.
 - What risks was the woman taking in coming to Jesus?
 - The woman was unclean and by law, was doing the wrong thing. She was risking ridicule, her already fragile status, and maybe even persecution.
 - How was the woman viewed by society, her own people?
 - The woman would have been viewed and treated as a social outcast. She was totally and completely unclean.
 - Was the woman's condition just physical?
 - In no way was the woman's condition just physical. After 12 straight years of bleeding and exhausting all of her

options, it was highly emotional, spiritual, mental, social, and so much more.

□ Mark 5:35-43

- How would you characterize the scene before Jesus raised the little girl to life? What stands out to you about the scene?
 - This is a perspective/opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why do you think that Jesus instructs those around to give the little girl something to eat? This seems a bit odd and out of place in the story.
 - When someone is raised from the dead both physically and spiritually, this isn't the end of their story and testimony. Rather, it is just the beginning, and they will need more nurturing.

□ Personal Reflection & Application

- There were at least three major transformations that occurred in Mark chapter 5, possibly more.
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 - Would you characterize any of these transformations as safe or uncomfortable? Why or why not?
 - This is a perspective/opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
 - In light of this, what do you think God wants us to learn about spiritual transformations?
 - Spiritual transformations are messy. They are dirty. They are not easy. They involve a journey that may

not be on our timing. Spiritual transformations do not occur because of human effort.

- If you consider the bleeding woman, would you say that it is a good thing to be desperate for God? Do you think your desperation for God matches the bleeding woman's desperation for God? Why or why not?
 - This is a perspective/opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- In what ways do you need to stop bringing human solutions to spiritual issues?
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Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
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