

Rooted and Reaching Week #3  
Leader's Notes for week of September 24, 2017

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** The focus of this week is Jesus' command in Mark 5:19 to go home and share. May I suggest that you reread the stories together and allow God to speak to you together?

**FOR THIS WEEK, I WOULD ASK 'WHAT DID YOU HEAR IN THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK?' THE THOUGHTS IN THE LESSON MAKE MORE SENSE IF YOU BEGIN WITH A REVIEW.**

### **Share it**

Most of us are comfortable being with people like us. When do you remember being with people very different from yourself? What did you experience?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of this is to take people into the context of this passage that is Jews in a non-Jewish community. In this case, the non-Jews were known for strange and even scary practice.**

### **Study the Bible**

Read Mark 5:1-17. Jesus is in a predominantly non-Jewish area known for its cult practices and Roman influence.

How is the man described? What was his / the demons first response to Jesus?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: It is significant that these demons (who spoke) were aware of Jesus' identity and His power. This is something that the disciples were then learning. Because of what they knew, the demons were afraid.**

What miracle did Jesus perform? How might pigs fit into this story?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: He sent the demons out of the man and into the pigs. Pigs were (1) unclean and forbidden to Jews, (2) raised only by non-Jews / gentiles, and (3) considered highly by the Romans.**

What were the responses of the other people from the area?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Please list these out since they represent how some people first respond to Jesus.**

Read Mark 5:18-20

What was the first response of the healed man?

What was the command of Jesus to him and his response?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: As above, this is the key command for this week.**

Knowing that this is a non-Jewish area, what message would this have been to Jesus' close followers?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: That Jesus is reaching out to non-Jews. This was new to them. Later, in the book of Acts, we see that they were newly embracing this call to reach their worlds.**

In Matthew 15:29-31, Jesus again returned to the area where he healed the possessed man. What was the first response of the people from that same pagan area? What was the final response of these people? What changed?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We see the effects of this man and others who shared about Jesus. Now they were ready and waiting for Him and many believed.**

### **Discuss Together**

The title this week is about the "other side." These stories represent times when Jesus went to be with people who did not yet know Him. What conversations have you had with people who didn't yet (don't yet) know Jesus?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Please be patient. People are often reluctant to begin sharing. Further questions you could ask:**

- **What do think is helpful in conversations?**
- **What role does listening have in helping people consider Jesus and the good news?**
- **What fears do you feel?**
- **What are some good questions that you have asked or heard?**

In Mark 5:19, Jesus commanded the man to *"Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."* There are two commands: go to your home people (cf. "your worlds") and report to them. What are some specific things that we could report to our 'home people?' What has the Lord "done for" us? How has he had "mercy on" us?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: You could also ask, "What are you thankful for?" This is a good time to remember that we have much to share with people.**

How did this happen in your life? What did people say or do in your story? What didn't they do?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We all have a story.**

What might be the process of when and how this could happen through us? How can this be a lifestyle and not a 'to-do list?'

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The possibilities of 'when' and 'how' are endless. Consider these from stories of people:**

- Working on projects together
- While going through difficult times
- Connecting through children's activities
- Through musical events
- Over coffee, having meal together

What would help you feel ready and equipped to connect with people who need Jesus?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY. I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THE ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION. PLAN TO SHARE THESE WITH ME OR AT OUR NEXT LEADER'S HUDDLE.**

### **Apply It This Week**

Reflect on this verse: *"Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."*

Be ready to share next week three things: (1) Who are "your people" that need Jesus, (2) What specific "things" and "mercies" God has done for you, and (3) how ready you feel to influence people.

**NOTES TO LEADERS: This is a very specific application. You might want to read it out loud and consider this as an assignment for next week.**

So glad for your partnership,  
Steve