



FAITH

& LOVE

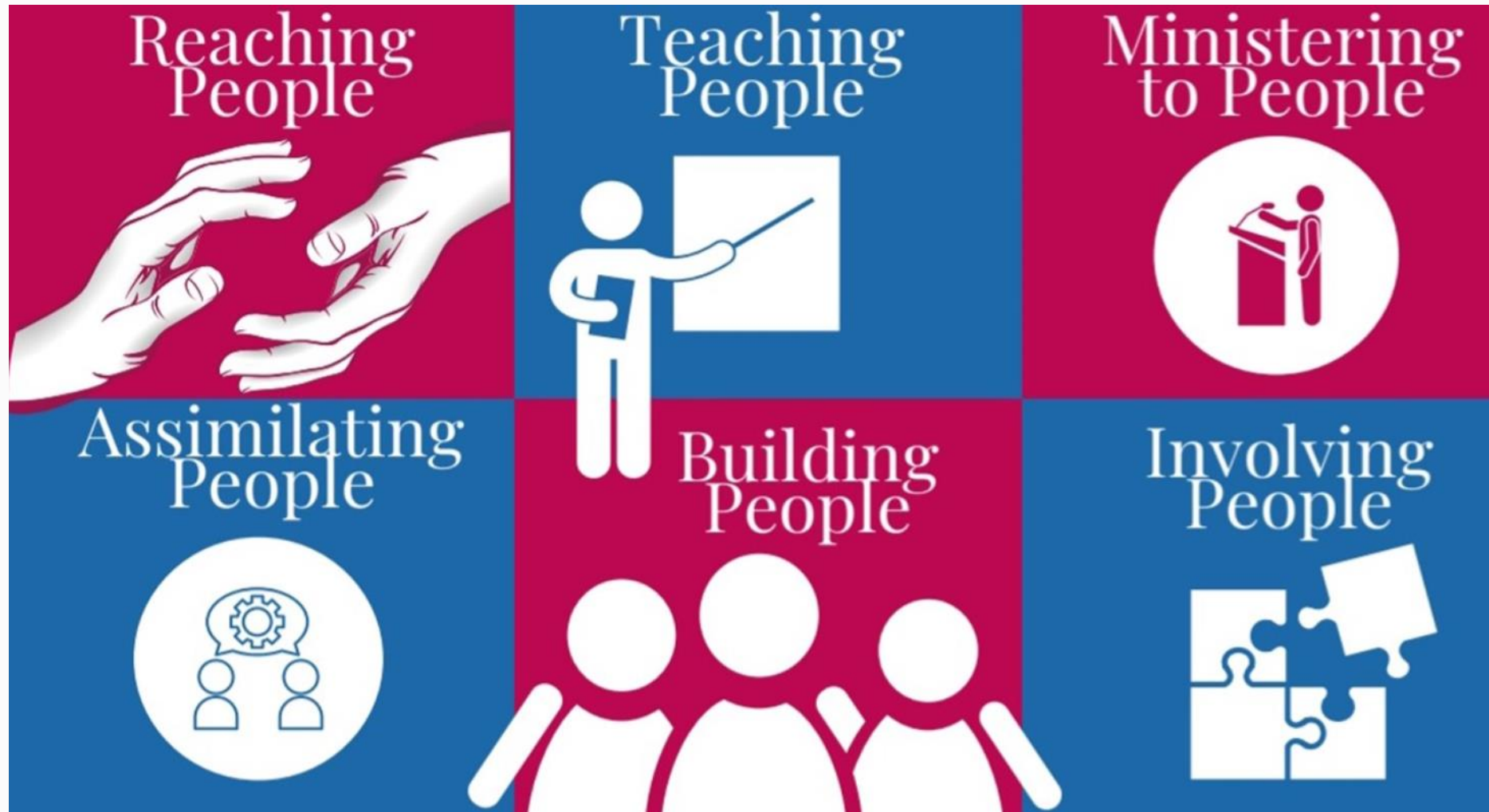
Church of God in Christ

Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Sunday School

Lesson 7 April 12, 2026

A REVERSAL OF SHAME

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



Reaching
People



Teaching
People



Ministering
to People



Assimilating
People



Building
People



Involving
People



Lesson 8 April 19, 2026
A SOUND MIND



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

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- Bible Basis: Luke 8:26-36
- Bible Truth: Jesus healed a man who was demon possessed and told him to share his healing experience with others.
- Memory Verse: “Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid” (Luke 8:35)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: KNOW the details of Jesus’ healing the Gerasene man from his demons; EMPATHIZE with those who have great troubles and to remember their times of trial; and START, support, promote or work in a church counseling program.
- Background Scriptures: [Luke 8:26-39](#); [Philippians 2:1-11](#) – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

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Luke 8:26-36 KJV

26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

Luke 7:36-50 KJV

32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country.

35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Gerasenes. The Gospels vary in identifying this Gentile city. Mark says it is the region of the Gadarenes ([5:1](#)). In the King James version, Matthew calls the region the Gergesenes ([8:28](#)). Gadara was eight miles from the lake while Gerasa was thirty miles away. Both were cities in the Decapolis, which means "Ten Towns." We can say it is most likely a Gentile population who lived there, based on the presence of pig herds, which were considered unclean by Jews ([Leviticus 11:7](#)). There were a few Jewish residents, though.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

Demoniac. A demoniac is someone possessed by a devil or demon. Sometimes demon possession causes people to have physical and mental ailments. Evil spirits can also cause some to act and speak in peculiar ways. Jesus made it clear that demon possession is real. Every time Jesus encountered a demoniac, He spoke a word, commanding the demons to leave or release a person. They always obeyed because Jesus is Lord over all, including the natural and spiritual world.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: Students will experience that people can behave abnormally or be a threat to themselves or others when they have suffered emotional or physical disorders.

INTRODUCTION

Discipleship Requirements

Many became Jesus' disciples, but out of the group, Jesus chose twelve to become His apostles ([Luke 6:12-16](#)). Not everybody could go out and represent Jesus to the world. But before Jesus could send the twelve out, they needed preparation. Jesus wanted to make sure they understood their mission and the difficulties ahead. He allowed them to share in experiences like hearing the Beatitudes, calming a storm, delivering a demoniac, healing a woman with an issue of blood, and raising Jairus' daughter from the dead ([Luke 6:17-9:6](#)).

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Accepts the Rejected

Each of Jesus' encounters taught His apostles about His ministry and what would be required of them as they went into the world as His representatives. In [Luke 8:22-25](#), Jesus and the disciples were alone on a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee. A windstorm came and tossed the boat so much that the disciples thought they would perish, even though Jesus was with them. Jesus was sleeping in the lower part of the boat, so they woke Him up in a panic. Jesus rebuked the winds and sea, which calmed down. Jesus asked them, "Where is your faith?" They had seen Jesus perform miracles but still doubted. Jesus proved He has power and authority over nature. The disciples wondered who Jesus was that the wind and seas obeyed Him. Today in our lesson, the demons will reveal who Jesus is, thus answering the disciples' question.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will learn that Jesus faces and heals the fears of a community and the harsh reality of a man who is possessed.

I. THE ENCOUNTER

Luke 8:26-31

The disciples and Jesus arrived safely on the other side of the Sea of Galilee in spite of the storm ([Luke 8:22-25](#)). The place they landed was called Gerasenes ([8:26](#)). As soon as Jesus stepped out of the boat, a demoniac man approached Him and screamed, "Why are you bothering me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don't torture me!" ([8:28](#)). The demons recognized Jesus' power over the spiritual world. The presence of Jesus as Messiah demonstrated the conflict between darkness and light. The demons were disturbed by His presence, as He represented the rule and reign of God, which opposes Satan.

I. THE ENCOUNTER

Luke 8:26-31

Often we see people who are mentally impaired and try our best to avoid them, fearing what they might do to us. But Jesus did not avoid the man; He commanded the evil spirit to come out ([8:29](#)). He had compassion because the man had been tormented so long. We, too, need to have compassion on those suffering physical or mental ailments. God will direct us how to best help them.

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I. THE ENCOUNTER

Luke 8:26-31

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This Scripture describes Jesus' encounter with a demoniac. Jesus reaches land in Gadarenes opposite Galilee. A man comes to him. He "had devils," meaning he was under the complete domination of demons. He has been under their control a "longtime"; everyone in the towns by now had known about it. Luke accumulates details of the man's physical and psychological condition to probably point out that his healing will not be easy. He had previously lived in one of towns nearby, but now stays away from all social life.

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He could not wear clothes or live in a house, instead looking for the solitude of tombs (v. 27), in the caves used as burial places. In Judaism, tombs would be unclean due to the proximity of corpses ([Leviticus 22:4](#); [Numbers 5:2](#)), so it was understandable that the demons would prefer such a location since they were unclean spirits (Luke 8:29). The detail description also shows the destructive power of the demons. The demons' influence is not only manifested on the victim's spirit or personality, but also in his body.

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The man throws himself at Jesus' feet, calls Him "Son of God most high," and begs Him not to torment him (v. 28). The man speaks using the pronoun "I," but expressing the view of demons, shows he is totally under the control of demonic power.

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I. THE ENCOUNTER

Luke 8:26-31

29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) 30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. 31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

Verses 29 through 32 demonstrate the demoniac man's condition. Jesus ordered the demon to come out (v. 29). To show the difficulty in healing the man, Luke explains that the man had been possessed for a long time ("had devils long time," v. 27), which manifested itself with uncontrollable violence. The expression "oftentimes it had caught him" (v. 29) indicates that the sick man has successive seizures with intervals of calm, probably when he was chained.

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Jesus cross-examines the demon, wanting to unmask all the demons implicated. The demon claims to be "legion" (Gk. legeon, leh-gee-OWN) because a plurality of evil spirits is involved (v. 30), though the exact number is undetermined. The word "legion" refers to the principal unit of the Roman military in that time period, encompassing 3,000 to 6,000 soldiers. In mentioning that the demons are associated with the Roman military through name, Luke both criticizes the corruption of the empire and proclaims that Jesus' power is greater than that of human might.

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I. THE ENCOUNTER

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The demons themselves now speak, indicated by the use of plural in verse 31: "they besought him." They beg Jesus not to send them into the deep, probably where they would be kept and judged ([see Revelation 9:1-2, 11; 11:7; 20:1-3](#)). This word "deep" (Gk. abussos, ah-BOO-sahs) means something bottomless, used in the Greek version of the Old Testament for the waters of the deep ([Genesis 1:2, Psalm 24:2, 33:7, 32:7](#)). The ancients believed that underneath the earth was a subterranean ocean supplying water to the world. In the New Testament, this word is used exclusively for the residence of demons, but not necessarily the place of eternal punishment.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Demons Ask Jesus for a Favor

The demons ask Jesus to let them enter a herd of pigs feeding nearby. The presence of pigs shows that the majority of people living in the region were non-Jews. The pigs are also representative of unclean animals, so they would be a fitting destination for unclean spirits. Jesus grants their request (v. 32). His behavior is part of a continuing theme in the Gospel of Luke. He is not so much concerned with the demons' destruction as much as the deliverance of those under bondage. The present time is for deliverance. The destruction of demons will soon be realized at the end of the age.

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II. THE DELIVERANCE

The Demons Plead for Mercy

Luke 8:32-33

32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. 33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

The demons identified themselves as "Legion" (8:30). The size of a Roman legion varied overtime between 4,500 to nearly 6,000 men. This signified that the man had many demons.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

The Herd of Pigs

The demons knew their ultimate fate would be the lake of fire (Revelation 20:1-3), so they asked to be cast into the herd of pigs. Maybe they thought they could escape God and their ultimate destiny at least for a while.

Jesus granted the demons' request to leave the man and enter the herd of pigs. However, when the demons entered the pigs, they ran into the lake and died. This massacre revealed the demons' true intentions: to destroy and abuse all life. Demons only have limited power; they cannot stand against the power of God nor Jesus' authority.

III. THE PROCLAMATION

Luke 8:34-36

Those who were pig shepherds told everyone in the area what they had witnessed. The crowds came to meet Jesus and see for themselves the man who once was demon-possessed, now sitting with Jesus in his right mind. The people were afraid and begged Him to leave (8:37); they feared Jesus' power and were upset about losing a herd of pigs. If Jesus stayed, they feared they would experience greater financial losses. For them, money was much more important than ministering to the people. We cannot allow money and material possessions to take priority over helping people. Jesus always made ministering to the people His top priority.

III. THE PROCLAMATION

Luke 8:34-36

Before Jesus left, He told the healed man "to go home and tell others all God had done for him" (8:39). The man did not completely obey Jesus' directions; instead of telling all God had done, he went and told everyone what Jesus had done for him.

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III. THE PROCLAMATION

Healing and Fear

Luke 8:34-36

34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. 36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

Verses 33 through 36 present the healing and the effect it produces. The demons leave the man and enter into the pigs; the pigs rush into the lake (v.33). The pig keepers run into "the city and in the country" to tell what had happened (v. 34). People come from all over the area. They hear the testimony of the pig keepers and see for themselves the man healed; they are gripped by fear at the manifestation of divine presence and power (vv. 35-36; [cf. 1:12; 2:9; 5:8-10, 26](#)).

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III. THE PROCLAMATION

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The story of the demoniac is a great illustration of what satanic forces can do to a human personality under their control: they bring the destruction of life. They "strive to overpower a man's personality, and ultimately to break down his self-control, and to rob him, as they did the demoniac, of self-respect" (Gooding 144).

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Jesus Has All Power

Thankfully, Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil ([1 John 3:8](#)). He has power over satanic forces; Satan and demons recognize Jesus' authority and must obey Him (vv. 29, 32). We may not be necessarily in the same condition as this man, but we or people we live with are often prisoners of bad forces such as destructive habits or thoughts. We can trust Jesus to help fight bad thoughts and bad habits ([see Matthew 11:28](#)).

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will understand how experiencing healing from Jesus will bring joy and the opportunity to share what He has done with others.

BIBLE APPLICATION

Many people suffer from mental and behavioral disorders. We often may think this is just limited to those we see in the streets talking to themselves and fighting invisible people. But this can include older people with dementia, as well as children with Attention Deficit Disorder. What should we do about these people who are a part of our church congregations? God calls us to show more empathy and devise ways to minister to their needs.

STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will discover that Jesus can give direction and clarity to change our troubled minds.

STUDENT RESPONSES

Sometimes it takes a symbolic act to hammer home the spiritual truth we have learned. List all of the ways you believe you do not measure up spiritually. Write them out on a piece of paper, then tear the paper into pieces and dump it into the trash can. This is what God has done for you. He has torn up anything that you have to be ashamed of, and now you are free in Christ. The most important way to support our friends and family members who have mental illness is to pray and show patience when they struggle with everyday tasks. In church, they may need assistance getting to their seat, finding the bathroom, or finding the Scripture in the Bible. Additionally, we can show support by being a part of those who start or support special counseling groups for those with exceptional needs.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You are the inspiration and the motivation that we need to have joy in our lives.

In spite of our tears and our messiness, we can share how You bless us and provide us with what we need. Stabilize our minds and our hearts Lord.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

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Next Sunday
April 26, 2026
Lesson 9
“A Family Reunion”
Luke 15:11-24