

Imagine This! Overview

Day One

Theme: Imagine This: You are Known!

Promise Point: The God of miracles knows me.

Memory Verse: You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. – Psalm 139:1

Day Two

Theme: Imagine This: You are Loved!

Promise Point: I am loved, so I can choose to love.

Memory Verse: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. – 1 John 3:16

Day Three

Theme: Imagine This: You Belong!

Promise Point: I belong to God's family.

Memory Verse: Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. – 1 Corinthians 12:27

Day Four

Theme: Imagine This: You Matter!

Promise Point: I matter to the God of miracles.

Memory Verse: Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. – Luke 12:7

Day Five

Theme: Imagine This: You Have Purpose!

Promise Point: God made me on purpose, with purpose.

Memory Verse: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. – Ephesians 2:10

Day Six

Theme: Imagine This: You Can Make a Difference!

Promise Point: I can be part of what God is doing.

Memory Verse: I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. – John 14:12

Day One Chapel: You are Known

Main Text: John 11:11-44

- Death and resurrection of Lazarus

Object Lesson: Feeding the Five-ish

- A few biscuits

Promise Point:

- The God of miracles knows me.

Memory Verse: Psalm 139:1

- ~ You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
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INTRODUCTION

- ~ Welcome campers to camp!
- ~ Introduce yourself
- ~ Introduce this week
 - Imagine This...
 - ...a world where anything can happen!
 - ...a world where you are known, you are loved, you belong, you matter, you have purpose, you can make a difference!
 - You don't have to imagine, it's true!
 - Miracles
 - All week we'll look at miracles of Jesus
 - Luke 5:26 (Day Six chapel story)
 - Everyone was amazed...
 - Because miracles seem crazy and hard to believe!
 - BUT the Bible is not just a nice story or fantasy novel, it's TRUE
 - ...and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe...
 - When we see miracles, we respond in praise
 - Give credit where credit is due
 - We have seen remarkable things today
 - Miracles are not just in the past!
 - The God of miracles is still working DAILY!

OBJECT LESSON: Feeding the Five-ish

- ~ Pass 2-3 biscuits through rows of campers
 - Encourage to “eat as much as you want!” and “pass it down!”
 - Be “shocked” when it doesn’t go far
- ~ Talking miracles this week, one of the most famous was when Jesus fed 5,000+ people with 5 loaves & 2 fish (*Mark 6:30-44*)
 - Not just fed, satisfied (and had 12 baskets of leftovers!)
 - “loaves” were probably more like biscuits,
 - smaller = more amazing
 - *otherwise, why would a boy bring 5 loaves of bread for lunch? (John 6:9)*
- ~ We can trust God with the little things...
 - This was incredible, but it was just lunch
 - Jesus didn’t HAVE to feed them, but did
 - To take care of them
 - To show them who He was
 - The boy (in the 5,000 story) surrendered his small lunch to Jesus
 - Time to surrender distractions for this week
 - We all “brought something” from home – give it to Jesus!
 - Leave drama, technology, worries, attitudes, etc.
 - *Speaker Note: We ALL have baggage and too many of these campers may be carrying quite a heavy load - we don’t want to suggest that they shouldn’t be concerned about these things or be authentic about who they are or where they come from. Rather, we simply want to encourage them to be engaged in the camp experience, including what God has to offer them this week.*
 - Boy gave with no guarantee that anything would happen
 - Gave anyway!
 - A lot of unknowns in the next six days, but the God of miracles is still ready and able to do amazing things!

- ...but He is willing to do BIG things!
 - Took small lunch and made history
 - When we give what we have, He'll do the rest
 - It's okay if you don't know where you're at/what you believe, just be here.
 - Ephesians 3:20 – able to do immeasurably **more** than we ask or even **imagine!**
 - Crowd didn't just eat, they were satisfied!
 - For Lazarus and his sisters, Jesus did way more than get lunch...

SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- John 11:1-6 – Jesus' friend Lazarus is sick
 - Jesus loved this family (v. 5)
 - Jesus was a real human with real friends!
 - Had history with this family
 - They KNEW Him and He KNEW them
 - Mary worshiped Him (v. 2)
 - Martha hosted Him (Luke 10:38)
 - Sisters knew to contact Him in an emergency (John 11:3)
 - v. 3 – Lazarus called "the one you love"
 - special connection!
 - only other man called this is John, the writer of the story
 - big of John to recognize their relationship ("other best friend")
 - Jesus knew what was going to happen/what He was going to do
 - "This sickness will not end in death..." (v.4)
 - ...but it may pass through it!
 - Jesus knows what we need above what we want
 - Sisters wanted healing (v.3) but He stayed where He was (v.6)
 - Not because He didn't care!!
 - Instead of healing the sick, He raised the dead!
 - *(How much cooler is that?!?)*
 - Showed them not just love, but God's power and His own identity

- John 11:7-16 – Jesus decides to go to Bethany
 - Even though it was dangerous for Him!
 - v. 8 – last time in Judea didn't go well
 - v. 16 – disciples knew risk
 - no doubt that He loved His friends!
 - *Personal Story, Option A: Tell about a time when you took a risk to do the right thing.*
 - *Personal Story, Option B: Tell about a time when a friend did something that seemed crazy but you went along with them because they were so convinced it was right*
 - Jesus knew who He was
 - vv. 7-11 – knew His time to die had not yet come
 - v. 11 – no doubt in His own ability
 - Jesus knew what would be waiting for them in Bethany
 - vv. 11, 14 – already knew Lazarus was dead
 - Jesus knew the disciples
 - vv. 11-14 – didn't get it, had to speak plainly to them

- John 11:17-35 - Jesus talks to the sisters
 - Jesus KNEW Martha
 - Independent
 - Luke 10:38 - owned her own home
 - John 11:20 – left sister, went right out/up to Jesus
 - Bossy
 - Luke 10:40 - "tell Mary to help me!"
 - John 11:21 – "you weren't here, fix it now!"
 - vv. 23-27, 40 – Jesus appeals to her rational side/intellect
 - "I told you this, do you believe it?"
 - Jesus KNEW Mary
 - Contemplative, relational
 - Luke 10:39 – sat at Jesus' feet
 - John 11:20 – stayed home grieving with friends
 - v. 29 – went quickly when Jesus asked for her
 - vv. 32-33 – Jesus recognizes her emotional side
 - fell at His feet (vs. Martha "went out to meet him" in v.20)
 - Jesus was moved by her grief
 - Wept also! (v. 35)
 - Not because He was sad that Lazarus died!

- Jesus responded to the sisters differently
 - Both said the same thing (vv. 21 & 32)
 - Wouldn't've worked to get emotional with Martha
 - Wouldn't've worked to get logical with Mary
 - He knew them and what they needed
 - He knows you and what you need!
 - *Personal Story, Option C: Tell about a time when you had to adjust your words/behavior to work with, travel with, discipline, or break bad news to two completely different people (especially if they were best friends or siblings!)*
- John 11:38-44 – Jesus raises Lazarus
 - vv. 39-40 – Martha being herself, Jesus responding logically
 - vv. 41-42 – prays so others hear
 - knows who He is, what's about to happen
 - knows disciples/witnesses/WE have doubts
 - knows disciples/witnesses/WE don't have the big picture
 - knows disciples/witnesses/WE need to see miracles sometimes!
 - *Personal Story, Option D: Tell about a time when God made things **really** obvious for you!*
 - (also vv. 11-15)
 - v. 43 – calls Lazarus from tomb by name
 - something special about the way someone who loves you says your name
 - Isaiah 43:1
 - John 20:16
 - v. 44 – Lazarus comes out alive!! It's a miracle!
- John 11:45 – many put their faith in Jesus because of Lazarus
 - John 12:9-11
 - God has a bigger purpose for our trials
 - God (*doesn't cause bad things, but*) can use the bad things of this broken world for His glory
 - John 11:14-15 – Jesus was "glad" Lazarus died so that the disciples' faith would grow
 - Telling people what Jesus has done in our lives matters

- Relationship brings freedom
 - o John 11:41 - "Did I not tell you...?"
 - Not in this chapter! Calling on past relationship
 - Relationship allows Jesus to remind Martha who He is
 - Bible, experience, stories from others remind us who He is
 - o Even knowing fully who He was, the sisters spoke sharply to Jesus
 - "if you'd been here!" (v.21, v.32)
 - "don't move the stone, it will stink!" (v.39)
 - they had a close enough relationship to approach Him this way
 - depth of relationship makes it easier to speak harsh words (*you can tell your best friend you don't like their haircut, but not your new girlfriend's mom*)
 - doesn't negate respect for Him (both call Him "Lord")
 - didn't change His love for them
 - o we can tell Jesus when life's not fair
 - o we can tell Jesus when we're disappointed, angry, sad, etc.
 - o He knows us just as well as He knew Mary & Martha
- Jesus knows us and what we're going through because He's been there (here)
 - o John 1:14 – became one of us
 - o Real human experience
 - Hungry, cold, hot, tired, sick
 - Real family, friends
 - Knows what it's like to love and be loved
 - Knows what it's like to be betrayed
 - Hebrews 4:15 – faced same trials as we do

WRAP UP

- Memory verse: Psalm 139:1 – You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
- Promise Point: The God of miracles knows me.
 - o Imagine This: You are known!
 - o Every part of you!
 - o And He can respond to you how you need Him to!
 - o And He can use the hard pieces of your life for His glory!
- John 11:40 - if you believe, you'll see the glory of God!
 - o This week, we'll talk about many glorious, wondrous things
 - What will you believe? What will you see?

Day One: You are Known: Small Group

****Helpful Hints****

Today sets the tone for other discussions you will have with your campers this week. It's up to you to walk a fine line between energy and focus so that campers will both look forward to and learn from Small Group. We want campers to feel comfortable answering and asking questions without being distracting or silly, so just continue to be your super fun self, but emphasize respect for each other and reverence for the awesomeness of God's Word as you begin. If you are genuinely excited about the Bible and the things God has taught you about Himself and yourself through it, the campers will catch your enthusiasm and want to know more.

Campers may not be ready to share very much this early in the week – that's okay! Acknowledge those who do and don't press those who don't. Remember: They're tired. It's been a big day of travelling, saying goodbye to family, meeting new people, doing new things. Discussions will grow as relationships do.

All week, please be careful to use affirmative language instead of hypothetical or conditional words when discussing the daily themes – for example, "imagine this - you are loved" hits differently than "imagine if you were loved."

Promise Point:

- The God of miracles knows me.

Memory Verse: Psalm 139:1

- You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

INTRODUCTION

- Small Group intro
 - o Time of Bible study/theme discussion
 - o Just as cool as horses, blobbing, other parts of camp
 - o Confidential/safe space to share
 - o Special, specific time each day, but you can ALWAYS follow up/ask questions about all this "God stuff" to any staff at any time!

- ~ Theme intro
 - This week: Imagine This!
 - **What do you think when you hear the word “imagination?”**
 - **What are some things that are easy to imagine?**
 - **What are some things that are hard to imagine?**
 - All week we’ll talk about incredible things that Jesus did that are hard to even imagine or believe, but that really happened!
 - We’ll also work on imagining what life would be like if we really believe that we are as special as God thinks we are!
 - Today: You are Known!
 - **Who is someone that knows you really well? How/why do they know so much about you?**

IMAGINATION

- ~ **If that person were here right now, can you imagine what they would be doing/feeling?**
- ~ Just for fun, Imagine This: your pet (*or favorite stuffed animal, backpack, or other inanimate object*) can talk! **What would they say is the best thing about you?**
- ~ Imagine This: you just won a huge award! **What did you do to earn it? Who helped you reach this top level?**
- ~ Imagine This: you’re going on a dream vacation! **Where are you going and what 3 things would you be sure to pack?**
- ~ **On a scale of 1-10, how easy was it to come up with answers to these questions?**
- ~ For some people, using their imaginations is easy and fun. For others, it’s more difficult or frustrating. Some use imagination to escape a scary or dangerous reality.
 - **What are some good things that imagination helps people do?**
 - **What is the connection between imagination and creativity?**
- ~ Read or have a volunteer read Genesis 1:1.
 - Here in the very first sentence of the whole Bible, we see that God is creative!
 - **How else do we know that God has a great imagination?**

- Read or have a volunteer read Genesis 1:27.
 - o Since we are made in God's image, we have the gift to be creative and imaginative also!

DISCUSSION

- Imagination lets us go places we've never been, see things we've never seen, and do things we've never done. This week we are going to stretch ourselves to imagine some incredible things; things that may be hard to believe, but that are true!
 - o **What is a miracle?**
 - o **What is the difference between a miracle and magic?**
 - o **What some of the miracles that Jesus did?**
- Read or have a volunteer read Mark 4:35-39.
 - o **How would you feel if you were in this situation?**
 - o **What would you think if someone told you that their friend who was blind could suddenly see perfectly with no surgery or medicine or anything, just because someone rubbed mud on them? (*John 9:6*)**
 - o **What if someone who was paralyzed started walking around with no problems and no help? (*Mark 2:12*)**
 - o **Do you think miracles still happen today? What do they look like now?**
- Along with learning about some miracles that might seem hard to believe, we are going to take some time this week to imagine what it would be like if we really believe things that the Bible says are true.
 - o Read or have a volunteer read Matthew 17:20.
 - o **(How) Would your life be different if you really believed that nothing was impossible with faith?**
- Sometimes it takes imagination to see ourselves in a world where we feel that we belong, that we are loved, or that we can make a difference. Sometimes it's hard enough just to believe what God says, much less to let our lives show that we believe it.
 - o Today's theme - Imagine This: You are Known!
 - **Why do you think it's important to be known?**
 - **What would it be like if you were known by a movie star or professional athlete?**

~ **How do we know that God knows us?**

- Read or have a volunteer read John 10:14-15 & 24-27.
- Read or have a volunteer read Psalm 139:1-4.
- Read or have a volunteer read Isaiah 43:1.
 - **What do these verses say about being known by God?**
 - **How do these verses make you feel?**

REFLECTION

****TO BE ANSWERED SILENTLY IN BOOKLETS****

- **What is your favorite subject to let your imagination run with?**
- Imagine This: someone wants to make a movie about your life! **What are three really important things they need to know about you?**
- **Why is it important to be truly known by the people in your life?**
- You ARE known by the God of miracles! **How would things be different if you lived like you fully believed this?**

WRAP UP

- ~ Promise Point: The God of miracles knows me.
- ~ Memory Verse: Psalm 139:1 – You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
- ~ Say a prayer to close.

Day Five: You Have Purpose: Take Ten

How many things can you think of to do at camp? What are some of your favorites?

Some camps have a waterfront with all kinds of activities. At one camp, a lifeguard named Danny found some old, dusty windsurfing equipment. Within a few days, Danny cleaned up a few of the boards, put an old paddle blade on a long broom handle, and began leading staff members on makeshift stand-up paddleboard adventures.

But Danny didn't stop there! Using a piece of scrap wood from the maintenance shop, some skateboard wheels he found in the trash at a sporting goods store where he worked at, and one of the old windsurfing sails, Danny made a "windskite" – perfect for cruising around a parking lot on a windy day!

Danny has boxes of "treasure" that have moved with him to five different houses in three different states. His wife doesn't understand why he keeps it all and is always asking "what is this?" or "why do you have that?" or "can we throw this away?" But Danny can find one tiny L-shaped piece of plastic and get over-the-moon excited because it's the perfect thing he needs to finish his latest project.

The thing is, Danny sees purpose. Even (and especially) in things that other people would see as trash, Danny finds value, recognizes potential, and draws out new life.

In Deuteronomy 7:6, we are told "...The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession." Like Danny (and even more so!), God calls us "treasure." Even when we feel that we aren't worth much, God sees purpose. He values us and wants to give us new life!

Read Genesis 1:1-27.

Who made light? Is there purpose for light?

Who made sky? Is there purpose for sky?

Who made water? Is there purpose for water?

Who made land? Is there purpose for land?

Who made plants? Is there purpose for plants?

Who made the sun & moon? Is there purpose for the sun & moon?

Who made birds & fish? Is there purpose for birds & fish?

Who made animals? Is there purpose for animals?

Who made Adam & Eve? Was there purpose for Adam & Eve?

Ok, now for the big one: **who made YOU? Is there purpose for YOU?**

Not only does God **see** purpose, God **gives** purpose! He created everything on purpose, for purpose, including you! Have you ever thought about what your purpose might be?

Birds sing, plants bloom, rivers flow - **how can you glorify God in your own special way?**

Do you believe that you have purpose? Imagine This: the same God who made the moon and stars and put them to shine in their place also made you and put you in your place to shine brightly for Him!

Promise Point: God made me on purpose, with purpose.

Memory Verse: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. – Ephesians 2:10

Day Five: You Have Purpose: Object Lesson

Supplies

- cardboard boxes, pool noodles, skit props – the stranger or more ambiguous, the better

Set Up

- lay out items in 5 piles
- talk to 5 staff members about being part of the activity
- have the 5 staffers stand by their item(s)

Activity: Props

- Have each staff volunteer pick a camper to be their buddy
- In rapid-fire turns of 10 seconds or less, each team must use their prop for a completely random purpose (*see Whose Line is It Anyway "Props" game on YouTube*)
- Do 2-3 rounds (more if ideas are flowing/funny)

Application

- These things were made for A purpose, but teams gave them many purposes
- You were made WITH purpose and ON purpose
- The people who made these things knew what they were meant for
- The God who made you and knows you has purpose for you

Promise Point: God made me on purpose, with purpose.

Memory Verse: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. – Ephesians 2:10

Day Five: You Have Purpose: Small Group

Helpful Hints

*Be careful to use the phrase "have purpose" instead of "have a purpose." Having **a** purpose ties us to that one thing, but God calls and uses us in many areas and circumstances.*

INTRODUCTION

Recap Yesterday: You Matter

- Promise Point: I matter to the God of Miracles
- Memory Verse: Luke 12:7
- **How did the chapel story (turning water to wine) show us that we matter?**

Theme intro: You have purpose

- **What do you think when you hear the word purpose?**
- **What does doing things on purpose look like?**
- **What does doing things with purpose look like?**

IMAGINATION

- Imagine This: you have been asked (and fully funded) to create a new app – **what would you make and why?**
- Imagine This: you have been asked (and fully funded) to create a new household appliance – **what would you make and why?**

DISCUSSION

- There's a famous saying: "Necessity is the mother of invention."
 - **What do you think that means?** (*if something needs to be done, someone will figure out a way to do it; things are created for a reason*)
- Everything that has been made has been made for a reason...including you!
- Read (or have a volunteer read) Jeremiah 18:1-6
 - **How can you see God shaping your life as He sees fit?**
- Read (or have a volunteer read) Ephesians 2:10
- Some translations say we are His creation, His handiwork, His workmanship, even His masterpiece!
- **What is the difference between "invented" and "created in Christ Jesus"?**

- **Have you ever thought about yourself having purpose?**
- **What's the difference between having purpose and having A purpose?**

- Read (or have a volunteer read) Psalm 37:4.

- **When you really think about your life and your future, what are some things that you would call "the desires of your heart"?**

- **How does this verse say that we will get these things?**

- When we focus our minds, hearts, and lives on God, He works in us and on us. When we truly delight in Him, our greatest desire is Him – which means, He will give us Himself!

- These other things, though, these hopes in our hearts are no surprise to God...because He put them there!

- Read (or have a volunteer read) Psalm 139:1-4 & 13-14.

- God knows us, because He made us! And in making us, He gave us purpose – to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him...even if it's not quite what we expected.

- Read (or have a volunteer read) Luke 5:1-11.

- **Before meeting Jesus, what would a catch like this have meant to these men?**

- **Because they knew Jesus, what did this mean?**

- **What did Jesus mean in verse 10, "from now on you will catch men"?**

- So, Imagine This: you've worked all your life in the family business, you have your own family and home. Then suddenly, Jesus comes along and turns your world upside down and starts talking about a whole new life path! **What would you do? What did they do?**

- *Share about a time when God said no to your plans/hopes/dreams and instead brought you to something much greater/deeper than yourself.*

- Sometimes God says no to what we think we want/know, but that doesn't mean He's taking away our purpose. In fact, He says no because He has His own, better purpose for us!

- Instead of being healed, Lazarus died so that God's glory would be revealed in his resurrection

- **Has God ever said "no" to something you wanted and then come through with a greater gift?**

- It is hard when we feel like we aren't quite "there" yet, like we don't have all the pieces together to be able to fulfill our purpose, or – even worse – we feel that the pieces we do have aren't enough.

- In today's Take Ten, Danny basically took pieces of trash and made them into something new. Psalm 118:22-23 says "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

- God has enough power and enough love to take the pieces of our lives (even the ones that we like to hide or try to forget about) and turn them into something new that can be used for His glory. He gives even our brokenness purpose!

REFLECTION

****TO BE ANSWERED SILENTLY IN BOOKLETS****

- What invention do you wish had been your idea?
- When have you felt like God was really using your specific talents?
- Imagine This: you win the lottery! But you can't keep the money. How would you use it to pursue or advance God's purpose in your life?
- Do you believe that you have purpose? How would your life be different if you lived like this was true?

WRAP UP

- Promise Point: God made me on purpose, with purpose.
- Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10
- Pray or have a volunteer pray to close

Day Five: You Have Purpose: Chapel

Main Text: Mark 5:1-20

- Jesus exorcises a legion of demons

Object Lesson: Gadget

- Random broken/used parts and pieces

Promise Point:

- God made me on purpose, with purpose.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10

- For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

INTRODUCTION

- Personal Story, Option A: Share about a time when God said no to your plans/hopes/dreams and instead brought you to something much greater/deeper than yourself

Object Lesson: Gadget

- Using assorted broken objects, assemble a new fantastic gadget (*think Red Green's "Handyman Corner"*)
 - o God can take the broken pieces of our lives and put them together for a greater purpose!

SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- Mark 5:1-6 – a possessed man comes to Jesus
 - o vv. 3-5 – this man trapped in miserable existence
 - lived in caves, tombs, chains
 - feared by community
 - self harm
- Mark 5:7-13 – Jesus responds
 - o v. 8 – “For Jesus had said to him...”
 - - the Legion called out in v.7 in response to Jesus
 - Jesus commanded the demons to come out before the man had said/asked for anything
 - He *wants* to heal us
 - He knows what we need

- Jesus frees the man by sending the demons out
 - Jesus has power over even darkness, evil, hell
 - vv.6-7 – Legion recognized Christ for who he was
 - v. 8 - Jesus told the demons what to do
 - v. 10 – “he begged Jesus again and again”
 - knew He was more powerful/in control
 - v. 13 – “gave them permission” to go to pigs
 - demons couldn’t do anything on their own while in the presence of Christ
 - Matthew 10:1 – gives power/authority to drive out spirits to His disciples – can’t give what you don’t have, so He must have it!
- Mark 5:14-17 – the locals get scared
 - vv. 14, 16 – freaked out by pig thing
 - v. 15 – still afraid of the man AFTER he was healed
 - easier to try to control (vv. 3-4) someone than understand them?
 - Dressed, in right mind, sitting
 - Before – wandering, crying out day and night, etc.
 - One encounter with Jesus gave freedom, peace, new life
 - God is able to heal even the most terrible situations
 - The Light of the World came to rescue us from darkness
 - v. 17 – beg Jesus to leave
 - The world doesn’t understand God’s ways
- Mark 5:18-20 – the man’s new mission
 - v. 18 – wanted to go with Jesus
 - Desire to be near Him!
 - *Personal Story, Option B: tell about how Jesus moved in your life and drew you to Himself*
 - v. 19 – Jesus said no
 - His purpose is better than our plans
 - *Personal Story, Option C: tell about when Jesus said no to what you wanted and instead used you in an even greater way*
 - “Go home...”
 - Reunite with family after living among tombs
 - (couldn’t’ve if he had left with Jesus)
 - “...and tell them...”

- This man was given purpose!
 - Past doesn't matter - God can use you!
- Tell about what God has done (v.19 – “how much he has done”)
- Tell about who God is (v. 19 – “how he has had mercy”)
- v. 20 mission accepted!
 - “went away and began to tell...”
 - After other healings Jesus said “don't tell anyone” (Mark 1:44, Matthew 12:15, Mark 7:36, Luke 8:56...)
 - Gerasenes/Decapolis was Greek (Gentile) area
 - Didn't have to go to temple to prove healing
 - Christ's power revealed to all
 - Share message healing power of Jesus is for everyone (not just Jews)
 - “all the people were amazed”
 - Personal testimony is powerful
 - Instead of leaving with Jesus to other areas, God used him to make an immediate difference in his community
 - Even/especially when God's plan is not the same as what we want, He will equip us to do what we need to do

WRAP UP

- Did you notice? This was Jesus' only act in this place!
 - v. 2 – got out of boat
 - vv. 17-18 – asked to leave, got back in boat
 - the purpose of this visit was for this one man!
 - Jesus reaches out to us individually!
 - You are known, you are loved, you belong, you matter!
- This story is proof that God can use anyone
 - The God of miracles has purpose for YOU
- Promise Point: God made me on purpose, with purpose.
- Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10