

# WEEK 11: MARK 5 - JESUS THE MESSIAH

## HIGH SCHOOL

### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 5:1-43

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

*The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark* pages 43-48

*The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant* by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 72-83

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## GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 5

**Read verses 1-10 and then discuss:**

Saint Matthew tells us of two demon possessed men in Gergesenes (Gadarenes) while Saints Mark and Luke tell us of one. Saints Mark and Luke choose to tell us only about the fiercer of the two demon possessed men in order to emphasize a point.

This man, who was unable to be chained by anyone, approached Christ and acknowledged that He was the Son of God. How did this man know Jesus was the Son of God when even His disciples were still unsure about it? The demons all recognized Christ and feared their judgement and punishment. Christ is the only person that has control over the demons and they fully knew it.

Jesus asked the demon possessed man his name. He already knew it, but He did this for the benefit of those around Him. The man tells Jesus his name is "Legion." This is significant because "legion" means a large group. For the Roman army, a legion was 3000-6000 soldiers. This poor man was not possessed by just one or even a few demons. He was possessed by a large number of them, hence his inability to be contained by chains and his notable fierceness.

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Why is it such a big deal to the demons to be called out of a person? “Because they love the flesh and are accustomed to feeding upon carnal vapors (*passions*), they are starved when they do not dwell within a body. This is why the Lord says that the demons come out of a man by fasting.” - Blessed Theophylact, pg. 19

Why is it important for us to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays as well as throughout the year during fasting periods?

**Verses 11-20:**

Jesus allowed the demons to voluntarily leave this man and enter a nearby herd of pigs. The pigs reacted with a panic and ran over the side of the cliff, drowning in the water below.

This was a Gentile area (*non-Jews*) and they were not seeking a Messiah - but they knew this man had power! Regardless, they wanted him to leave their area and “Christ, the Lover of mankind and the Maker of free will, does not linger where He is unwelcome.” (Fr. Lawrence Farley, pg. 77) However, the man who had been freed from the demons begged Jesus to let him become His disciple. Jesus did not agree to this though and urged the man to go home to his family and tell them what happened. This man essentially becomes an apostle instead and tells all of Decapolis about Jesus.

**Verses 21-43:**

Yet again, Jesus finds Himself amongst a huge crowd who are all trying desperately to get His attention. In this story, we learn about two people who are competing against all the people around Jesus. One is a man who is a synagogue-ruler (*in charge of the building and arrange for the conduct of the services*) whose daughter is dying and the other is a woman with the flow of blood for twelve years. The man's dying daughter is obviously an urgent need but the woman also has a significant problem. During this time, there were many rules for Jews about when you could go to the Temple or synagogue. This woman was considered unclean and not only could not go to the synagogue for twelve years but she also could not be around anyone because they would be considered unclean as well just by being around her. She had been isolated and alone for twelve years and very desperately wanted to be healed so she could be part of her community again! Her faith was so deep that she merely wanted to get close enough to touch the hem of Jesus' clothes to be healed. She didn't expect to be singled out amongst this huge crowd, but she was. “Why does the Lord reveal the woman? First, that He might glorify the women's faith; secondly, to encourage the ruler of the synagogue that his little daughter will likewise be made whole; and thirdly,

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to deliver the woman from her great fear. For the woman was afraid that she had, as it were, stolen the healing. This is why the evangelist says that the woman came 'fearing and trembling' .“ (Blessed Theophylact, pg. 47)

And as this happened, the man finds out that his daughter has died. Jesus goes anyway to his house and to everyone's amazement, He brings her back to life.

These three miracles - casting out the “Legion” of unclean spirits (*demons*), healing the woman, and raising the man's daughter from the dead - all reveal Jesus' authority as the Son of God.

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## REVIEW:

- What is a miracle?
- Why does St. Mark want to emphasize these miracles? (Think back to our earlier lessons about the Gospel of Mark)







# WEEK 11: MARK 5 - JESUS THE MESSIAH

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 5:1-43

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

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## GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 5

### Jesus Heals the Man with the “Legion” of Unclean Spirits

**Read verses 1-20 and then discuss:**

Saint Mark tells us about when Jesus gets off the boat in an area where Gentiles (*non-Jews*) lived and was met by a fierce man filled with unclean spirits (*demons*). This man had been controlled by the unclean spirits and it didn't matter what his family did to try and help him, there was nothing they could do. The man lived in the nearby cemetery and would hurt himself with the stones on the ground as he desperately tried to free himself of all the unclean spirits that decided to live inside him. Nothing helped him.

Why did the unclean spirits decide to live in him? Well, they feed off of our passions and our passions are anything that distract us from God. Whatever this man was doing before were not good choices and it made his body an ideal place for a bunch of unclean spirits to make their home.

Jesus asks the man his name for the benefit of those who were with Him because He already knew it. The man responded with “Legion” because there were a legion of unclean spirits living in him. What is a legion? It is a large group. In the Roman army it was a group of 3,000-6,000 soldiers. So, this man didn't have just one or a few unclean spirits in him. He had a large group of them!

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Jesus allowed the unclean spirits to voluntarily leave this man and enter a nearby herd of pigs. The pigs reacted with a panic and ran over the side of the cliff, drowning in the water below.

This was a Gentile area (*non-Jews*) and they were not seeking a Messiah - but they knew this man had power! Regardless, the people here wanted him to leave their area because they were afraid. After all, all of their pigs just ran over the side of the cliff and drowned. That's pretty weird and alarming! Jesus is not going to force people to want to be with Him, so He leaves. However, the man who had been freed from the unclean spirits begged Jesus to let him become His disciple. Jesus did not agree to this though and urged the man to go home to his family and tell them what happened. This man essentially becomes an apostle instead and tells all of Decapolis about Jesus.

### **Jesus Heals the Woman with the Flow of Blood and Raises Jairus' Daughter From the Dead - Verses 21-43:**

Yet again, Jesus finds Himself amongst a huge crowd who are all trying desperately to get His attention. In this story, we learn about two people who are competing against all the other people around Jesus. One is a man who is a synagogue-ruler (*in charge of the building and arrange for the conduct of the services*) whose daughter is dying and the other is a woman with the flow of blood for twelve years.

The man's dying daughter is obviously an urgent need but the woman also has a significant problem. During this time, there were many rules for Jews about when you could go to the Temple or synagogue. This woman was considered unclean and not only could not go to the synagogue for twelve years but she also could not be around anyone because they would be considered unclean as well just by being around her. She had been isolated and alone for twelve years but also very desperately wanted to be healed so she could be part of her community again! Her faith was so deep that she merely wanted to get close enough to touch the hem of Jesus' clothes to be healed. She didn't expect to be singled out amongst this huge crowd, but she was. "Why does the Lord reveal the woman? First, that He might glorify the women's faith; secondly, to encourage the ruler of the synagogue that his little daughter will likewise be made whole; and thirdly, to deliver the woman from her great fear. For the woman was afraid that she had, as it were, stolen the healing. This is why the evangelist says that the woman came 'fearing and trembling' ." (Blessed Theophylact, pg. 47)



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## WEEK 11: MARK 5 - JESUS THE MESSIAH

3RD - 4TH GRADE

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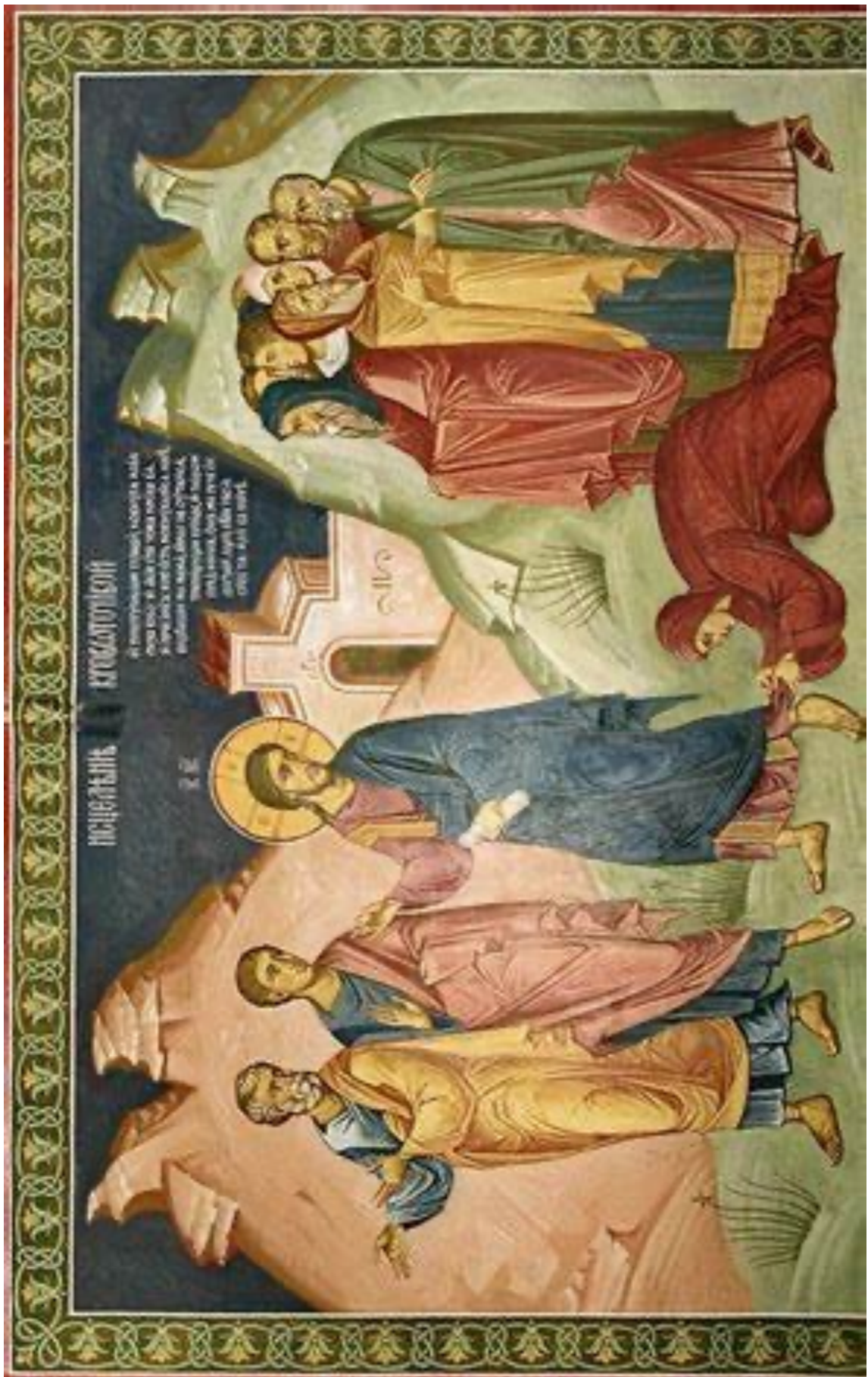
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## REVIEW:

- What is a miracle?
- Why does St. Mark want to emphasize these miracles? (Think back to our earlier lessons about the Gospel of Mark)









## WEEK 11: MARK 5 - JESUS THE MESSIAH

1ST - 2ND GRADE

### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 5:1-43

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Children's Bible Reader

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

*The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark* pages 43-48

*The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant* by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 72-83

### GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 5

Jesus did three miracles in chapter 5 of the Gospel of Mark.

- 1) He healed a man who had a large group (a legion) of unclean spirits in him.
- 2) He healed a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years.
- 3) He raised a twelve year old girl from the dead.

*Show the three icons and tell a summary of each of the stories. The Orthodox Children's Bible has the story of Jairus' daughter on page 188.*

#### **The Man with Unclean Spirits:**

Jesus got off the boat and was met by a man with a large group of unclean spirits living inside of him. This man was so wild and fierce that his family had tried putting chains on him to protect themselves and others around him, but it didn't work. This man had unusual strength and would break out of the chains! When the man saw Jesus, he immediately went up to Him and recognized that He was the Son of God. The unclean spirits living inside of the man begged Jesus not to make them leave, but they soon agreed to leave him IF Jesus would let them go live in the pigs instead. Jesus agreed to this but the pigs were so startled when the unclean spirits went inside of them that they ran off the cliff and drowned in the water below!

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The man who had been healed of the unclean spirits begged Jesus to let him travel with Him. He wanted to be Jesus' disciple too, but Jesus told the man to go back to his family instead. Jesus knew this man's family missed him. The man went back to his family and not only did he tell his family all about how Jesus had healed him, but he also told his whole city about it too!

### **Jesus Heals the Woman with the Flow of Blood and Raises Jairus' Daughter From the Dead:**

Yet again, Jesus finds Himself with a huge crowd all around Him. Every time Jesus heals someone, they all tell everyone around them too! Lots and lots of people now know about the miracles Jesus has done and they want to see Him or be healed by Him as well. It makes it really hard for Jesus to go anywhere because He is constantly being stopped by large groups of people who want His help.

In this current group of people crowding around him, we learn about a man who's daughter is dying and also about a woman who has not stopped bleeding for twelve years!

The man begs Jesus to come to his house and help his daughter before she dies. Obviously, the man knows Jesus needs to come quickly if he has any hope at all of his daughter surviving her illness. But...Jesus stops to talk to a woman who had crawled across the ground in her effort to simply touch the hem of Jesus' clothes. She so desperately wanted to be healed so she could live just like everyone else again. She had spent all of her money on doctors trying to be cured but none of them could help her stop bleeding. The woman had great faith that Jesus could help her even though none of the doctors she went to could do anything - and she was right! She was instantly healed when she touched Jesus' clothes and then Jesus stopped to talk to her for a minute.

Unfortunately, while Jesus stopped to talk to this woman, the man found out that his daughter had died. He was incredibly sad, but Jesus told the man, "Only believe." Jesus went to the man's house and told the little girl to arise - and she did! She came back to life and was given food to eat!

These three miracles show us that Jesus is the Son of God!

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## REVIEW:

- What is a miracle? (*It is an act of God. It fills us with awe and amazement.*)
- Why does St. Mark want to emphasize these miracles? (*Because he wants to teach people that Jesus is the Son of God*)









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PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

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## REVIEW:

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- Why does St. Mark want to emphasize these miracles? (*Because he wants to teach people that Jesus is the Son of God*)





