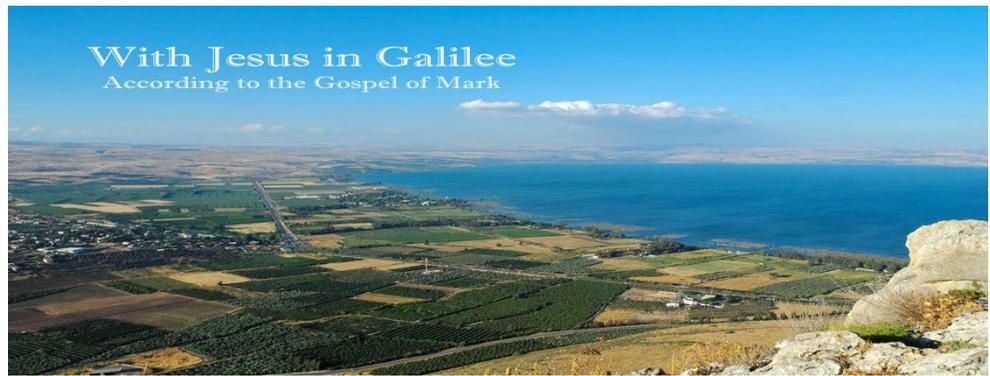




## Lab Study Guide

Allendale Fall 2018



Date: 10/21/18

Text: Mark 5:1-20

Main Idea/Desired Application: Go

Teacher: Ben

Any other Text?:

1. Read the Text Together Read the Text for this week out loud with your group.

2. Make Observations What stands out? What phrases caught your attention?  
Any repetition, contrasts, comparisons?

3. Ask Questions What is confusing or hard to understand? Any details that might be important?  
Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how?

#### 4. Background

Most, maybe 70% of Jesus teaching and ministry took place within the “Religious Triangle” area north of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus and his disciples went to the region of the Decapolis. The Decapolis region was very polytheistic, cosmopolitan, lots of money, running water to homes, top of the line stuff in Decapolis. But also extremely pagan and ungodly culturally. Think Las Vegas – casinos, strip clubs, prostitutes, you name it. People in the Decapolis didn’t give a crap about things like Kosher or Torah or even God himself. Who needs God when we ARE all that we need? The disciples were terrified. Their parents warned them about the people over there. They crossed the lake to a dark, pagan territory and not too surprising, they immediately encounter a strong, naked, bloody demon-possessed guy. Jesus and his disciples were now outside of the comfort zone of the Religious Triangle. This guy is a total social outcast, even in the Decapolis. Picture of a man in utter chaos. Everyone makes jokes about him, he has no friends, no community. But Jesus isn’t afraid and goes to the man anyway.

#### 5. Application Questions

1. Why did Jesus go to the Decapolis?
2. Nobody, including the demon possessed man, is beyond the redeeming power and love of Jesus. Do you believe this to be true for you? What makes this difficult to believe?
3. When you hear “nobody is beyond the redeeming power and love of Jesus”, who do you think of? Who do you know that lives life like the people on the other side of the lake? Roommate? Neighbor? Family member? Do you believe God’s power and redeeming love are big enough for them too? What could you do to remember to pray for them this week? To reach out and love on them this week?
4. Where might God want to be sending you? How can you intentionally bring light to dark, Decapolis-like places? Where could you go this week/this year and with whom, to get out of your comfort zone, to get out of the Cook-DeWitt, and intentionally love on people outside your religious triangle?

6. Have everyone answer....

What is something new you learned about Jesus this week from this story?

