

# THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #18 - Calming the Storm & Driving Out Demons Luke 8:19-39

**PICTURES** (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 18-1 Jesus calming the storm
- 18-2 Jesus and the demon-possessed man

**REVIEW** (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)  
What are the four types of soil the seed falls on? What happens to the seed in each of the types of soil?
- **Big Question Review:** What does it take to produce a good crop?  
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Luke 8:15  
The truth planted in a good and noble heart will produce a good crop.

*But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.*

## LESSON CONTENT

**Note:** The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

After Jesus shared the parable of the seed and sower his brothers and his mother came to see him. It is known from the Gospel of John (John 7:1-5) that at this time his brothers knew of the miracles Jesus performed, but they didn't believe in him as the Messiah. Luke relates what Jesus said when they came to see him.

### **Luke 8:19-21**

*<sup>19</sup>Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. <sup>20</sup>Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."*

*<sup>21</sup>He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."*

What does Jesus mean when he says, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice" ? Those who believe and follow God become part of Jesus' family, the family of God. Jesus wants all people to be part of his family.

### **Luke 8:22-25 (picture 18-1)**

*<sup>22</sup>One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. <sup>23</sup>As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.*

*<sup>24</sup>The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. <sup>25</sup>"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.*

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

Why did the disciples wake Jesus up? There was a squall on the lake and they were in danger.

What is a squall? A sudden violent gust of wind or localized storm bringing rain, snow or sleet.

The disciples called Jesus master when they woke him up. What did that show? They knew that they were under his authority. They served him, not the other way around.

How did Jesus calm the squall? He rebuked the wind and water.

What does rebuke mean? Reprimand, speak commandingly to in the form of correction.

What does that show? The wind and the sea were under his authority. He has control over the physical world. God spoke (commanded) the world into existence. His word is what causes things to be. Jesus' power over creation shows that he is God.

Why did he challenge the disciples by asking, "Where is your faith?" They didn't understand the fullness of who he was and didn't trust that he would watch over them and

protect them. They were full of fear. Their eyes were set on their situation rather than on Jesus and his power.

How did the disciples respond to what Jesus did? In fear and amazement, they questioned each other. They were still confused as to who he was. They didn't quite get it. All that Jesus was doing and saying was still beyond their ability to comprehend. They didn't recognize that Jesus was fully God with power over the physical world.

### **Luke 8:26-33 (picture 18-2)**

*<sup>26</sup>They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" <sup>29</sup>For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.*

*<sup>30</sup>Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"*

*"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. <sup>31</sup>And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.*

*<sup>32</sup>A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.*

What does it mean to be demon-possessed? Satan and the evil spirits that follow him have taken a person's mind captive.

What was the demon-possessed man like? Crazy, supernaturally strong, isolated from people, tormented

What did the demons in the man cause him to recognize about Jesus? That he was the Son of God. What does that teach you? The demons knew what others failed to recognize about Jesus, but they didn't submit to him. A person can know who Jesus is and not submit to him. That puts them in the same position as Satan. Knowledge of Jesus needs to become faith in him for who he is, the Son of God, and submission to his authority as God.

What did the demons beg Jesus not to do? Not to send them into the Abyss. They were begging Jesus because they knew he had power over them. Like his power over the winds and waves (the physical realm) Jesus also has power over the spiritual realm.

What do you think is the Abyss? The abyss is where Satan the evil spirits that follow him will ultimately be confined. (Rev. 9:1) On earth an abyss is a deep, immeasurable space, gulf, or cavity; a vast chasm, a hole or break in the ground.

### **Luke 8:34-39**

*<sup>34</sup>When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, <sup>35</sup>and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at*

*Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.*

*<sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>"Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.*

How did the people find the demon-possessed man? Dressed and in his right mind

What does it mean to be in a right mind? He was released from the grip of Satan and put into a right relationship with God. He could see and understand life as it really is.

How did the people respond to Jesus and what he did? They were afraid and wanted him to go away.

Why would they want him to go away? They didn't want to deal with who he might be. They wanted to stay ignorant. When something doesn't fit with our view of reality we don't want to accept it. We try to reconstruct it or excuse it away so we don't have to believe and accept it.

What should fear of God cause in us? It should cause us to seek God and create in us a desire to know him better and discover who he is and what is right to do. We should want to turn away from our sin and to please God.

How did the man who had the demons respond to what Jesus did? He wanted to stay with Jesus. He wanted to be with the one who had given him his life back.

What did Jesus tell him to do? Go back to his home and tell others about the change in his life because of what God did. He was to speak the truth to those he knew.

The Decapolis, the area where this healing occurred, was Gentile territory. Who is a Gentile? A Gentile is anyone who is not a Jew. Jews wouldn't have eaten or touched pigs. The people who saw what happened must have been Gentiles.

What had Simeon prophesied about Jesus when he was dedicated in the temple as a baby (Luke 2:32)? Simeon said that Jesus would be a light of revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to God's people Israel.

From these accounts we see that Jesus has power over both the physical and spiritual realms. Why is that? He is the creator and sustainer of all things. He has power over his creation.

Colossians 1:16-17 says, <sup>16</sup>*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

What do these verses mean? Not only is Jesus the creator of all that exists, he is the one who keeps it all together. Without Jesus, there would be nothing.

Each person has an opportunity to believe the truth about Jesus and embrace him as Lord and Savior or reject the truth and send Jesus away.

## LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Why were the disciples afraid in the storm? What did Jesus do to the wind and sea? How did the disciples respond to that? Why was the demon possessed man called Legion? What did the demon possessed man know about Jesus? What did Jesus do for him? What was his response to Jesus?
- **Thought Questions:** What would it have been like to be with Jesus and see him calm the sea? What would it have been like to see him drive out the demons? Do most people want to see or know the truth about themselves? How do you know? Do you want to see the truth about yourself? How do you know? Why do we like being in darkness? Under whose power are we when we stay in darkness? How?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he sent his Son to show us the way, the truth and the light and release us from the power of Satan. Pray that you would fully understand who Jesus is and devote yourself to him. Thank him that he has power over all things, both in the physical and spiritual realms.
- **The Big Question: Why does Jesus have power over creation?**  
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Colossians 1:16-17**  
Jesus created all things and holds them together.

*<sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Questions: Who is Jesus? What is under his power?

## ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group. What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?
- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.
- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.

Jesus created all things and holds them together.

★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

★ **Craft:** Mosaic

As a reminder that Jesus has power over the physical and spiritual worlds, make a mosaic of him calming the sea.

Materials: cover stock paper, blue construction paper, cotton balls, colored pencils, glue sticks

Preparation: Run off craft 18 on cover stock paper. Cut in half.

Instructions:

1. Fill in the letters of "Jesus has power over his creation."
2. Color in the boat and Jesus and his disciples.
3. Glue cotton balls in the sky.
4. Tear up blue construction paper to make the sea.

• **Game:** Version of Red Rover

Instructions: As a reminder of how we want to touch people with the light of Jesus but how people want to avoid the light play a version of Red Rover. The person in the middle represents the light and calls others to come into the light. The children who are lined up run over and try to avoid being touched by the light. Show them that as more people are touched by the light it becomes easier to get caught in the light.

## JOURNAL

The daily journal is included in the booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.