

# LIFE GROUP

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Power Over Nature & Spirits: Trusting His Might February 11, 2024

#### Summary

Pastor Dale examines the story of Jesus encountering a demon-possessed man in the region of the Gerasenes. He highlights the reality of spiritual warfare and Jesus' power over evil forces. By relying on God's Spirit within us, clothing ourselves with spiritual armor and staying focused on mission with Jesus, we can overcome spiritual attacks.

#### Scripture

So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. Matthew 4:24 (ESV)

Mark 5:1-20

...even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. 2 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 1 John 4:4 (NLT)

And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people." 2 Corinthians 6:16 (NLT)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

#### Let's Start

What do people today think of the devil and demons?

#### Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

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### Let's Talk

1. Pastor Dale talked about three “doors” in our lives that can become access points for demonic influence:

- The lust of the flesh
- The lust of the eyes
- The pride of life

What kinds of sinfulness are specific to each one? How can we guard against them?

2. In the message, Pastor Dale taught about the internal and external desires that drive us to the wrong places. How would you describe these desires?
3. How does the story of Jesus casting out demons from the possessed man demonstrate the power of God over evil forces, and what does it teach us about spiritual warfare?
4. Pastor Dale said (about the demon-possessed man), “...as he gave himself over to the devil, he actually became stronger! That’s how the enemy works. *The more you cooperate with him, the more intense your desires grow. The more you want! And the more you get what you want, the more powerful you feel.* He increased in strength but lost his freedom. The more he embraced evil, the more enslaved he became by it.” Have you seen or experienced this?
5. In what practical ways can we rely on the Holy Spirit and clothe ourselves with spiritual armor to resist spiritual attacks in our daily lives?

### Let's Act

Pastor Dale shared three methods for overcoming demonic influence:

1. Realize that you are never helpless against the evil one. 1 John 4:4
2. Clothe yourself with the Spirit and the truth and evil will keep its distance. Ephesians 6:10-18
3. Be on mission with Jesus!

How can you practice these this week?

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