

**\*\*Parents, please take a few minutes to read through the lesson before sharing with your children. The Bible story is about Jesus driving out an evil spirit. It's a beautiful account of Jesus changing a man's life story...but I want you to share it in a sensitive and age-appropriate way with your kids. You know them best! The whole point of using this specific scriptural account is to teach our children that God wants to transform our life (our story) and that we should be excited to share what he has done in our life with others.\*\***

## **Around the Table**

### **Week 3: "Table Talk"**

**Key Point:** I will share my story.

**Key Verse:** Go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been. (Mark 5:19 NLT)

### **Opening Question:**

What is your favorite kind of story? (funny, dramatic, true story, love story)  
Why is this kind of story your favorite?

### **Parent:**

Today's lesson is about learning to share our own story. In fact our key point says I will share my story.

Now you might be thinking, what do you mean share my story? I don't have a story to share. Actually, you do! Your whole life is a story! Everything that happens to us, whether it's good or bad is part of our story. And God loves us so much and is always with us. He is a HUGE part of our everyday story. Remember last week how we talked about being thankful? We even wrote down as a family the things that we are thankful to God for. All of those blessings from God are a big part of how he is involved in our story. And when we take time to tell our friends, our neighbors, and other safe people all the things that God has done for us--that is called sharing our story!!

### **Family Question:**

Have you ever had to sit at the table longer than you wanted because you didn't finish your food?

Did you ever have a time (or 2 or 3 or 4) where everyone else was allowed to leave the dinner table, but you had to stay because you hadn't finished your food?

**Parent:**

It can be lonely to sit at the table by yourself. The table was designed to sit around with other people and talk! Mealtime is a great time to talk with friends and family about what went on in your day, what you are dealing with, a tough time you had, and so much more!

**Bible Story:**

In today's Bible story, Jesus changed a man's life and gave him a special story to tell his friends and family about. The Bible Story comes from the book of Mark 5:1-20.

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

This story is about Jesus driving out an evil spirit. Be sensitive to how much detail you share with your children, depending on their specific ages. It is an incredible story of transformation--just be careful how you share it with your kids.

My suggestion (if it works for your family) would be to use the following script and have an "interview" with the man who was healed by Jesus. You'll need one person to be the presenter and one person (adult male if possible) to be the Bible character. If you don't want to use this method, you can either read the story together as a family (Mark 5:1-20) or summarize the story if your kids are younger.

**SCRIPT:**

**Presenter:** Well, let's jump right into our Bible story. I've invited a special guest to be with us today.

**Bible Character:** Thank you, it's so good to be with you today. Jesus changed my life and he gave me a story and I love to share it with others every chance I get!

**Presenter:** We would love to hear it. Please tell us your story!

**Bible Character:** Well, a long time ago, I was not this nice, calm man, like I am today. You see, I had some evil spirits living inside of me, and I did some pretty crazy things.

**Presenter:** What kind of things did you do?

**Bible Character:** Well, I lived out in the hills in the caves. And I would run around yelling and screaming. I would even hurt myself sometimes. No one was strong enough to hold me down and stop me. Sometimes people would even try to chain me up but I was so strong and wild that I would break the chains right off.

**Presenter:** Wow, that sounds kinda scary. What happened next?

**Bible Character:** I saw Jesus! He had just come to shore and was getting out of his boat. He was still a long way away from me so I ran to him and bowed before him. That's when I heard Jesus call the evil spirits right out of me! He sent them into a herd of pigs.

**Presenter:** Wait, did I hear you right? Did you say pigs? Like oink, oink?!

**Bible Character:** Yes, like oink, oink! When those evil spirits left me, and entered the pigs, do you know what those pigs did?

**Presenter:** Um...went wee, wee, wee, all the way home?

**Bible Character:** Well, close. They went wee, wee, wee, all the way off a steep hillside, into the sea, and drowned. But the very best part was when the evil

spirits left me, I was FREE!! I could think clearly and I was in my right mind. I could live my life!

**Presenter:** Wow, what an incredible story! I bet you were so happy and grateful that Jesus changed your life forever.

**Bible Character:** I was SO thankful. But then I saw Jesus getting back into his boat and leaving. I tried to go with him. But Jesus told me: “No, go home to your family and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.”

So that’s what I did. I shared my story with everyone I could, and everyone who heard it was amazed at what Jesus had done. You see, God changed my life. But he didn’t do it just for me.

**Presenter:** What do you mean?

**Bible Character:** When I share my story of what Jesus did with others, it has the power to change their lives too. And that’s what I want everyone to know. It doesn’t matter how old you are. If you’re an adult, or a teenager, or a kid. Everyone who knows Jesus has a story to tell. And when we tell others what Jesus has done for us, it can change their life too!

**Presenter:** Thank you so much for being obedient to God and sharing your story with us!

**Bible Character:** You’re welcome, it was my pleasure.

**Parent:**

You see, when we have Jesus in our life, we have a story to tell. We might not have the same story as the man who had an evil spirit inside of him, but we all have good news to share if we know Jesus. That’s because Jesus has the power to do things in our heart that we can’t do for ourselves. Like forgive us when we make wrong choices. Or help us feel peace even when we are afraid. Or help us

be patient when someone is really making us mad. Those are the types of things we need to share with others! Then they will be encouraged and if they don't know Jesus, they might even want to start following him.

**Bible Verse:**

This verse reminds us that we need to share our story with others. We need to tell other people about the great things God has done for us.

\*Spend a few minutes learning the verse below together as a family.

*Go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been. (Mark 5:19 NLT)*

**Family Activity:**

Pop some popcorn together.

Talk about some ways that Jesus has made a difference in your family during this time of being at home.

Write a card to someone you know and share with them how Jesus is helping your family get through this really tough time. Encourage them to trust Jesus and look for ways in their own life that Jesus is at work.