

The Ghost and the Darkness

Week 2 (Oct 29-Nov 4): Lesson Guide

Introduce guests/share life. *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

Open in prayer. *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

Recall the guidelines together. *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

Retell last week's story: Jesus' Temptations (Matthew 4:1-11).

Hook Question: What's a personal problem that used to control you, yet you have been freed from?

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

In an act of love, God rescued His people from slavery and told them "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God..."

Ancient cultures worshipped created images and sacrificed living things to them. These images were not the true God, but influenced by demons. God wanted His people to be different.

Today's story takes place many generations later, near the end of the Hellenistic period. Although time has passed, practices of demonic idol worship and sacrifices continue in Gentile cultures. Approaching one such pig-sacrificing community, Jesus brings the age-old spiritual battle to the eyes of all watching. Listen as we hear of this interesting encounter...

Tell the story from Luke 8:26-39: Change up the storyteller often!

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the story in Luke 8:26-39: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discuss these questions:

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What did you find interesting about the story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What are the idols people worship today?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

- What are you allowing yourself to be controlled by?
- What do you need to do in response to God's leading?

Action

- Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.

Close in Prayer

Recruit a Storyteller for Next Week