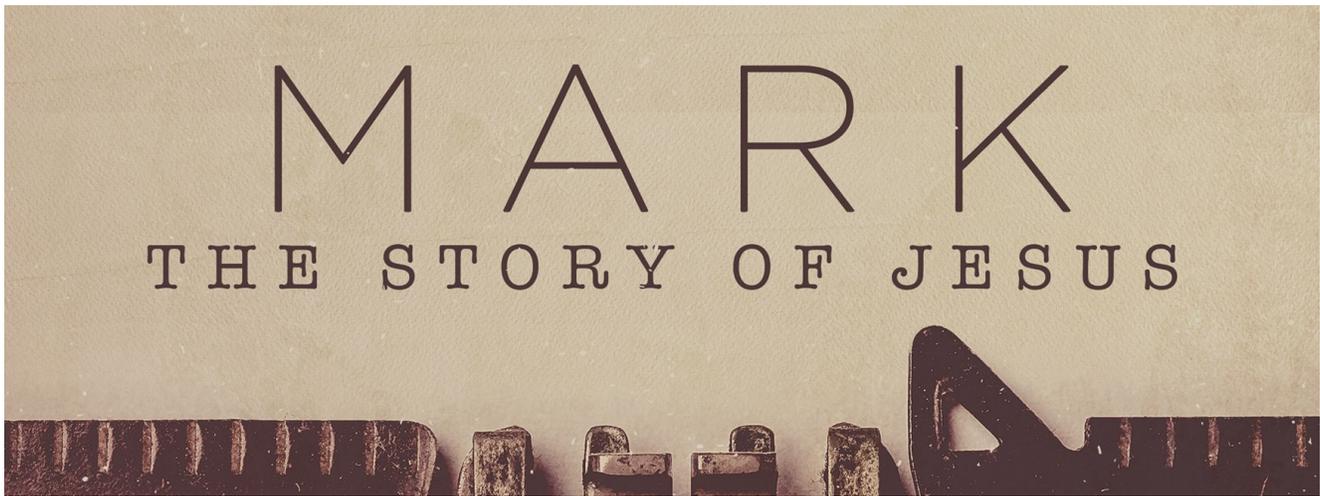


## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



*These questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. Feel free to use them for your personal study time, your family, or your Family Group.*

### MESSAGE OVERVIEW

We all have a past. Sometimes that past can feel like a hindrance or a hurdle that makes it difficult to move forward. But Jesus breaks down all kinds of barriers to get through to us. He broke all kinds of rules and customs to meet the demon-possessed man in the Gerasenes. In Christ, your past does not paralyze you; it propels you into purpose.

### READ MARK 5:1-20

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When you think about the possibility of having an encounter with God, what is your reaction? What does it make you feel/think? Do you think you would want to welcome it or keep it at a distance?

Jesus performs this miracle in the wrong city (Gerasenes), the wrong places (a cemetery and a herd of pigs), for the wrong person (a demon-possessed man). What are some modern-day barriers that we need to cross to share the good news about Jesus?

Everyone else who has experienced Jesus up to this point in Mark is told not to tell anyone what He has done for them. Why do you think this man was permitted and instructed to tell others about Jesus?

Neil presented this pattern and called it “biblically normative.” God meets us—God changes us—We tell people about it. Where do you see this pattern in your life?

Fill in the blanks for your own life: “I was \_\_\_\_\_. But by God’s grace, now I am \_\_\_\_\_.”

### APPLICATION

What is God saying to you through this passage of Scripture?

In light of what you've experienced, how are you going to be different in the future?