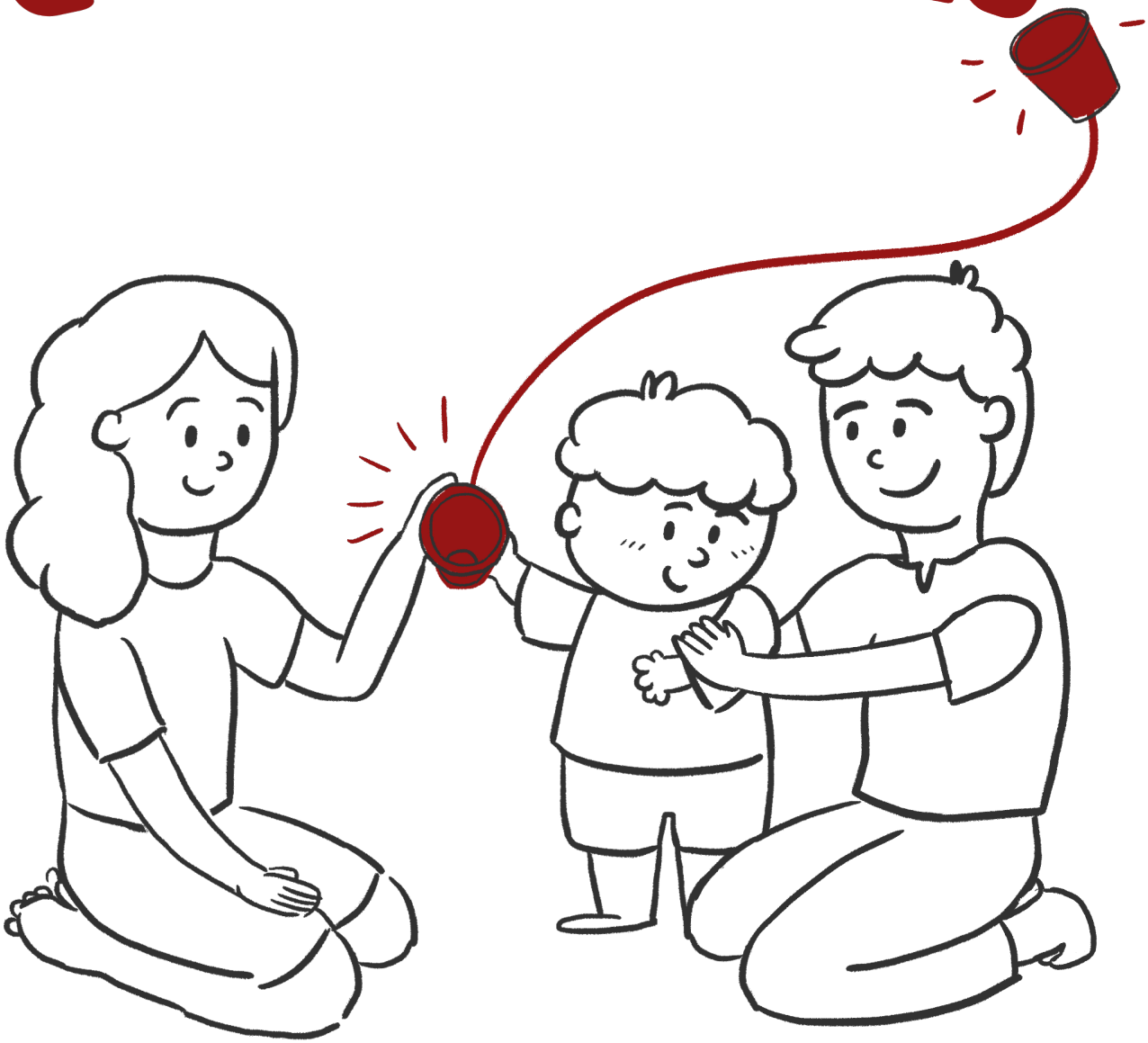
Scripture Union 读经会
SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA

GODVERSATIONS



FAITH FORMATION THROUGH GODVERSATIONS

Conversations are important. It is through conversations that we understand each other better and appreciate each other better. We get to share our ideas, thoughts, opinions, our stories and our journey in life. In the family context, Godversations between parents (especially fathers) and children are critical for faith formation. We think it is so important for more conversations between children and parents on spiritual matters.

We, at Scripture Union Peninsular Malaysia, are producing this resource to help parents to have meaningful God-conversations, or what we would call Godversations with their children. It will also help other children engage with God's Word with the assistance of an adult.

It is important to note that this booklet is designed to aid and facilitate Godversations.

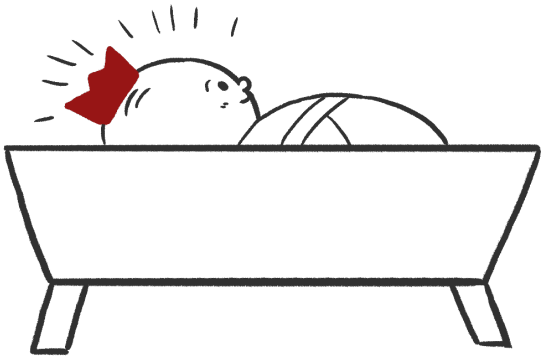
- It is NOT meant for Bible Studies.
- It is NOT meant for teaching or for the typical Sunday school lessons.
- However, the Bible remains the main text for the Godversations. Therefore, it is helpful to read the text together.
- The aim is not just to get right answers, but more importantly to allow their own honest responses to the text.
- The questions are designed to be a catalyst to help a child to wonder and discover. You don't have to use all the questions, pick and choose what is suitable for your context.

- Some questions are more direct; others are to help us wonder about the text and story. Parents should resist the temptation to give the answers. You might not even have the answers; therefore, we learn to discover the Bible together with the child.
- Unlike a typical Bible Study, which is strictly focused on discussion of the text, it is perfectly OK to have a lengthy "side" discussion as long as the parent is able to draw out a teachable moment with the child about God, His Word and life.
- Sharing your own journey and stories will be great but do encourage the child to share his or her own stories, thoughts and perspective.
- The ultimate aim is to help the child interact with the Bible, to discover that the Bible is interesting, relevant and in the process, discover God more.
- Hence, we suggest that the settings in a family context, should be informal for these Godversations, maybe on the dining table after a meal, on a sofa together or just on the floor.
- We encourage you to close the Godversations in prayer especially regarding things that your children had shared with you.

Pray that you will have a wonderful time wondering with your child or any child.

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#1 BIRTH OF JESUS



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchBirthofJesus

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3birthofJesus

Read Luke 2:8-20 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

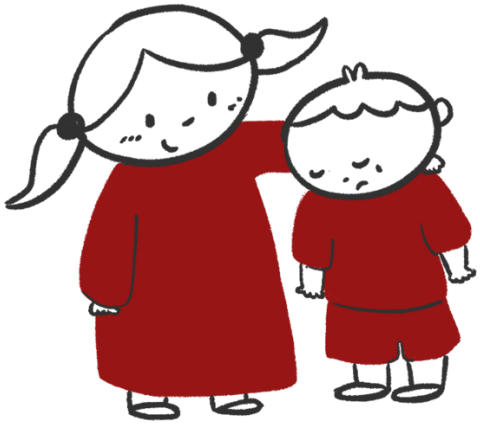
8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,
keeping watch over their flocks at night.
9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of
the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
10 But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you
good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to
you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
12 This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in
cloths and lying in a manger.'
13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared
with the angel, praising God and saying,
14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace
to those on whom his favour rests.'
15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the
shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and

see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'
16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,
18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.
19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.
20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

I WONDER

- Why the shepherds need to watch over the flocks during the night.
- What angels look like.
- What the shepherd thought about the message from the angel.
- What it is like to hear the multitude of angels praising God.
- Why the shepherds rushed to find Mary, Joseph and the baby.
- Who this baby was.
- Why the shepherds glorified and praised God after seeing the baby.

#2 THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchThegoodneighbour

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3goodneighbour

Read Luke 10:29-37 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

30 In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead.

31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil
and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought
him to an inn and took care of him.
35 The next day he took out two denarii[a] and gave them to
the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return,
I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."
36 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the
man who fell into the hands of robbers?'
37 The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on
him.'
Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'."

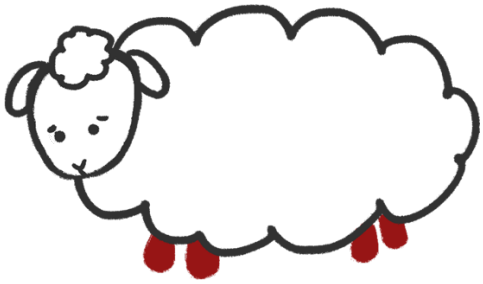
I WONDER

- Why the man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho.
- How far and long the journey was.
- How the man felt when he was set upon by the robbers.
- Why the priest and the Levite purposely passed on the other side.
- Why the Samaritan decided to help.
- Who was being the good neighbour.
- What kind of neighbour I am.

Extra application question

Discuss how we can be good neighbours during such a time like this in our country.

#3 THE LOST SHEEP



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchThelostsheep

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3Lostsheep

Read Luke 15:3-7 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:
4 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?
5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders
6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep."
7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

*I WONDER

- If the sheep had names.
- Why the sheep wandered away.
- Why the shepherd went to look for the one sheep.
- What happened to the other 99.
- How the sheep felt when he was lost.
- How the sheep felt when he was found.
- Why Jesus told this story.
- Who you feel like in this story.

*Many thanks to Wendy Strachan and Annette Osborne for sharing the above questions at the 2017 SU Global Assembly in Peninsular Malaysia.

#4 THE FATHER AND HIS SONS



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchFatherandsons

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3Father-sons

Read Luke 15:11-32 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

11 Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons.
12 The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them.
13 'Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.
14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.
15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.
16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 'When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my
father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am
starving to death!
18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like
one of your hired servants."
20 So he got up and went to his father.
'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and
was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw
his arms round him and kissed him.
21 'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven
and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your
son."
22 'But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best
robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals
on his feet.
23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and
celebrate.
24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was
lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.
25 'Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came
near the house, he heard music and dancing.
26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was
going on.
27 "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father
has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe
and sound."
28 'The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So
his father went out and pleaded with him.
29 But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've
been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet

you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.
30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"
31 ' "My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.
32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

I WONDER

- Why the younger son asked for his share of his property.
- Why the younger son spent all his money.
- How he felt living with the pigs.
- What made him think of his father.
- What the father felt when he saw the younger son from afar.
- Why the elder brother was upset.
- Why the father celebrated when the prodigal son returned.
- Who I identify with in this story.

#5 PRAYING OR SLEEPING



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchPrayingorsleeping

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3Prayingorsleeping

Read Matthew 26:36-46 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called
Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over
there and pray.'
37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with
him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.
38 Then he said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow
to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.'
39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground
and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be
taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'
40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them
sleeping. 'Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one
hour?' he asked Peter.
41 'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.
The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

42 He went away a second time and prayed, 'My Father, if it
is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it,
may your will be done.'
43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping,
because their eyes were heavy.
44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the
third time, saying the same thing.
45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, 'Are
you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and
the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.
46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!'

I WONDER

- Why Jesus prayed.
- Whether it is easy to pray what Jesus prayed.
- How Jesus felt when he found the disciples sleeping.
- What Jesus meant when He said, "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak".
- Why Jesus prayed the same prayers 3 times.

#6 BETRAYAL



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchBetrayal

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3Betrayal

Read Matthew 26:47-56 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve,
arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and
clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the
people.
48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'The
one I kiss is the man; arrest him.'
49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!'
and kissed him.
50 Jesus replied, 'Do what you came for, friend.'[d]
Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested
him.
51 With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his
sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest,
cutting off his ear.

52 'Put your sword back in its place,' Jesus said to him, 'for
all who draw the sword will die by the sword.
53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at
once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?
54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it
must happen in this way?'
55 In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, 'Am I leading a
rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to
capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching,
and you did not arrest me.
56 But this has all taken place that the writings of the
prophets might be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted
him and fled.

I WONDER

- How Judas felt when he was coming to Jesus with the crowd and chief priests.
- How Jesus felt when Judas betrayed Him with a kiss.
- How Jesus felt when they seized him.
- Why one of the disciples drew his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.
- Why Jesus rebuked his disciples.
- Why the disciples fled.
- How Jesus felt when all of His disciples fled.

#7 FORGIVENESS OF SINS



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchForgivenessofsins

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3Forgivenessofsins

Read Mark 2:1-12 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum,
the people heard that he had come home.
2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no
room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the
word to them.
3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried
by four of them.
4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the
crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by
digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was
lying on.
5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed
man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking
to themselves,
7 'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming!
Who can forgive sins but God alone?'
8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they
were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are
you thinking these things?
9 Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, "Your sins
are forgiven," or to say, "Get up, take your mat and walk"?
10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority
on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the man,
11 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.'
12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them
all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying,
'We have never seen anything like this!'

I WONDER

- What the atmosphere was like at Jesus' home.
- Who were these four men who carried the paralytic.
- What was the crowd reaction when they saw the paralytic being lowered.
- What was Jesus' reaction.
- Why Jesus told the man, "Yours sins are forgiven".
- What was the people's reaction (including the scribes) to what Jesus said.
- Which was easier to say, "Yours sins are forgiven or rise, pick up your bed and walk". Why?
- What was Jesus' purpose in healing the paralytic.

#8 THE STORM



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/Watchstorm

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3Thestorm

Read Mark 4:35-41 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, 'Let
us go over to the other side.'
36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he
was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.
37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the
boat, so that it was nearly swamped.
38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples
woke him and said to him, 'Teacher, don't you care if we
drown?'
39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet!
Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely
calm.

40 He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you
still have no faith?'
41 They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this?
Even the wind and the waves obey him!'

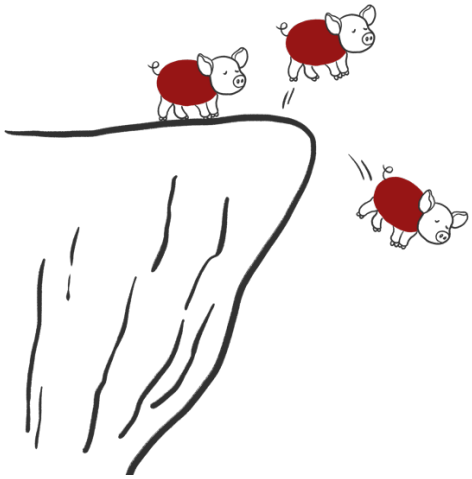
I WONDER

- What kind of boat it was.
- How many people were on the boat.
- What it was like to be caught in such a storm.
- Why Jesus was sleeping.
- Why the disciples woke Jesus up.
- How it is possible that the storm subsided and the wind ceased just by the words of Jesus.
- How the disciples felt throughout the whole incident.

Extra application question

Discuss what kind of storm is the world facing today. Where is Jesus? What can Jesus do?

#9 THE LEGION



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchThelegion

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3Thelegion

Read Mark 5:1-20 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

1 They went across the lake to the region of the
Gerasenes.[a]
2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit
came from the tombs to meet him.
3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him
anymore, not even with a chain.
4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore
the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was
strong enough to subdue him.
5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would
cry out and cut himself with stones.
6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his
knees in front of him.

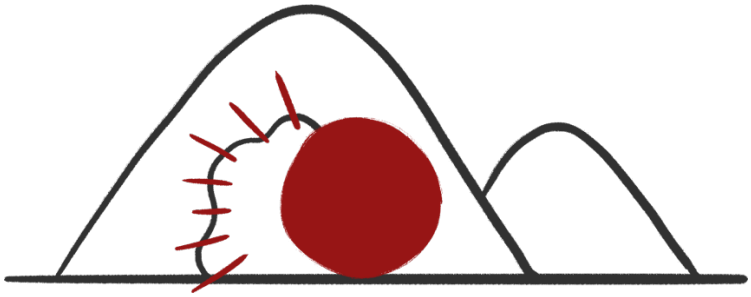
7 He shouted at the top of his voice, 'What do you want with
me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't
torture me!'
8 For Jesus had said to him, 'Come out of this man, you
impure spirit!'
9 Then Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?'
'My name is Legion,' he replied, 'for we are many.'
10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out
of the area.
11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.
12 The demons begged Jesus, 'Send us among the pigs; allow
us to go into them.'
13 He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out
and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in
number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were
drowned.
14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the
town and countryside, and the people went out to see what
had happened.
15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been
possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed
and in his right mind; and they were afraid.
16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened
to the demon-possessed man – and told about the pigs as
well.
17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their
region.
18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been
demon-possessed begged to go with him.

19 Jesus did not let him, but said, 'Go home to your own
people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you,
and how he has had mercy on you.'
20 So the man went away and began to tell in the
Decapolis[b] how much Jesus had done for him. And all the
people were amazed.

I WONDER

- What it is like living among the tombs (in caves).
- What it is like to have such strength.
- Why the man ran and fell down before Jesus.
- How he knew who Jesus was.
- Why the legion asked permission to enter the pigs.
- Why the herdsmen and the people of the city reacted the way they did.
- What went through the demon-possessed man's mind throughout the whole incident.
- How much the Lord has done for the man.

#10 HE IS RISEN



Watch the video

https://tinyurl.com/WatchHEisrisen

Listen to the reading

https://tinyurl.com/MP3HEisrisen

Read Mark 16:1-13 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the
mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they
might go to anoint Jesus' body.
2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise,
they were on their way to the tomb
3 and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away
from the entrance of the tomb?'
4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which
was very large, had been rolled away.
5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed
in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were
alarmed.
6 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the
Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.
See the place where they laid him.
7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of
you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."'

8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled
from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they
were afraid.[a]
9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he
appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had
driven seven demons.
10 She went and told those who had been with him and who
were mourning and weeping.
11 When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had
seen him, they did not believe it.
12 Afterwards Jesus appeared in a different form to two of
them while they were walking in the country.
13 These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not
believe them either.

I WONDER

- Why and how much spices the women brought to anoint Jesus' body.
- What was their main concern and why.
- Who helped to roll away the stone.
- Why the ladies were alarmed when they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in white in the tomb.
- What went through their mind, when they heard that Jesus had risen.
- Why they were afraid and astonished.
- Why the rest of the disciples did not believe Mary and the other disciples.

Extra application question

Share what it means for you today that Jesus is alive.

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