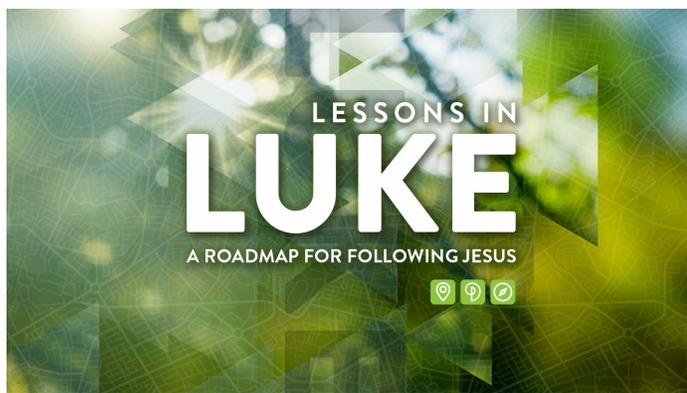


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Healing the Demon-Possessed

June 20, 2021

Throughout Jesus' ministry, he turns chaos into peace. He does it with a word of calm to the wind and the waves in the storm on the sea, and he does it with the storms that rage within our daily lives as well. Sharing Jesus with others doesn't mean convincing them Jesus is the answer. It means being the voice of Jesus in their life that speaks a word of calm and peace into their storm.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 8:26-39

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Soon after Jesus calms the storm, he leaves the Western side of the sea which was predominately occupied by Jewish people to head towards the Eastern shore where you would find mainly Gentiles, or people who were not Jewish. Sometimes one of the things that we lose in the Bible is what the author is trying to tell us by way of geographical movement of the characters. It is no small detail as Luke is trying to tell people about the breadth of the mission of God that he includes where this story takes place. This isn't a Jewish kid that Jesus encounters on the shores of Galilee—he's a gentile. Luke is telling us that the mission of God is on the move. From Israel to the Gentiles. From one shore to the other.

Luke is trying to tell us in this story, and certainly his intended audience 2,000 years ago is that Jesus is in the ministry of taking things from chaos to peace. He does it with a word of calm to the wind and the waves in the storm on the sea, and then he does it with a word of calm to the wind and the waves in the storm that is raging in this young man. Whether or not this man was filled with literal demons like you'd see in the movies or if he struggling with demons in the way we do when our lives fall apart isn't the point for us; the point is that for him, and for us as we seek to minister to people like him, what is needed isn't something like a slick theological argument or a track: it's calm. It's peace. A peace that surpasses all understanding. It's Christ's word embodied IN US, for them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when you encountered a storm. What was that experience like for you?
- What is Jesus teaching us in this passage?
- How do you think this man felt after Jesus freed him from the demons?
- How can we apply this story in our lives today? What does it look like to help people find peace in chaos?

APPLICATION: This week, think about someone that has been a calm presence in the midst of chaos for you. Reach out and thank them for that. And consider how you can be that calm presence for someone else.