

Encounter | Week 2 - Freedom comes from...**Big Idea**

Jesus frees us from strongholds to restore us to life.

Scripture

Mark 5:1-20, 1 Peter 5:6-11, Ephesians 4:27, and John 8:36

Overview

In our current series, we will look at real-life encounters that people had with Jesus as documented in the book of Mark. Our prayer is that you'll encounter Jesus in a personal way as we study this book together.

Opening Questions

Share a time you got stuck, whether in a snowstorm, at the airport, or elsewhere.

Have you experienced the new devotional format of You+? If so, what was that like for you? If not, check it out at youplus.info, individually or as a group.

Bible Discussion

1. Read Mark 5:1-20. What part of this powerful passage stands out to you the most and why? How do the reactions of the various people highlighted in this story reflect their understanding of Jesus' power and compassion?
2. 1 Peter 5:6-11 tells us ways to resist the devil. List these ways and discuss which comes easiest to you. Which is the most difficult? How does the promise of God's grace and restoration in verse 10 provide comfort in times of difficulty?
3. Read Ephesians 4:27. What does it mean to "give the devil a foothold"? How might our actions open the door for negative influences in our lives?
4. What does John 8:36 tell us about Jesus' power? How is this freedom different from worldly notions of freedom? How does true freedom in Christ impact our identity and sense of purpose?

Life Application

5. A "foothold," or as it is sometimes called, a "stronghold," is an area of our life where we consciously or unconsciously let the enemy keep us stuck. Where are you vulnerable to the influence of the evil one?
6. Just as Jesus delivered the man in Mark 5, he can deliver us from any strongholds in our lives. What would that look like for you? Or maybe Jesus has already done that for you. If so, share your story as an encouragement to your group.
7. If you were at service on Sunday, what was it like for you as you prayed for freedom from strongholds? This prayer is included in the Leader Guide. If you are interested, there is also information on next steps with our Wellsprings Prayer ministry.