

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

Points to Keep In Mind

1. Many differing reactions are found in Mark 5:1-20. The demon-possessed man ran to Jesus and fell on his knees in front of Jesus. His humble posture led to Jesus delivering him from his demons. After seeing the demon-possessed man “in his right mind,” the people of the nearby town and countryside responded in fear and pleaded with Jesus to leave their region. When the demon-possessed man returned to his home and told his people how Jesus had delivered him, they were amazed.
2. 1 Peter 5:6-11 tells us ways to resist the devil. They include humbling ourselves before God, casting our anxiety on Him, remaining alert and of sober mind, and standing firm in our faith.
3. To “give the devil a foothold” is when we consciously or unconsciously let the enemy keep us stuck. Here are some common footholds, also called strongholds, along with their freedoms: bitterness (forgiveness), holding onto resentment, and unforgiveness, control (surrender), trying to manipulate people and circumstances, idolatry (contentment), greed, and selfishness lead us into endless accumulation and consumerism, jealousy (gratefulness), holding onto a judgmental spirit, which often plays itself out through gossip or even slander, sexual immorality (purity) is when we are controlled by our desires, giving ourselves over to lust, insecurity (security in Christ), nurturing feelings of inferiority or inadequacy, fear (trust in God’s Sovereignty), allowing ourselves to be engulfed with worry about our lives or our future, and pride (humility) is seeing ourselves as better and more deserving than others.
4. Here is the prayer from Sunday: I recognize the power you have given me by the shed blood of Jesus to demolish spiritual strongholds in my life. I confess that I have given a foothold to sin, and I renounce the stronghold of ____ I claim the freedom of ____ by the authority of the name of Jesus Christ. Through your power, I take back the ground I surrendered to the enemy. I pray you will enable me to trust and obey your Holy Spirit so that this area of my life will be in conformity with the image of Christ. Amen. Wellsprings is a prayer ministry at our Plainfield Location that invites Jesus into the process of helping people find long-term inner healing and freedom in Christ. Check our website for our next Wellsprings of Freedom session.

Additional Questions and Resources

visit communitychristian.org/nextsteps

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. Find out more about having a YOU+ Discipleship Conversation by visiting: youplus.info