

## TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

### Jesus Has Power Over Evil

*Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39*

Jesus had enemies. In the midst of His public ministry, the Jewish religious leaders began plotting to kill Him. (See Mark 3:6.) So one day, Jesus went to a land on the east side of the Sea of Galilee where Gentiles lived. Jesus' mission to the Gentiles was not a backup plan after the Jews rejected Him. When Jesus was a child, Simeon prophesied that His work would be for all people—both Jews and Gentiles. (See Luke 2:30-32.)

In that land was a man who needed help. (Note: The Gospel of Matthew describes two men.) An evil spirit was inside the man, and he suffered greatly. The people had tried to control the man by tying him up with chains, but the man broke free. So he lived alone in the tombs, crying out day and night.

When Jesus stepped ashore, the man ran to Him and knelt down. Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man, and the evil spirit spoke: "What do You have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God, don't torment me!" (Mark 5:7). Many evil spirits were in the man, and Jesus gave the evil spirits permission to go into a herd of pigs. They did, and the man was healed.

The healed man wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus told the man to go home to his own people and tell what the Lord had done for him. The man obeyed Jesus. He testified to the cities in that area about the Lord's mercy, and the Gentile people were amazed.

Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil. In His teaching, Jesus said, "If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you" (Matt. 12:28). Jesus—as well as the Bible—is clear that Satan exists, and he and the demons work against God and His purposes.

Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross, and He was victorious. A battle between good and evil still rages on today, but the outcome has already been decided. Spoiler alert: Jesus wins. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.

## YOUNGER KIDS BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

**Session Title:** Jesus Has Power Over Evil

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

**Big Picture Question:** Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.

**Key Passage:** John 11:25-26

**Unit Christ Connection:** Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

## Small Group Time

Welcome time  
Activity page (5 minutes)  
Session starter (10 minutes)  
Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Bible story review (10 minutes)  
Activity choice (10 minutes)  
Journal (5 minutes)  
Prayer (5 minutes)

## THE BIBLE STORY

### Jesus Has Power Over Evil

*Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39*

**One day, Jesus and His disciples sailed across the sea from Galilee to the region of the Gerasenes (GEHR uh sees).** As soon as Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man came out to meet Him. The man had been living in the caves where dead people were buried.

**Something was wrong with the man; he was not himself. He had an evil spirit in him** that caused him to hurt and suffer. People had tried to tie up the man with chains and shackles, but the man had broken the chains and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to tie him up. All day and all night, the man cried out from the caves.

**This man** saw Jesus coming, and he ran to meet Him. **He knelt down in front of Jesus, and Jesus commanded the evil spirit. “Come out of this man!” Jesus said.** The man cried out with a loud voice, and the evil spirit spoke through him. “What do You have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God, don’t punish me!”

Jesus asked, “What is your name?”

The man answered, “My name is Legion because there are many evil spirits inside me.” **The spirits inside the man kept begging Jesus not to send them away.**

**Nearby, a large herd of pigs was eating on a hillside. The evil spirits said, “If you send us anywhere, send us into those pigs.” So Jesus allowed the evil spirits to leave the man and go into the pigs. All of the pigs—about 2,000 of them—ran down the hill and into the sea. They drowned there.**

**The men who took care of the pigs saw what happened, and they ran off and told everyone in the town and the nearby farms about what Jesus had done.** The people came out to see Jesus, and they saw the man who had been living in the caves. The man did not have an evil spirit inside him anymore. He was dressed and was himself. The people were afraid, and they asked Jesus to leave their region.

**As Jesus was getting back into the boat, the man who had been living in the caves asked Jesus**

**if he could go with Him. But** Jesus did not allow the man to go with Him. **Jesus said, “Go home to your friends and family members. Tell them what happened and how the Lord helped you.”** The man obeyed Jesus. **He went home and told all the people about what Jesus had done for him. All the people were amazed.** Jesus has power over evil.

*Christ Connection: Jesus has power over evil. Only Jesus had the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Jesus used His power to free the man. He has power over everything. Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.*

## SMALL GROUP OPENING

**Session Title:** Jesus Has Power Over Evil

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### Welcome time:

#### Arriving Activity: Paper chains

- paper strips in various colors, 10 per kid
- markers
- glue

Provide several strips of paper about 1 inch wide in various colors. Each kid should have at least 10 strips. Invite the kids to write things they fear on as many strips as possible. Then, demonstrate how to glue one end of the strip to the other, forming a circle, with the writing on the outside. Then run another strip through the circle and glue the ends, forming a link in a chain. Continue until kids run out of paper strips.

**Say** • In today’s Bible story, we will learn about a man who was so scary to the people around him that they put him in chains. We will find out what happened when this man met Jesus.

#### Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Connect the Dots” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page. **Say** • Today we will learn who has power over evil.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### Option 1: In command

- tape
- paper clips or other small items

Tape a start line and finish line several feet apart. Form groups, and place about a dozen paper clips or any small items at the finish line in front of each group. Explain that the goal is to get all the items back to the start line first. Then immediately give the command “go.” Do not line up the kids, and do not give them any rules. Kids will struggle and ask questions because they do not know what to do.

Invite them to play again. This time, line up the kids single file. Explain that only one person at a time can run to the finish line, grab an item, and return. The second person will do the same. They will continue until a group brings all the items back to the start line first.

**Say** • Was the game easier to play and understand the first time or the second time? Why? It’s hard to complete a task if someone in charge doesn’t tell you how to do it. Today we will talk about who is in charge of everything.

### Option 2: Pig cookies

- sugar cookies, 1 per kid
- paper plates or napkins, 1 per kid
- craft stick, 1 per kid
- marshmallow slices, 1 per kid
- red licorice string, 1 per kid
- chocolate chips, 2 per kid
- pink frosting, 1 container per group
- Allergy Alert

Form groups of three or four kids. Provide plain sugar cookies on a paper plate or napkin for each kid, as well as a craft stick, a round slice of marshmallow, a red licorice string, and two chocolate chips. Each group will need a container of pink icing.

Invite the kids to use the craft stick to spread pink icing on the cookie. Then place the banana slice in the center of the cookie for the nose. The licorice string will be the mouth and ears, and the chocolate chips will be the eyes. When finished, kids will have a pig cookie.

**Say** • Does your cookie look like a pig? Well, today’s Bible story has some wild pigs in it. We’ll find out more in a few minutes.

## SMALL GROUP LEADER

**Session Title:** Jesus Has Power Over Evil

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### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- dry erase board and markers (optional)

Make sure the key passage, John 11:25-26, is visible for each child, either as the slide, printed poster, or written on a dry erase board. Read the verse together.

**Say** • Jesus is Lord over all things, even death. We have no reason to worry or fear because Jesus is always in control. Form any number of groups. Print out the key passage poster for each group and cut out each word and the reference. Provide each kid with a straw and each group with a set of words from the key passage. Explain that each group must work together to put the paper pieces in the correct order using only their “snouts” (the straw). Kids may not use their hands at all.

Demonstrate how the kids can move the pieces of paper by sucking through the straw to pick up a paper. The first group to put the words in order wins. If time allows, repeat the game.

### Bible story review (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

Encourage the kids to find Mark 5 in their Bibles. Help them as needed.

**Say** • Someone name the first four books of the New Testament. (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*) These books are called the Gospels. Can anyone tell me who wrote the Book of Mark? (*Mark*) Was Mark one of Jesus’ disciples? (*No*) Peter, Jesus’ disciple, told him what Jesus said and did. Mark wrote down what Peter said about Jesus.

Use the small group visual pack to show kids where today’s Bible story is on the timeline. Teach the kids how to snort like a pig or call a pig using the word *sooey*. Review the Bible story provided using the bolded text, or summarize the story in your own words. Encourage the kids

to either snort or say “sooey” each time you say the word *evil*.

**Say** • As soon as Jesus stepped out of His boat, a man approached Him. The man had been abandoned by the people because they couldn’t help him. They were so afraid he would hurt himself or others that they tried to chain him. He broke the chains.

Was Jesus afraid? No! Jesus knew what was wrong. The man had an evil spirit. He actually had a bunch of evil spirits. Jesus told the spirits to leave the man, and He gave them permission to go into a bunch of pigs. Immediately, the man was OK.

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

**Say** • *Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.*

## Activity choice (10 minutes)

### Option 1: Jump over

- craft sticks or paper strips, 20 per group
- markers

Form groups of two or more. Give each group 20 craft sticks or small strips of paper. Invite them to write things they think are good on 10 of the sticks and things they think are evil or bad on the other 10. Challenge kids to see which group can finish first. Next encourage them to line the sticks up end to end, almost like a yardstick or other measure. Each kid should stand beside the line of sticks where it begins and jump as far as he can. Encourage the kids to count the number of sticks from where they landed back to the starting point. After all the kids have jumped, invite them to share some of the things they wrote and how far they were able to jump.

**Say** • We can’t always control the things you wrote down. You couldn’t even jump over all of them. Someone has power over all these things, even the bad things. ***Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.***

### Option 2: Cup trophy

- foam cups, 2 per kid
- masking tape
- aluminum foil
- silver or gold chenille stems
- markers

Demonstrate how to tape the bottom of two foam cups together. Wrap the cups in aluminum foil. Then force the end of a silver or gold chenille stem through the top of one of the cups. Force the



other end near the bottom of the top cup to create a semicircle “handle.” Repeat on the opposite side. Tear off a small piece of masking tape and place it at the bottom of the trophy. Invite kids to write *Jesus wins!* on the tape.

**Say • *Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.*** This means whenever there’s a battle between good and evil, Jesus always wins!

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

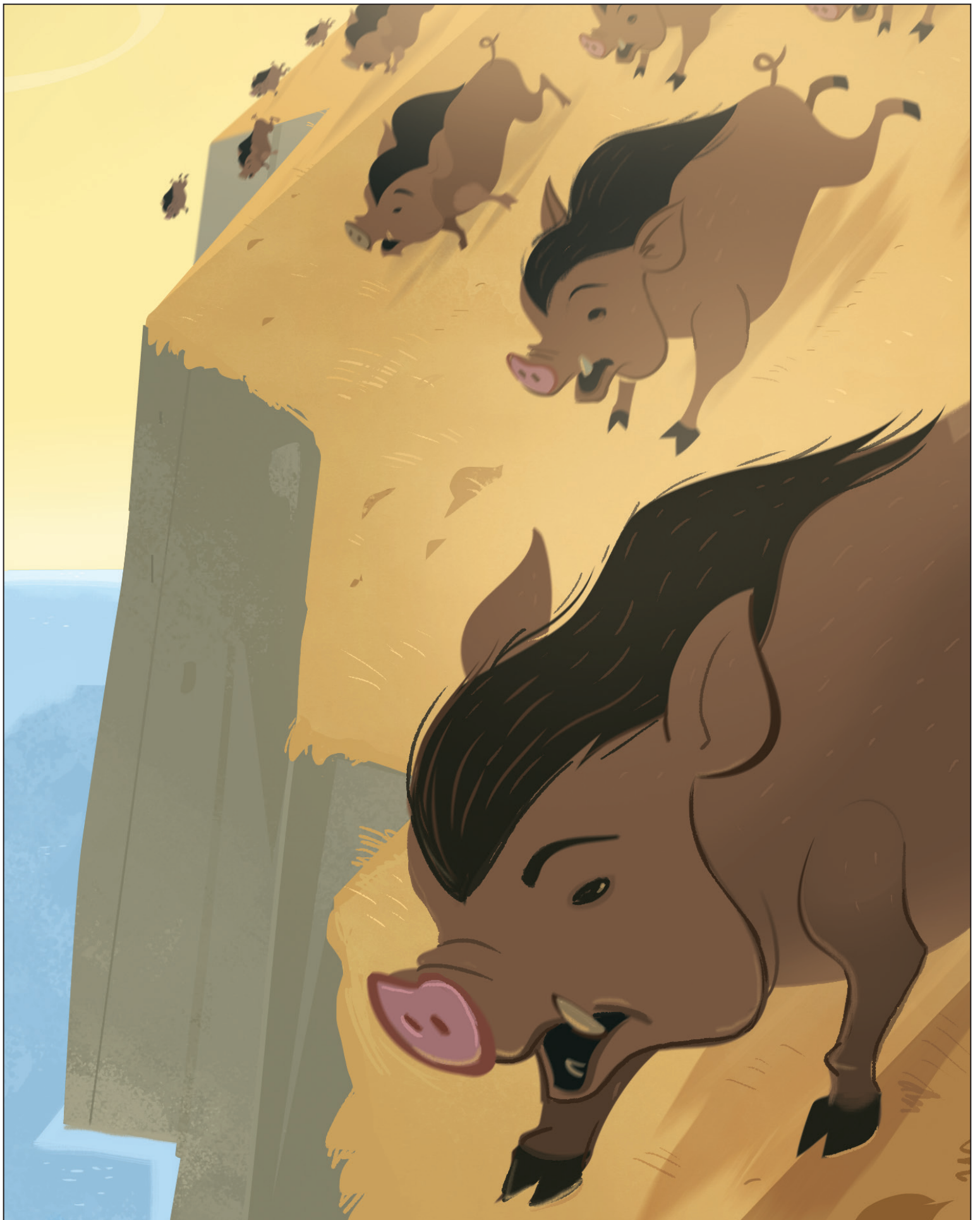
- Journal Page, 1 per kid
- markers or crayons
- Bible Story Coloring Page

Distribute each child’s journal page provided with this session. Instruct the kids to draw a picture of something they do not need to fear anymore because Jesus is Lord over all things. Writers can write things they can trust Jesus to take care of for them.

**Say •** Let’s say the big picture question and answer together one more time. ***Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.***

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for defeating evil for us. Pray for each child by name, asking God to protect him from the evil of the world around him.

**Dismiss to parents – Make sure to check security tags when dismissing children.**



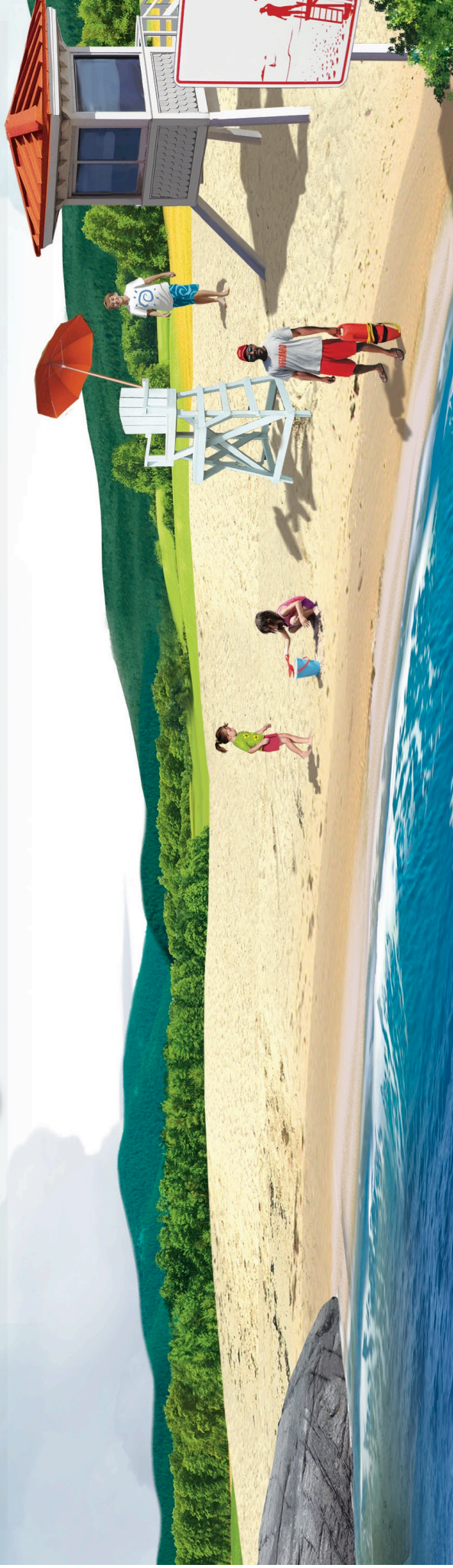
**“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”**

**John 11:25-26**



# Who has power over evil?

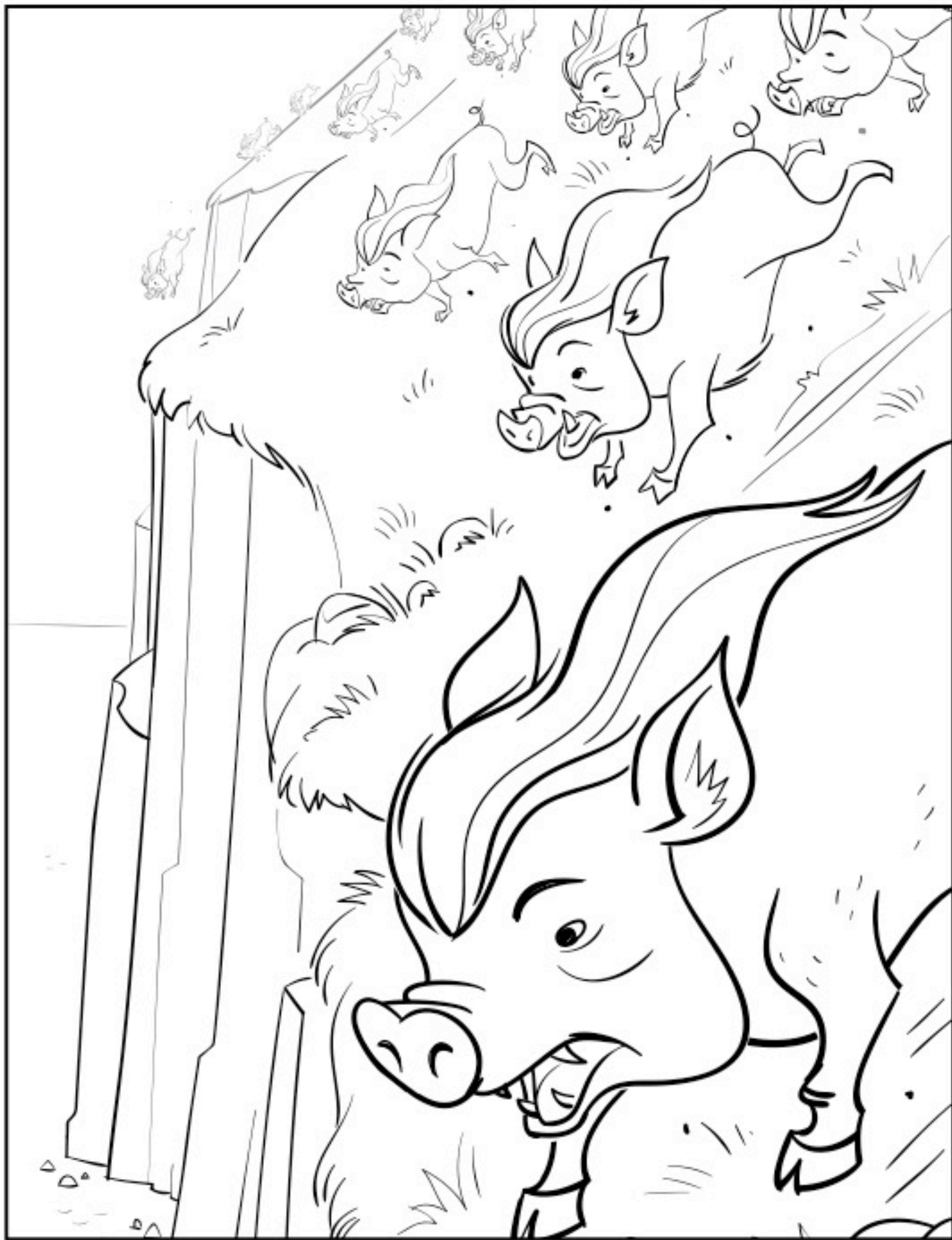
# Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.



# Connect the Dots

**Instructions:** Connect the dots without numbers to form the following words: *good*, *evil*. Then connect the numbered dots, starting with 1.

7 ● 8 ● 9 ●  
6 ● 10 ●  
5 ● 11 ●  
12 ● 13 ● 14 ● 15 ●  
1 ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ●  
42 ● GOOD ● 16 ●  
41 ● 40 ● 39 ● 38 ●  
20 ● 19 ● 18 ● 17 ●  
37 ● 21 ●  
36 ● 22 ●  
35 ● 23 ●  
34 ● 24 ●  
33 ● 25 ●  
32 ● 26 ●  
31 ● 27 ●  
30 ● 29 ● 28 ●



# ALLERGY ALERT



Today we will be tasting/  
touching/sniffing:

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Please notify the leader  
if your child should not  
participate.

**Instructions:** Print this poster. You may laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information. Display the poster where parents and kids can see it before class.

the

# GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos-pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



### GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



### WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



### GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



### JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



### WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*

## Jesus Is Powerful

*Provide strips of paper and glue sticks. Demonstrate how to make a paper chain. As kids work, review the Bible story in Luke 8:26-39. Point out that the man was controlled by the evil spirit inside him. Jesus used His power to free the man. Encourage kids to break apart the paper chain. Glue a piece of the broken chain below as a reminder that Jesus frees us from the power of sin.*

### Jesus Has Power Over Evil

*Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39*

#### Preschool

**Key Passage:** John 11:25

**Big Picture Question:** Who is most powerful? Jesus is more powerful than everyone.

**Christ Connection:** *Jesus used His power to help the man, and then Jesus told the man to tell others what He had done. Jesus came to earth to free people from the power of sin. He was going to die on the cross to defeat evil once and for all. We can trust in Jesus to rescue us from sin, and we can tell others what Jesus has done for us.*

#### Kids

**Key Passage:** John 11:25-26

**Big Picture Question:** Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.

**Christ Connection:** *Jesus has power over evil. Only Jesus had the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Jesus used His power to free the man. He has power over everything. Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.*

