

# Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus

## Notes on Lesson Nine: Rescuer

### Lesson Nine: Rescuer

#### Central Message

These events, the two rescues, were lessons for the disciples. They were learning to trust Jesus. They were learning about his power, but also his love. They watched the man with the demons learn this same trust. This man knew all about fear. He was afraid of the demons, but he was also afraid of Jesus. When he saw the power of the demons go in the pigs, he knew that he could trust his Rescuer.

#### Life Application

What would happen if you trusted Jesus? What would change in your life? Are you afraid of that change? Jesus will be just as patient with you as he was with the disciples and this man. Jesus can take a small amount of faith and help it to grow into trust. We do not need to live in fear.

#### Community-Building Activity and Introduction<sup>44</sup>

##### *Fear*

**Preparation:** Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

**Instructions:** What are you afraid of? Make a list of three things. Put a star next to the one you want to discuss. Discuss this in a small group.

**Teaching Notes:** If you use the cover page, they will have a place to make some notes. They can discuss this in groups of three or four. You can also just start with the introduction in the workbook. Discuss the first question and ask the others as reflective questions, ones that are not answered here, or discuss all of the questions.

#### Lesson Notes

##### Part One: The Storm

##### Luke 8:22-25

##### **Preparation:**

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

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<sup>44</sup> The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

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- 1.2. This pre-reading question includes a prediction. After they have looked at the text, ask someone to read just the underlined words. Discuss what the text might be about. Notice the drama or emotion that is conveyed in the details. Ask them to read the passage with feeling.
3. This is an observation question. They should be given some time to work on this alone. They are to look for words that show the drama or the emotion of the situation. Actions: the disciples went and woke Jesus, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Words that tell us their emotions: 8:25 "...they were afraid...they marveled."
4. The order of the sentences is 10, 4, 3, 8, 7, 11, 9, 1, 6, 12, 5, 2.
5. We do not know why Jesus was sleeping, but it helps to think about it. Jesus had been very busy. The students will see that if they look over Luke 7 and 8. Jesus was probably tired. Besides, he was traveling with fishermen who knew this lake very well. The disciples would not have expected (or wanted?) Jesus to sail the boat, and they were probably glad he could rest. That is, until the storm started. Ask the students to imagine being in the boat while Jesus slept through the storm. How *do they think* the disciples felt about Jesus sleeping? (Jesus may have been asleep on purpose, knowing about the storm and what he was going to do. We just do not know.)
6. Ask them to tell you what miracles the disciples had seen Jesus do. They had seen many already, including raising someone from the dead. Ask them to search the text to find evidence that the disciples did or did not believe Jesus could stop the storm. On the one hand, they woke Jesus up and cried out to him, but on the other hand, they did not ask him to do anything. Also, "they were afraid and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"
7. Note the added instructions in the footnote. You may be able to get a quick answer from the group, but if they need help understanding, divide the group into two. Ask them to look at the words of the disciples, "Master, master we are perishing!" They can also add words that the disciples *might* have said.  
**Group One:** You are the disciples in the storm. What are you saying to each other? What are you saying to Jesus?  
**Group Two:** You are the disciples in the storm, but you have more faith. What are you saying to each other? What are you saying to Jesus?  
The disciples would have shown more faith if they had asked Jesus to do something and believed that he could.

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LINK Read this section together. It leads into the second event, which happened right after the storm (the next morning, we presume). Point out that the first line (8:26) of the next section tells us where they sailed.

### Lesson Notes

#### Part Two: The Crazy Man

#### Luke 8:26-39

##### Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

1. This is a long passage. When they read the description first and learn any new words in the description, they will be better able to follow the story.
- 2.3. When you read this as a group, ask who is speaking and acting (the man or the demon) at different points in the narrative. Also, make sure they know the reference for all the pronouns. You only need to ask them if it seems confusing. Some of the references (the connection to the nouns) are marked.
4. It might be helpful to ask these questions together as you read the text, but it would not hurt to ask them again at the end of the reading so the students can go back and mark the text. What did the man do when he saw Jesus? 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!"
5. Be sure they mark the text as instructed. First, they are in the region of the Gerasenes, who were Gentiles. They include those tending the pigs, the people of the town and countryside, and the disciples. (We assume they are there because they were in the boat.) We don't know how the disciples reacted, but those tending the pigs and the people of the region were afraid when they saw the man in his right mind, and overcome with fear when they heard how it happened. (The story does not tell us that they were angry about the loss of the pigs. We can imagine that, since the pigs were their livelihood, but the point that is made in the story is that they are overcome with fear. There will be more discussion about fear in question 10.)
6. 8:39 "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.
7. This option would be helpful if there were time. Perhaps if time is limited, you

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could ask someone before the class to prepare to retell the story.

8. Ask the group to go back to each time the man spoke or did something. Where do they see the man acting instead of the demons? Until the demons are gone, we really don't hear the man, but he did fall at Jesus' feet. It seems the man *and* the demons are afraid of Jesus. It is possible that the man did want the demons to leave, sort of, but he was hesitant or afraid to let them go.
9. How did Jesus' actions help the man? What change do you see in the man? These are the right questions to ask. This is all about the man, not the demons. If the man was hesitant to let the demons go, perhaps he was more open to the idea of letting them go into the pigs. If he was afraid to let them go, perhaps it helped him to see visually that they were really gone. We do not know, but we know there was some reason that Jesus did this, and it had to do with the man, not the demons. He does not need to negotiate with demons.  
We can see the change in the man. He is now *sitting* at Jesus' feet, clothed, and in his right mind. He has returned to being human. Note the details: he is with people again, someone gave him clothes, he is not afraid. (Well, at least he wasn't afraid of Jesus. He might have been afraid of the people. He begged to go with Jesus. However, Jesus sent him back to tell the people "what God has done." He went into the town (somewhere he had not been in a long time) and told how much *Jesus* had done for him.
10. The man was no longer afraid, but the people were. Perhaps part of this was the old fear they had for this man: fear that he might hurt them because he was so strong and terrible. Part of the fear could come from facing Someone who was strong enough to control him. They were overcome with fear when they heard how it happened. This seems to be from the awesome show of power that could only come from a god. (Remember, they were Gentiles and did not know the God of the Bible.) Again, it could have something to do with the loss of the pigs. Who is this man? What will he do next?  
The disciples had both types of fear as well. They were afraid in the boat: afraid that the storm might destroy them because it was so strong and terrible. When Jesus stopped the storm, they were no longer afraid of the storm, but they were still afraid. The people of the town did not know Jesus, so their fear remained. But the disciples were able to marvel and wonder, "Who is this man?" What will he do next?
11. What do we learn about Jesus from this event? There are some notes here, but this is a time for the students to respond. The "Consider" section addresses this again. Jesus was more powerful and loving than the disciples had ever imagined. We learn that Jesus was more powerful than storms and demons.

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We also learn that he cared about this man and helped the man trust him. He gave him clothes, a “right mind,” and the ability to relate to others again. He cared about the Gentile people, too. He sent the man back to his people to spread the good news.

LIVE The first question may have already been discussed at the beginning of the lesson. If not, ask one or two people to share. If possible, move on to the second question. If no one has anything to share, it would be ok to answer this yourself.

Be sure to close with the Consider section. The verse is optional.

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## Lesson Nine: Rescuer

### Rescuer

**In the past lessons**, the disciples watched Jesus teach with power and authority. He had power over sickness, demons, and even death.

**In this lesson**, Jesus surprises the disciples by showing more power and more love than they thought was possible. They continue to wonder, "Who is this man?"

### Community Time



### Fear

What are you afraid of?  
Make a list of three things.

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Put a star ☆ next to the one you want to discuss.

Discuss this in a small group.

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## Workbook One: Exploring the Identity of Jesus

### **Fear**

What are you afraid of?  
Think of one or two things.  
Discuss this in a small group.

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