

LESSON 1: THE POWER OF A QUESTION

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

1. LEADER PREPARATION**LESSON OVERVIEW**

Most people believe answers are more valuable than questions. Maybe we think that questions never really lead us to truth, or that questions just lead to more questions. The reality is that questions fuel the best conversations. The fact that Jesus asked so many questions in the Gospels reveals that he knew there was power in a question. We find few instances in Scripture where Jesus enters “lecture” mode, spouting off do’s and don’ts. More commonly, he is engaging people in a conversation, and Jesus’ conversations often started with a question. Sometimes it was as simple as asking someone their name.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- 1. WHAT:** When we actively engage in a relationship with Jesus, we experience a greater opportunity for spiritual growth.
- 2. WHY:** It is easier and more organic for students to grow in their relationship with Jesus when they are able to interact with Jesus’ questions.
- 3. HOW:** Teenagers can go deeper in their faith by taking the questions of Jesus and connecting them to their lives today.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

Luke 8:26-39

SECONDARY SCRIPTURE

Mark 5:1-20

TEACHING PREP

**LEADER
TIP**

Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you’ll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.

Read Luke 8:26-39.

When was the last time you forgot someone’s name? Were you introducing them to another person, or did they come up to you and say something like “Hey, remember me?” No matter the situation, it likely was awkward. It’s amazing how important a name is; it’s so encouraging when you hear your name called out or used in casual conversation. In this passage from Luke 8, Jesus took time to ask someone’s name.

The Legion passage can be a difficult one to explain because it involves a demon-possessed man as its main character. But if you take a closer, longer look at the account, you will find that Jesus' very simple question about the man's name actually got to the heart of the matter—that fact that Legion did not really know who he was.

Jesus was remarkable in how he would take the time to get to know people. Whether you were rich or poor, healthy or (as was the case for Legion) sick, knowing something more about the person he was interacting with was central to Jesus' ministry. Sometimes we think the command Jesus gave to love one another can be overwhelming—especially when there is so much hurt in people's lives that we don't know where to start. If you're wondering how Jesus did it, draw strength and inspiration from the fact that sometimes he simply asked people what their name was.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

TEXTS OR TWEETS

Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.

- Have you ever wondered about some of the questions Jesus asked in the Bible? Let's explore one of them this week!
- If Jesus knew everything, why did he ask some guy what his name was? Let's dig into this together tonight.

PARENT EMAIL

Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.

Dear parents,

We've launched a new series focusing on the questions of Jesus. Each week, students are examining a different passage of Scripture to discover what was behind some of the questions Jesus asked in the Gospels.

In this first lesson, we explored Luke 8:26-39, where Jesus encountered Legion—a man who had been rejected and banished because of his demon possession. Legion's main issue was that there were so many competing voices in his head that he didn't know who he really was. Our conversation focused on how Jesus' simple question to Legion allowed for a miraculous interaction.

This week, I encourage you to spend a few minutes talking with your teenager about our lesson. Here are some questions that can help fuel the conversation:

- How does the fact that Jesus asked questions change your perspective of him?
- What might Jesus ask you if you met him today?
- What people in our world today are most like Legion—rejected, outcast, or living on the fringes of society? How might Jesus want us to minister to them?

Thanks for praying for our ministry. Have an amazing week!

LESSON 1: THE POWER OF A QUESTION

2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

LEADER
TIP

Prepare index cards with “would you rather”-type questions written on them. You’ll need one card for every two students in your group (for example, 20 students = 10 cards). Examples of questions you could write: Would you rather vacation at the beach or in the mountains? Would you rather catch the game-winning touchdown or hit the game-winning homerun? Would you rather have the lead part in a drama or sing the solo in the school’s musical?

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then lead students in this opening activity.

Place the “would you rather” cards facedown throughout your meeting area. Then pair up students and have them walk around and find an index card. Have one student in each pair read the question aloud and then answer it—then the other student will answer the question. Instruct them to explain their answers—specifically, why they chose that particular answer. After a minute or so, instruct the pairs to move on to another card and repeat the process. Continue until the pairs have been able to each answer four or five questions.

ASK:

- *Did you find it easy to answer the questions? Why or why not?*
- *What if you had to give a speech about these subjects rather than just answer questions? Would it have been easier or harder, and why?*
- *How different might our relationships be if we spent more time asking questions of our friends?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Sometimes we find it difficult to talk to people—maybe we’re shy or maybe we think there’s nothing to talk about. If we were to simply ask questions, conversations would more naturally develop and we might find out something about that person we didn’t know before. Questions can create interactions, and interactions can create relationships—and this is what Jesus did.*

TEACHING POINTS

LEADER
TIP

Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it’s up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read Luke 8:26-39 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so several people have a chance to read.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Let's spend a few minutes exploring this unique passage of Scripture—sometimes all we need is a good question to help get us started!*

1. QUESTIONS HELP US FEEL VALUED

ASK:

- *What's the craziest question someone has ever asked you?*
- *Why is it meaningful when someone asks you what your name is? What does that reveal?*
- *When has your day gotten so much better simply because someone asked how you were doing—and genuinely wanted to know the answer?*
- *Why would Jesus want or need to ask questions?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Sometimes the greatest thing we can do for someone is ask them how they are doing—or what their name is. There is something powerful about calling people by their name. And if we don't know that person's name, the best way to find out is to simply ask!*

2. JESUS ASKS QUESTIONS TO GET US THINKING

ASK:

- *Think of the last time you avoided a conversation with someone. You don't have to give us all the details, but why didn't you want to talk with that person?*
- *What kinds of challenges would the man in this passage have faced in his day-to-day life?*
- *Why would Jesus ask this man what his name was?*
- *How did Jesus demonstrate care for Legion?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *There is definitely something crazy about Jesus casting out demons—and while that might be something that we can't really relate to, we can relate to how Jesus interacted with someone that society had rejected and ignored. Jesus didn't just spend time talking with people that were easy to talk to—he engaged in some difficult conversations as well.*

3. IF WE INTERACT WITH JESUS, WE WILL EXPERIENCE LIFE-CHANGE

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *In his interaction with Legion, Jesus began with a simple question. From that moment on, the man's life was changed. Not only was he free of the demons that had plagued his life, he was now fully clothed and perfectly sane. A lot of things happened that day, but probably the most impactful was that the voices in his head were quieted, and he was able to hear from Jesus—in fact, this passage says he was sitting at Jesus' feet!*

ASK:

- *How does this interaction with Legion show us Jesus' true heart for people?*
- *When have you allowed Jesus to clear things out of your life so you could interact with him more clearly and easily?*

- *What kinds of junk can keep us from experiencing the life-change Jesus offers us?*
- *Why do some people experience radically changed lives right away after encountering Jesus, while other people seem to see slower, more gradual change?*
- *What people in our world today are most like Legion—rejected, outcast, or living on the fringes of society? How might Jesus want us to minister to them?*

EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three to discuss these questions.



ASK:

- *Skim through Mark 5:1-20. This is a parallel passage for the same event we've been discussing from Luke 8. Why were people so afraid of Jesus?*
- *Why is it significant that Jesus would do what the people asked—or put another way, why didn't Jesus attempt to stay and calm their fears and explain what he had done?*
- *What amazing things has Jesus done in your life that you can proclaim to the people around you?*

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

LIVING IT OUT

ASK:

- *What do you need most from Jesus today?*
- *When Jesus interacted with Legion, he made it very apparent that he wanted to relate with him on a personal level, so Jesus removed all the things that kept him from seeing Jesus for who he really was. What could Jesus remove from your life right now so you could do likewise?*
- *Are there people like Legion in your life—people at school or at work that everyone else avoids? How might you go about treating them like Jesus treated Legion?*

SUMMARY



Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson's content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.

“Go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him” (Luke 8:39).