

Small Group Guide: What's a Soul Worth?

Based on Mark 5:1-20

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by inviting God's presence and asking Him to help you understand the value He places on every soul.

Icebreaker

Share a time when someone went out of their way to help you when you felt isolated or alone. How did that impact you?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- 1. Our enemy will go to great lengths to hinder an encounter with grace and truth**
 - The enemy works to distort God's image in people through isolation, torment, and dehumanization
 - 2. The restoration of a single soul is worth more than a fortune**
 - Jesus values souls differently than we value possessions (kingdom math)
 - 3. It's possible to acknowledge Jesus's power and still reject His presence**
 - We can keep Jesus at arm's length when His presence threatens our priorities, comforts, and control
 - 4. We aren't just rescued FROM something, but rescued FOR something**
 - Reconciled people become reconcilers; saved people become sent people
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Read Mark 5:1-20 together. What details in this story stand out to you most? Why?
2. The demon-possessed man was isolated, tormented, and living "among the tombs." What are some modern-day equivalents of this kind of isolation and bondage?

3. Why do you think the townspeople asked Jesus to leave after witnessing such an incredible miracle? What does this reveal about human nature?

Personal Reflection

4. The sermon mentioned that "freedom is rarely found or formed when we're isolated." Where in your life have you experienced the power of community in bringing freedom or healing?
5. Jesus told the healed man to "go home to your own people" and tell them what God had done. Why is our testimony often most powerful with those who knew us before Christ changed us?
6. Pastor Mike said, "Not following Jesus actually costs us more than following him ever could." Do you agree? What examples have you seen of this truth?

Going Deeper

7. What "strongholds" (areas where the enemy has territory) might exist in your life or in the lives of people you know? How can this group help address those?
 8. The townspeople valued their pigs (economic security) over the man's freedom. What are some things we might unconsciously value more than the souls of people around us?
 9. The healed man wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus told him to go back and be a witness where he came from. When have you felt called to stay somewhere difficult rather than escape? How did that turn out?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Share Your Story

- Identify someone in your life who knew you "before" Christ or before a significant transformation
- Share with them what God has done in your life
- Report back to the group next week

Option 2: Reach Out to the Isolated

- Think of someone in your sphere who seems isolated or struggling
- Reach out with a call, text, or coffee invitation

- Don't try to "fix" them—just be present and listen

Option 3: Examine Your Priorities

- Spend time in prayer asking Jesus to reveal any areas where you're keeping Him at arm's length
- Journal about what He shows you
- Share with one trusted person in your group

Group Action Step

- If you're not already in a small group, commit to joining one this semester
 - Consider participating in the Rooted Experience mentioned in the sermon
 - Attend or support the Tuesday night recovery group through prayer
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Reflection Questions for the Week

1. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus thinks you're worth dying for?
 2. Who in your life might Jesus be calling you to reach with His love?
 3. Where might Jesus be asking you to "go back" rather than escape?
 4. What would change in your life if you truly believed that souls are worth more than any earthly possession?
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Scripture Memory

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

Closing Prayer Prompts

- Pray for freedom from any strongholds or areas where the enemy has territory in group members' lives
- Pray for boldness to share testimonies with those who knew you "before"
- Pray for specific people in your lives who need to encounter Jesus
- Thank God for the value He places on every soul, including yours
- Ask God to help you see people the way He sees them

Looking Ahead

Next week, continue in the "Take Heart" series through Mark. Come prepared to share how you applied this week's challenge.

For Group Leaders: Consider having tissues available—this topic can bring up emotional stories. Create a safe space for vulnerability while maintaining appropriate boundaries.