

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

“Go” – Oct. 4, 2026

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 Points

- **The Encounter**
- **The Request**
- **The Result**

Questions

- Have you ever read a Bible story that left you with more questions than answers? What was it, and how did you respond to the mystery?
- In Matthew 8:28-34, what details stand out to you about the two demon-possessed men? How does Matthew’s account compare with the fuller picture in Mark 5:1-20?
- Why do you think Matthew’s account is so much shorter?
- The demons immediately recognize Jesus and call Him “Son of God.” What does this reveal about their knowledge of Jesus compared to the disciples’ question in the previous story (“What sort of man is this...” – Matt. 8:27)?
- Jesus speaks only one word in Matthew’s version of this event: “Go.” Why do you think Matthew highlights this so simply? How does it connect to the centurion’s words earlier in the chapter (Matt. 8:8-9)?
- The sermon highlighted three foundational truths about the spiritual realm:
 - Satan is real and active.
 - Demons are real.

- Jesus has complete authority over both.
- Which of these three is easiest for you to affirm? Which is hardest? Why?
- The demons begged to be sent into the pigs rather than face immediate torment. What does their request (and Jesus granting it) teach us about the limits of demonic power and the certainty of future judgment?
- The pigs rush into the sea and drown. The sermon connected this to the Red Sea crossing and the theme of the sea as a place of judgment, chaos, and death. How does this imagery deepen the significance of what Jesus did here?
- The townspeople beg Jesus to leave after seeing the miracle. Luke tells us they were “seized with great fear.” Why might the holiness and authority of Jesus be more terrifying to them than the presence of the demon-possessed men had been?
- The sermon emphasized that Matthew is answering one central question: “Who is in authority?” How does this story strengthen your confidence that Jesus is Lord over every spiritual force that opposes Him—and over every area of your life?
- 1 John 5:18-19 reminds us that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one, yet those born of God are protected. Where do you currently feel the pressure or influence of the spiritual battle most strongly? How does Jesus’ authority in this passage give you hope?
- The sermon closed with the reminder that some things about the spiritual realm remain mysterious (Deut. 29:29). How can we hold onto both the mystery and the clear truths God has revealed without becoming either fearful or overly speculative?
- The formerly demonized man in Luke’s account was told to “declare how much God has done for you.” Who in your life needs to hear about the authority and compassion of Jesus this week? What practical steps could you take to share that?

Announcements:

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month at COBC! Starting today, please drop off all letters and gifts in the Pastor Appreciation box in the Chapel/Worship Center hallway (or the church office during office hours.)

Baptism Class

10/18 | 9am | Room 202

Join us for a pre-baptism meeting to find out more about baptism and why it is an important step to take. Baptisms will take place on 11/1. Sign up online!

**Please be in prayer for our CCWs – Jonathan and Liesl – for wisdom, strength, and guidance.*