



## Under the Influence

**Focus** “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

**Fun** Sit in a circle. Start with a paper clip or another small object. Hand it to the person on your left and ask them to trade you something bigger or better for it. Now, take the new object and approach another person, ask for something bigger or better and trade again. Keep going until everyone has the opportunity to participate. Let group members decide if they are happy with their trade or want to trade back.

**Review** Key Scriptures: Mark 5:1–20; Luke 10:17–21

In order to be free as God intends for us, we must understand the following:

- *There really are demons.*  
One-third of the angels fell from heaven with Satan when he rebelled against God. These fallen angels are demons. We read in Mark chapter 5 about a man who was under the influence of a multitude of demons and how that bondage affected him.
- *Demons really do enter people.*  
Demons come only to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:1, 10). A Christian cannot be possessed by a demon in the sense of being *owned*, but a Christian can be under the control or influence of a demon.
- *Jesus really does cast demons out.*  
Jesus cast out demons when He ministered to people. Also, He has given us authority as believers to do the same (Matthew 8:16; 9:32–33; 17:18; Mark 3:14–15; 6:12–13; 16:17; Luke 10:17–21).

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Be on the lookout for practical needs within the group that everyone can work together to help meet. For example, providing meals when a baby is born, helping a family move or offering babysitting to help cut costs. These acts of service build community.

**Discuss**

1. What stood out to you from this message?
2. What beliefs were you taught regarding the supernatural? Do you have a background that caused you to believe demons are not real? Or were you raised in a culture of superstition, with not only a belief in demons but also a fear of them? Or was casting out demons in Jesus' name part of your experience?
3. What are some indications we might be under the influence of a demon?
4. Read the story of the demon-possessed man in Mark 5:1–20. What was the turning point in the story? What did the man do to be set free? What did Jesus do?
5. Have you ever been set free from demonic influence in your life? Was it an immediate healing, or did God take you through a process? If you are willing, tell your story to the group.

**Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- Demons do exist and do enter people, including Christians.
- Jesus sets us free from all bondage when we humble ourselves and come to Him for help.

**Pray**

Ask God to show you in what area of your life He wants to set you free.

Ask a friend to pray with you about whatever God shows you.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** If someone in your group is experiencing a crisis, reach out to your Section Leader. The Section Leader will support you in prayer and can help you access further support if the situation is beyond your training or experience.