

I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life

Unit 4: Second Chances

Lesson 1: Freedom

The Cave of Wisdom

The Burning Bush: Freedom to Serve Others

The Cave Opening:

Welcome back to the cave of the Demons of Life. Do you believe in Demons? This lesson deals with the demons that torment our lives each day and cause us to lose the path to God's dream for us. These demons come in many forms. Surely you have experienced some or seen them in others. A "demon" is anything that takes away your freedom to follow God's path to your dream. Sometimes the demon is even you, because actions you take toward others prevent them from doing what God wants them to do. In this lesson, we will take a look at a few "demons".

The Circle of Fire: Freedom from human demons

Scripture: Mark 5: 1-20 – This is the story of "Legion", a man who had many bad demons in his life, thousands, hence his name, "Legion, for we are many." Jesus was the opposite side of a lake from "Legion", but he knew of Legions need to be set free of the demons that held him captive. Legion was unable to come to Jesus for help, the demons drove him wild. But Jesus came to Legion, and the

demons were afraid. Freedom from life's demons is obtainable through Jesus. He is all powerful!

Biblical Character: Legion obtains freedom through Jesus.

Act the part of Legion, the wild man who lived in the cemetery. This is a fun time if you like to act wild, dress in torn garments, and look dirty! Legion appears in front of the Tree of Darkness with his back to the Circle of Fire. Turn around quickly and yell very loudly like you are in terrible pain. Grab your head and scream with agony. You will definitely get their attention for this lesson (and maybe some other people in the area!)

Legion: "It wasn't my fault! I couldn't help myself. Demons possessed me and forced me to run wild in the streets screaming, knocking people down, biting and kicking them. I used foul language, but it wasn't me, it was another demon who swore continually.

You know what I'm talking about, don't you? Parents and adults are always blaming you for doing wrong things, but it's not your fault. They expect too much from you at school and home. Even the couch expects you to be perfect.

And your friends are even more expectant of you. They think you should like all the things they want to do or wear. If you don't agree with them, they tease you until you feel awful. Don't you just want to scream sometimes yourself? I bet you've yelled at your parents plenty of times or argued with someone.

Of course you wouldn't take drugs, or steal from someone, or get drunk, would you? What you do isn't all that bad is it? But those demons of life get hold of you and make you do crazy things. Why can't people understand that it's not our fault?

Jesus understood that it wasn't my fault. He drove the demons away. Now I am free to be me. And you can as well. Just trust Jesus to drive away the bad stuff."

Show the video of Jesus and Legion. With freedom comes the desire to follow the dream to the Father.

Show the video: "Pay It Forward" for the secret to helping others.

Modern Character(s): Joel Olsteen. Show the video of Joel Olsteen on Larry King Live. What is a Christian to be about according to Joel?

Anorexic, Bullying, or Helping, you have a choice. Show the two negative videos and explain that these are only two of the demons of life which do harm to others and destroy the dream for us. Then show the "Opie Questions Andy about Helping Others" video and explain the power of helping.

Show the video "Teenage 'affluenza' is spreading fast." This is perhaps the most common teenage demon, and it leads to other demons.

The Tribe: There is no demon which God cannot overcome.

Craft: “Free to be ME” Button. See Appendix 8 Craft for material and instructions.

Recreation Activity: “What would you do?” Have part of the students perform various situational skits such as tempting to smoke or mocking someone. Encourage the other students to react to the situation.