

Possessed by "The" Spirit

Matthew 12:22 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Luke 13:18-21 Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches." Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Luke 17:20-21 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory

Romans 8:8-9 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

The Bible shows many instances of an evil _____ possessing a person and making them do things against their will.

Do you believe in ghosts? _____ What things did the demon in Matthew 12:22 cause the man to do (or not be able to do) against his will? _____

Unlike an alien taking over Captain Kirk's body against his will, the Holy Spirit will only come in if we (Revelation 3:20): _____

How did Jesus describe the kingdom of God in Luke 13:18-21?

_____ What do you think of when you think of a kingdom?

Where is Jesus' kingdom (Luke 17:20-21)? _____

As yeast or a mustard seed, what would you expect the Holy Spirit's entrance into your heart to be like?

God created people to have relationships with. Believing the Gospel message restores that relationship. The Bible indicates that the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts. How do you feel about being *inhabited* by a spirit?

In Ephesians 1:14 Christians are called God's possessions. How do you feel about being a possession?

Read Romans 8:8-9. What is an advantage to being controlled by the Holy Spirit?

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

In view of 1 Corinthians 6:19, what happens to your rights as a person when you become a Christian?

Under these conditions do you want to be a Christian?



Lesson Plan: Possessed by The Spirit

The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is to give kids a different perspective on what it means to be a Christian. Instead of the usual “What can God do for me?” approach, this lesson focuses on what it means to be a possession of Christ. This lesson may cause some kids to re-examine their commitment to Christ while others might realize for the first time that this facet of commitment to Christ needs to be added to their faith. At the completion of this lesson a clear statement of the Gospel message is needed with an opportunity to accept it. My suggestion is to use The Four Spiritual Laws, developed by Campus Crusade for Christ. You can download it from this web link: <http://www.everystudent.com/features/gettingconnected.html>, from everystudent.com

Pre-Lesson Activity:

I played a segment of an old Star Trek episode where Captain Kirk gets taken over by an alien entity.

Leading the lesson:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. The Bible verses compare a demon possession to the Holy Spirit's entry into a human heart. It is important to note that God is not a bully. He doesn't come in unless we “open the door”, and then very gently, grows slowly, and doesn't usurp a person's free will.

Nearing the end of the lesson we add a twist with 1 Corinthians 6:19 and add the “Lordship” dimension to the discussion. Turning over one's “free-will” freely to the control of God is an essential step in a young person's spiritual growth. Discuss Paul's teaching that we were “bought” and are now “owned”

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go through the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

Summary:

At the end of the lesson review the Four Spiritual Laws including the prayer at the end.

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous week's concerns.