

WEEK 4
LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

When you feel unwanted,
God says you belong.

BIBLE

Mark 5:1-20; Psalm 34:17-20;
John 15:15

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Most video games need non-playable characters, or NPCs, to move the story forward, but some interactions with an NPC leave you wishing to get them out of your way. This week, we'll take a look at the story of a man who was pushed to the edges of society because a demon possessed him. When the people in his town were scared of him, Jesus showed him **when you feel unwanted, God says you belong.**

WHAT?	If you have ever played <i>Among Us</i> , you know it's difficult to see if someone is one of the Imposters in the Crewmates. Other times, it's pretty obvious. Not belonging in a game like <i>Among Us</i> is part of the fun, but when it happens in real life, it feels terrible. We've all had moments where we felt like an imposter who didn't belong. So, what do we do when we feel unwanted?
SO WHAT?	<p>The book of Mark recounts the life of Jesus, and in one story, he encounters a lonely, unwanted guy who, due to his condition, the townspeople are scared of. They don't want him around and have forced him to live outside in a graveyard. The man runs out to greet Jesus, but Jesus doesn't turn and run away. Jesus doesn't think he's scary and wants to help him. Instead of doing what everyone else has done, Jesus shows compassion. Just like Jesus didn't turn away or run away from this man, he doesn't turn away or run away from us. He wants to be with and close to us.</p> <p>Jesus is living out something God's been doing for years. Psalm 34 shows us that the crushing ache of not belonging doesn't slip by God's notice. God sees that, too. And God cares for it because when you feel unwanted, God says you belong.</p>
NOW WHAT?	<p>To belong to God, all you have to do is say "yes" to a relationship with Jesus. Here are a few ways to experience belonging with Jesus this week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOOK AT WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT YOU: This week, trust that who Jesus says you are, not what you've done or who you were before, matters most. Maybe you want to trust what Jesus says about you for the first time. It is pretty simple—just tell Jesus you trust him and are sorry for all the lies you have believed about yourself. ● LOOK FOR A FRIEND: This week, pursue friendships with people who remind you that you belong and be open to expanding your friendships to make space for more people to belong. ● LOOK OUT FOR OTHERS: Just like Jesus was on the lookout for this man, we, too, can be on the lookout for others who have been pushed aside and unwanted and create a place for them to belong. <p>God has been welcoming people and creating belonging for thousands of years, and God's not stopping now—which means when you feel unwanted, God says you belong.</p>