

## Series: On the Rail

### Scripture and Background Information for January 09-15.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Today, we launch our new series, "*On the Rails*." This series is a study on how we abide at the place on which Christ placed us to live the calling he called us to live. This week we talk about "stability." *Stability* points us to live at the place where we currently live, with the posture as if we would stay here forever, even if we don't expect us to.

#### **Background for Luke 8:26-39:**

After Jesus calmed the storm on the sea, His disciples were astonished by Jesus' power over nature. When they had crossed over to the other side, they were welcomed by screams of a demon-possessed man. While the disciples wondered who Jesus was, after seeing His power, the demon-possessed man testified Jesus as Son of God (8:25&28). Demons tortured the man for many years, but when Jesus demanded the spirits to leave, the possessed became free. Jesus had sent the demons into a herd of pigs. After the pigs ran over the cliff, the pig shepherds ran off in fear.

The shepherds ran to tell the whole village of their experience. All needed to see what happened, and the people became frightened of Jesus. No one was able to bind the possessed. Here was one who not only could bind him but also had the power to free the man from the demons.

Frightened about Jesus' power, the people tried to send Jesus away. Unlike the people, the free man tried to follow his savior, Jesus. Jesus had different plans.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. Note, while the demons tormented the man, they did not want to be tormented by Jesus. While the enemy tries to conceive people with all the good in the World, he does not really care about people. He destroys. In contrast, Jesus rescues the man from his torment. Not only that, but Jesus also places him right into serving and glorifying God.
2. How was the demon-possessed man different from his previous situation when the villagers arrived? Describe in what ways the man changed?
3. Jesus' ministry grew. The demon-possessed could have been a great aid to His ministry. What could be the reasons for Jesus leaving the man in his village? (*Consider the previous question.*) How does "stability" play into the plan of leaving the man where he lived? What things would the villagers constantly see if the man stayed in his hometown?

*Note: Jesus has not only power over nature or evil spirits, but he also has the power to rescue your soul. Did you already experience His saving power? If so, do you still trust Him to know what is best for your life and where you must stay to minister to Him? How can you use your life to show your transition from darkness into light? What persons would benefit the most from seeing your life-change? What and where is the ministry Jesus asks you to serve Him now?*