



## INTRODUCTION

In the New Year's message "Now What?", Fort Dodge Campus Pastor Kyle Dana shares the story of the demon-possessed man in Luke 8:26-39 to help us understand our purpose in God's story. We need to accept people may not respond the way we'd expect, and God may not respond the way we'd expect. Jesus' response to the man in this story helps us understand following Him isn't limited to aligning our footsteps with Him. Following Him means trust and going where He sends us.

## DISCUSSION

1. **Read Luke 8:26-39** out loud in your group. Discuss the reaction of the people of the village in verses 34-37. Have you ever been in a situation where fear of God gripped you? Share what happened and how you overcame that fear.
2. Many of us have had miraculous healings or events in our lives; most people have mixed reactions when we share these experiences. Recall one reaction from a friend or relative that surprised you when you shared a God story. How did you respond to their reaction?
3. **Reread Luke 8:38-39.** Have you ever followed a calling by God that was in a completely different direction than you intended on going? What experience did you have? How did it affect your faith life?
4. What advice would you give a new Christian who is searching for the direction God has for his/her life? Write down one piece of advice and share it with your group. Take some time to pray for those in your circle of influence who are searching for direction.

## DO SOMETHING

1. If a person or family came to mind as you were praying in Discussion Question #4, reach out by inviting them to coffee, a playdate, game night, a church service, etc., and be open to where God leads this relationship.
2. **Read Hebrews 11.** These people are commended for their faith and trust in God. Choose one of these heroes of faith, study his/her life, and journal about what God is teaching you through this study.
3. Many times, people are afraid to approach others like the man in Luke 8. If God is calling you into a ministry of reconciliation with the "untouchables" of our culture, take steps to follow that calling.

## RESOURCES

1. God has a wonderful and fulfilling plan for your life, yet determining His will can be a difficult process, especially when you need to make a decision quickly! Check out the video series *Discovering God's Will* by Andy Stanley on RightNow Media. It takes you through the important steps of decision making as you begin discovering the personal vision God has for you.
2. Explore how to find the purpose in your life with John Ortberg's video series *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. The first session, *What's Water-Walking?*, is available for download through [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com).
3. Start the new year with a daily devotional! Try Sarah Young's inspirational messages of Jesus' love in *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence*.

