

Jesus Heals a Crippled Man

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- crayons and markers
- index cards
- construction paper
- scissors
- yarn
- hole punch
- blankets, bandages, first aid kit (optional)



Scriptures

Jn 5:1-15

Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus can heal anyone because He is full of power and compassion

Behavioral Objective(s)

To thank God for His blessings; to know we can pray to Him when we are sick

Memory Verse

"See, you have been made well."
(Jn 5:14)



Bible Knowledge

The Pool Bethesda

The pool described in this story was called Bethesda in Aramaic, meaning, "House of Mercy." Some manuscripts have the name Bethzatha, or "House of the Olive." Five porches, or porticos, had been built adjacent to the pool. These provided a shelter for the large number of sick people who waited to benefit from the supposed healing qualities of the pool's waters.

Jesus' Healing Miracles

This crippled man had been lame for thirty-eight years. His problem had become a way of life. No one had ever helped him. He had no hope of ever being healed and he had lost any desire to help himself. However, Jesus showed great compassion to him, and helped him walk. This was a great miracle indeed. Jesus performed many of these kinds of miracles- healing the blind, helping the mute. And it is because of these miracles that many came to believe and follow Christ. Similarly, this man was delighted to be physically healed, but Jesus was more concerned about helping him spir-

itually. He wanted the man to turn from his sins and seek God's forgiveness to be spiritually healed. Jesus urged the man to show his gratitude by turning from sin and following the Lord. When Jesus talked about sin and the forgiveness of sins, it was often hard for the multitude to understand. Many fell away as a result of His teachings. But while Jesus is concerned about our physical well-being, He wants to make sure we are first and foremost saved. That was His purpose on earth.

The Jewish Leaders

The healing of the crippled man took place on the Sabbath. The Jewish leaders who saw the man after he was made well were more concerned about the man carrying his mattress on the Sabbath, than the miracle itself. The Law of Moses taught that on the Sabbath, no man or animal could work. Over the years, the leaders had put together many different rules to define what work meant. According to them, carrying furniture was forbidden. So when they caught this man carrying his own mattress, they were not surprised he could walk, but that he had the audacity to do work on the Sabbath. Clearly, Jesus had not broken the Law; He had only broken the rules the Jewish leaders had amassed.



Understanding Your Students

Children at this age take at face value God's healing power. They believe because they have been told that His love can make people well. Just as in today's story, it is easy for them to understand God and His power because the crippled man was healed.

However, when they encounter a personal situation, such as a grandparent who is very sick or a relative who has just passed away, they may have more questions. Then, it may be hard for that child to understand why God isn't helping those around them.

Although it is still difficult for them to truly understand the complex way God works, we need to

acknowledge their feelings. Tell your students that God has His timing in all things, and we just need to trust in Him. We also need to have patience as we wait for God to answer our prayers. The crippled man in today's story, for example, waited for thirty-eight years to be healed. This is also a good opportunity to share some personal testimonies to make the situations real to the students.

As we explain, we also need to share that we cannot always comprehend God's plan for our lives. Sometimes, things happen and they are not what we wanted to happen. But God knows what is best for us and will always help us. Even though we can't always see why things happen the way they do, in the end, it is for the glory of God.



Vocabulary

Heal

to make someone well, so that person isn't sick anymore

Crippled

a person who cannot move his arms or legs

Sabbath Day

the seventh day of the week, which is on Saturday; it is a day of rest when we come to church and worship God

Blessings

all the good things we receive from God



Before You Teach

This crippled man had been sick for a long time- thirty-eight years to be exact. How lonely and sad he must have been. He couldn't move, and no one looked after him. He probably did not have any friends and he would have been a social outcast. Everyone who walked by probably thought he was dirty and pathetic. And after thirty-eight years, his situation looked hopeless. That is, until Jesus appeared.

The Lord's grace and love were sincere and real. Jesus reached out to him, and made him walk. This teaches us that no matter how trapped we might feel in any situation, God can minister to our deepest needs. We should not let a problem or hardship cause us to lose hope. God may have special work for us to do in spite of our condition.

Jesus' attitude was in great contrast to that of

the Jewish leaders. It was a great miracle for this man to be healed. However, the Jewish leaders were more concerned about their petty rules. For them, the laws had become stumbling blocks. It didn't seem to matter to them that a man who had been sick for most of his life had been made well. They were more interested in making themselves look pious and uphold the law.

Today, it is also easy to get caught up in our man-made structures and rules. We are so engrossed in getting things done the "right way," that sometimes we forget the people involved. In this miracle, Jesus not only helped a man, He also taught one of God's most important commandments: to love others as we would love ourselves. If everything is done out of love, then there will be no arguments or issues. Let us remember this golden rule as we strive to imitate our Lord Jesus.



Bible Story

Before the class begins, set up the following items on the table for each child: 5 colored crayons or colored markers, and a blank 3" x 5" index card. Write in large letters on the board "GET WELL SOON." As the children arrive and sit down in their seats, have them create their own "GET WELL SOON" postcard by drawing simple pictures or designs they want. Say to them, "Boys and girls, you are going to take about 5 minutes to make a simple 'Get Well' postcard. We are making it for someone who has been sick for thirty-eight years. Wow, that's a long time, isn't it? If you were to write something to make this sick person feel better, what would you put on the postcard? Use the 5 colored crayons or markers that are on your table to decorate your card. (Give the students no more than 5-7 minutes to complete the task. For those who are not done, they can finish it after the Bible story time.) What did you draw or write to comfort this sick person?" (Let them share what they wrote on the postcard.) Today's bible story is about how Jesus showed His love and healed a crippled man who had been sick for thirty-eight years.

Jesus at the Pool of Bethesda

In the last few lessons, we learned about how Jesus picked people to help Him. He needed help to tell everyone about God. He also performed a great miracle by calming the storm when His disciples got scared. Jesus did not stop doing God's work.

One day, Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and He walked by a pool called Bethesda. This was not a pool for people to swim in, but a pool that had healing power. That means people thought that if someone who was very sick got into the waters, that person could get better. According to the people back then, an angel would come down into the pool at a certain time and stir up the water (make a stirring motion with two hands and ask the children to do the same); then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was going to get their illness completely healed. That means that no matter how sick they were, they would be all better as long as they got into the water first. Boys and girls, if you were someone who was sick, would you want to be the first one to jump in the water to be healed? Of course! I would want to be the first one to get in too. So you can

imagine that there would have been so many sick people waiting around the pool. Some of them were unable to see, some were unable to walk, and some were unable to move. They were all waiting there for the water to be stirred, so they could jump in right on time!

The Man Who Couldn't Walk

Now there was a lonely and crippled man who lay in a corner of the pool. Being crippled means he couldn't walk. He was waiting for his turn to jump in. But this man was very sick at that time, and he couldn't move or walk by himself at all. He had been sick for a long, long time- thirty-eight years! He didn't know anyone, and other people didn't care about him. So all he could do was lie there. Since no one helped him to the water, he could not get to the pool before anyone else every time the water was stirred. All he could do was lie there and watch other people get into the pool before he could. Even though it had been many years, the man still hoped that one day, someone might help him get closer to the water.

Jesus Heals the Crippled Man

But after so many years, the man didn't really think anyone would help him. How would it be possible for him to ever get in the pool? But that day, Jesus passed by that very pool. He saw what everyone was doing. He looked around and saw this crippled man, lying there with no one helping him. He walked up and began talking to this man.

Jesus knew the man was sick for many years, so He asked, "Do you want to get well?"

Of course the man wanted to be well! But he said, "There's no one to help me into the pool. When I try to get in, someone rushes in ahead of me."

Then Jesus said something amazing. He said, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

If you were that man, what would you do? Would you get up right away or would you just sit there, thinking Jesus was just kidding? Well, the man couldn't believe what he had heard but obeyed Jesus and got up.

Right away the crippled man felt very different. In fact, he jumped up. He couldn't believe it! He could walk! He rolled up the mat that he had been lying on all these years and started walking around. He was well and he didn't even have to get into the

water. Jesus healed him with just His words. Oh, what a big miracle Jesus had performed, to make this sick and crippled man get up and walk. The man was so happy that he was finally well. He was so excited that he carried his mat around telling everyone what just happened to him.

Do Not Sin Anymore

When Jesus helped this man, it was on the Sabbath day. Sabbath is when we come to church on Saturdays. Back then, no one was supposed to do any work on that day. They could only go and worship God at the temple. But this man was walking around carrying his mat. Some people stopped him. They asked him, "Why are you carrying your mat on the Sabbath day? Don't you know you are not supposed to carry that?"

The man answered, "I was sick and someone healed me. He told me to pick up my mat and walk."

"Who is this person who made you well," asked the people.

But the man did not know it was Jesus because by then, Jesus had already gone.

Later, the man saw Jesus at the temple. Jesus said, "Now that you're well, don't sin anymore, or something worse might happen to you." That

means Jesus wanted him to do things that made God happy from now on. Then the man knew that it was Jesus who healed him. He went and told everyone how much Jesus cared for him, and that Jesus had made him well!

Boys and girls, this crippled man who was healed by Jesus must have felt very thankful to be able to walk again. What a special blessing this was! Can you think of any blessings that Jesus has given to you or your family that you are very thankful for? (Share your own blessing, and encourage the children to talk about the different blessings that they have received from God.) Thank you for sharing! Now, do you remember the last thing that Jesus said to this man? Jesus asked him to "Sin no more!" Why is it important for all of us to NOT sin anymore after getting so many blessings from Jesus? (Wait for students to respond.) We don't want to make Jesus sad, because He cares so much about us. It is just like Mommy and Daddy who are very nice to you and take good care of you. Would you want to do bad things to make them sad? No, of course not! It's the same with our Lord Jesus. Let's remember to count all the blessings we have from God and make smart choices to be a good follower of God every day!



Check For Understanding

1. **How long had this crippled man been sick?** (He had been sick for thirty-eight years.)
2. **What did he want before he met Jesus?** (He wanted to be the next person to get into the pool, so his sickness would be healed.)
3. **What did Jesus do when He saw this crippled man?** (Jesus walked up to him and asked if he wanted to get well. Jesus healed the man and had him pick up his

mat and walk.)

4. **Why did some people stop the man when he carried his mat?** (It was the Sabbath day, and people were not supposed to do any work on that day.)
5. **What was the last thing Jesus told the man not to do?** (Jesus reminded the man not to sin anymore.)
6. **Have you ever been sick, and prayed to God to make you better? What happened?** (Students' responses may vary.)
7. **If you were crippled like this man, and Jesus made you walk again, what would you do?** (Students' responses may vary.)



Life Application Story

Jesus, the Best Doctor

Tommy came home from school one day and felt really sick. His head hurt. He felt hot and cold at the same time. All he wanted to do was to go to sleep. Tommy saw his mother in the kitchen.

"Hi, honey," Mrs. Lewis said. "How was school today?"

"School was fine, Mom," Tommy said, "but I feel really sick."

Mrs. Lewis walked up to Tommy and felt his forehead. It felt hot.

"Tommy, you have a fever. When did you start to feel like this today?"

"My head has been hurting since recess today, Mom," said Tommy, "I started to feel really sick after lunch at school."

"Go to your room now and get changed. I will come to take your temperature in a minute," Mrs. Lewis said.

After talking to his mom, Tommy went to his room to change into soft and warm clothes. Mrs. Lewis came into his room with a warm cup of water and a thermometer. She checked his temperature. It was close to 101 degrees.

"Not too good," thought Mrs. Lewis. But she didn't say anything more, and just tucked Tommy into bed. She pulled Tommy's blankets up right around his ears and gave him a warm smile.

Mrs. Lewis said, "Tommy, I'm going to make you some hot soup and bring you up some medicine to help with the fever. Right now, you can pray in your heart to Jesus and ask Him to make you feel better."

"Will Jesus make me feel better, Mom?" Tommy asked.

"He sure will," Mrs. Lewis said. "Jesus is the best doctor there is."

When Mrs. Lewis left, Tommy prayed in his heart and really asked Jesus to help him feel less miserable. He didn't want to be sick. After a short while, Mrs. Lewis came in to Tommy's room with a delicious bowl of chicken noodle soup as well as some medicine. Tommy was so glad that his mom was home to take care of him.

After he drank some of the soup, Mrs. Lewis asked, "Did you pray, Tommy?"

"Yes, Mom. I really asked Jesus to help me feel

better soon. I feel terrible right now," Tommy replied.

Mrs. Lewis continued, "Remember when your sister Julie got the stomach flu last time, we all prayed for her, and she felt much better the next day. Jesus listens to our prayers. Do you want me to pray with you one more time before you go to sleep?"

"Sure, Mom! But I want to finish your noodle soup first," said Tommy.

Mrs. Lewis thanked God that at least Tommy still wanted to eat. She watched him finish the soup, and they knelt down together to pray. After the prayer, Tommy was already feeling better. Mrs. Lewis told Tommy to get some rest. She was sure that Jesus had already listened to their prayers.

The next morning, Tommy woke up bright and early. The sun shone through his window. Mrs. Lewis came in to see how he was feeling.

"Tommy, you got up so early! Are you feeling better today?" Mrs. Lewis asked.

Tommy said, "I sure am, Mommy. We prayed to Jesus yesterday, and He really made me better."

"Jesus cares a lot for you, Tommy," Mrs. Lewis said. She touched his forehead again, and this time his body temperature felt normal.

"Jesus really is the best doctor," Tommy said.

"That's right, Tommy! You should really thank God for making you well so soon," Mrs. Lewis replied.

"I'm going to share this with my friends at school today. They all knew that I felt really sick before I came home yesterday," Tommy added.

"Praise God, Tommy! I am glad that you are counting the blessings that God has given you. Now, make sure you get changed and have breakfast so you won't be late for school," Mrs. Lewis said.

"Okay, Mom! I'll be right there in the kitchen!" Tommy was so happy to feel healthy again. As he changed into his school clothes, he suddenly hummed the tune "Jesus Loves Me," a song that he had learned at church last week. He was ready to tell his friends at school how Jesus took good care of him!

Questions to Think About:

1. What happened to Tommy after he came home from school? (Tommy felt sick.)

2. **What did Mrs. Lewis ask Tommy to do before he went to bed?** (Mrs. Lewis asked Tommy to pray and ask Jesus to make him feel better. She also prayed with him together.)
3. **What happened the next morning?** (Tommy felt much better and he didn't have a fever anymore.)
4. **What did Tommy tell Mrs. Lewis he was going to do at school that day?** (Tommy wanted to



Activity 1

The Man at the Pool

Look at the pictures of the man at the pool. Talk about what happened in each picture and fill in the blanks.

1. The man at the _____ (pool) is lying there.
2. _____ (Jesus) talks to the man.
3. Jesus tells the man to get up and _____ (walk.)
4. The man is at the _____ (temple) telling others what happened to him.



Activity 2

Jesus Can Heal Us

Look at each picture. How is each person feeling? How can Jesus help them? How can they thank God?

1. Grandma is feeling very sick.
2. Your good friend is feeling sick.
3. A neighbor falls off his bike and is hurt.
4. Your sister is in the hospital.



Activity 3

Thank You Hearts and Hands

Materials:

1. colored construction paper
2. markers and crayons
3. yarn
4. scissors
5. hole punch

Directions:

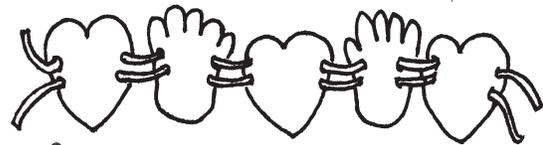
1. Provide each student with one piece of colored construction paper.
2. Have your students place their hand on the

tell all his friends about Jesus' wonderful healing.)

5. **If you were Tommy, would you tell your friends about the blessings that you have gotten from Jesus?** (Students' responses may vary.)
6. **What are some of the blessings you have received from Jesus?** (Allow students to answer.)

paper and trace out two hand shapes.

3. Cut out the hands.
4. Draw two heart shapes of comparable size and cut those out (you may wish to use other colors for this shape).
5. Now each student should have two hearts and two hands. They can decorate the shapes with colors, designs or words (help them write things like, "God can help us," or "God loves us.")
6. Once the designs are finished, hole punch each shape on both sides with two holes each.
7. Help the students string the shapes alternately with the yarn. Knot the yarn at the ends to help the shapes stay secure.
8. Encourage the students to hang their thank you hearts and hands so they can remember how much God loves them. They can also be reminded to thank God with their hearts and their hands (ie. through prayer).



Optional Activity

Role-Play

Materials:

1. blankets, bandages, ice packs, first-aid kits

Directions:

1. The children can pretend to be nurses, doctors, paramedics, and sick people.
2. Use plenty of props such as blankets, bandages, ice packs, etc. Chairs can be lined up to make a pretend ambulance.
3. The children can help people, like Jesus did. They should tell their patients that God loves them and cares for them.

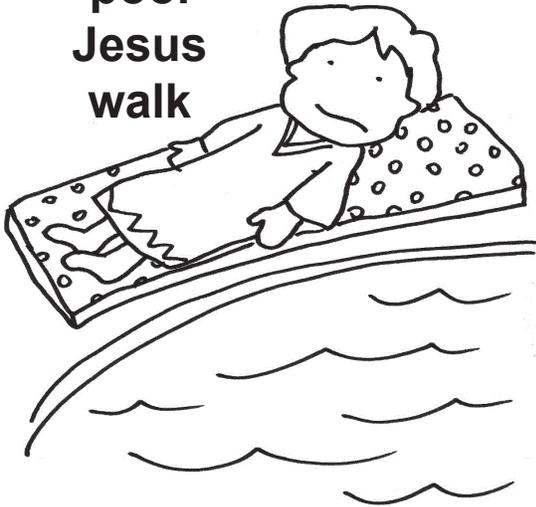
Activity 11:1

The Man at the Pool

Look at the pictures of the man at the pool.
Talk about what happened in each picture and fill in the blanks.

WORD BANK

temple
pool
Jesus
walk



1. The man at the _____
is lying there.



2. _____ talks to the man.



3. Jesus tells the man to get up
and _____.



4. The man is at the _____
telling others what happened to
him.

Activity 11:2

Jesus Can Heal Us

Look at each picture. How is each person feeling? How can Jesus help them? How can they thank God after they are well?



1. Grandma is feeling very sick.



2. Your good friend is sick.



3. A neighbor falls off his bike .
and is hurt.



4. Your sister is in the hospital.