

Junior 1 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 9
The Healing Miracles of Jesus (III)
Passages: Jn 4:46–54; 5:1–16

Memory Verse

“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise.” (Jeremiah 17:14)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
God works in ways beyond our understanding.	God is compassionate and all-powerful.	Turn to God first in our time of need.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. Understanding Miracles
- B. The Healing of the Nobleman’s Son
- C. The Healing of the Man at Bethesda
- D. The Two Miracles Compared

Life Application: Do You Want to Be Made Well?

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Jesus Christ is the ultimate healer and Savior. If we put our trust in Him, we will find that He is able to heal us both inside and out in the most wonderful of ways.

Spiritual Teachings

A. Understanding Miracles

A miracle is an extraordinary event that demonstrates God's intervention in the lives of men. In the Bible, many miracles are recorded in the Old and New Testaments. Throughout His lifetime on earth, Jesus Christ performed many of them. These miracles are evidence that Jesus Christ is God, the Creator of the universe. Studying His miracles helps us to develop a better understanding of Christ, and of why we can trust in Him with our whole heart.

Today, we will look at two miracles of healing in the Gospel of John.

B. The Healing of the Nobleman's Son

The first miracle we'll study today is recorded in John 4:46–49. Let's read it together.

The Problem

So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

(Jn 4:46–49)

The journey from Capernaum to Cana would have taken a whole day by foot, but at such a critical time, the nobleman was willing to leave his son's side to seek Jesus. He saw Jesus Christ as his last hope in a dire and desperate situation. We are able to see his urgency and anxiety through his request to Jesus Christ. The nobleman not only begs Jesus to come heal his son, but even commands Jesus, saying "Sir, come down before my child dies!" (v. 49). He is so focused on his need for Jesus Christ to heal his son that he fails to see who Jesus Christ is. The nobleman could not see that standing before him was Jesus, who is God Himself.

Oftentimes, we are like this nobleman. In our minds, we know that Jesus Christ is able to help us, but we have difficulty bringing our burdens before Him. We focus fully on the problem. Thus, we are blind to the fact that standing before us is our almighty God, who is greater than any problem that we may face. Similarly, we may also be like this nobleman and decide for Jesus how He should help us. The nobleman believed firmly that Jesus Christ had to go down to Capernaum to be able to heal his son. However, Jesus Christ works in ways more wonderful and more powerful than this nobleman could ever imagine.

The Miracle

Let us continue by reading John 4:50–54.

In response to the nobleman's request, Jesus simply replied: "Go your way; your son lives" (v. 50). With those unassuming words, Jesus Christ healed the nobleman's son. He did not need to travel to Capernaum as the nobleman had thought. Instead, Jesus Christ demonstrated the power and authority of His word. The nobleman trusted Jesus and returned home after hearing His words. He did not beg or question Jesus any further.

Along the way home, the nobleman's faith in Jesus strengthened when he met his servant, who told him that his son had recovered. After further inquiry, the nobleman discovered that his son had been healed

the moment Jesus had said to him, “Your son lives.” The discovery solidified the nobleman’s faith and enabled his whole household to believe. The nobleman learned that Jesus Christ’s authority and power surpassed what he had imagined.

Today, Jesus Christ is also able to work in our lives when we trust in Him. Though we may have our own ideas about how to solve problems, we must understand that our God in heaven is all-powerful. His power is far greater than what we imagine. Therefore, we should learn to trust in His authority fully as our sovereign God, for His ways are above our own.

C. The Healing of the Man at Bethesda

Next, let us turn to another miracle of healing and begin by reading John 5:1–7.

The Problem

Unlike the other miracles of healing we have studied, the person who needed healing did not explicitly ask Jesus Christ for help. Rather, Jesus Christ approached the man, asking, “Do you want to be made well?” (v. 6). Jesus had compassion on him because He knew that the man had been afflicted for a long time. Though the solution lay just before him, being unable to walk and having no one to bring him into the pool, he was not only alone, but also in a hopeless situation.

In response to Jesus Christ’s question, the man replied, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me” (v. 7). Similar to the previous miracle, this man was focused upon seeking the solution he believed he needed—he failed to see Jesus Christ standing before Him. But actually, Jesus was the solution he needed.

The Miracle

“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.”

(Jn 5:8–9)

Again, we see the power and authority of Jesus’ words. With one command, Jesus healed a man who had been suffering for thirty-eight years. Though the man had no idea who Jesus was, Jesus still healed him according to His own will and grace. Jesus Christ has the authority to heal whom He wishes.

The man who received healing had an interesting response. He did not know the identity of the Man who had just healed him, and he also did not ask. He simply stood up, took his bed, and walked away. The Bible does not record any words of thanksgiving or praise. The man did not exhibit any desire to understand why and how he was healed.

Let us continue to read John 5:10–16.

When confronted by the Jews about carrying his bed on the Sabbath, the man who was healed placed the blame on Jesus. Later, Jesus Christ found him in the temple, pointed out that he had been healed, and exhorted him to sin no more. After departing the temple, the healed man told the Jews that Jesus Christ was the one who had healed him on the Sabbath.

The Bible does not record what kind of lifestyle this man led after his healing, but through this miracle, we can see Jesus’ compassion for this man. Jesus not only wanted him to be healed physically, He also wanted him to transform from within and depart from his sinful lifestyle.

D. The Two Miracles Compared

The author of the Gospel of John chose to place these stories together, and we can learn much by comparing and contrasting these two miracles.

The Healing of the Nobleman's Son	The Healing of the Man at Bethesda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard that Jesus was in the area • Went to find Jesus • Believed after witnessing the miracle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not know who Jesus was • Found and approached by Jesus • Did not believe even after being healed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had their own ideas of how to receive healing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The nobleman believed that Jesus had to go to his house to heal his son ○ The man at Bethesda believed that only the pool could heal him • Healed by the power of Jesus' word 	

Both of these miracles are examples of how Jesus Christ healed through the power of His words. As God Himself, He holds authority in the words that He speaks. Apart from being demonstrations of Jesus' power, these miracles are also expressions of Jesus' compassion. He shows no partiality when He heals. From those who beg Him to those who do not even know who He is, He heals them all. His compassion and love have no limits. Today, we must trust in our Savior, who not only has the power but also the compassion to help us in our time of need. Let us continue to put our faith in Him and submit to His will. When we do, we will experience His love and power in our lives in ways beyond our imagination.

Check for Understanding

- 1. How did the nobleman think his son was going to be healed?** He thought Jesus was going to go with him to his home in Capernaum to heal his son.
- 2. How did the man at Bethesda think he was going to be healed?** He thought he would be healed if someone could put him in the pool when the water was first stirred.
- 3. How did Jesus heal both of them?** Jesus healed both of them by His word.
- 4. Compare and contrast these two miracles. How are they similar? How are they different?**

Different		Similar
The Nobleman	The man at Bethesda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard that Jesus was in the area • Went to go find Him • Believed after witnessing the miracle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not know who Jesus was • Jesus found him • Did not believe even after being healed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had their own ideas of how to receive healing • Healed by the power of Jesus word

- 5. What do these two miracles reveal to us about Jesus Christ's compassion?** Jesus Christ shows no partiality when He heals. He has the authority to heal whom He wills.

Life Application

"Do you want to be made well?" (Lk 5:6)

It seemed like an odd question for Jesus Christ to ask a man who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years because, of course, the man wanted to be healed. However, Jesus Christ's question served to reveal the man's heart. Despite having Jesus Christ standing right before him, he could only see the pool that he could never get into and the hopelessness of his situation.

Oftentimes, we can be like this afflicted man. Though Jesus Christ is right before us, we look towards other people or things to help us. When we get a headache, our first reaction is to take some medicine. When we have to make a difficult decision, we may first seek the advice of our peers. It is not wrong to take medicine or to seek the advice of others. However, when we turn to these outlets first, we have forgotten that we have a God in heaven that is almighty and powerful. It is only when these outlets are unable to help us that we finally turn to Him. At this point when we have run out of options, Jesus Christ becomes our backup plan.

Let us reflect upon ourselves with the following questions:

- What is our first reaction when we encounter a problem?
- When do we turn to Jesus?
- Have we treated Jesus Christ as our backup plan?

This afflicted man was freed from thirty-eight years of suffering once Jesus spoke words of healing. He didn't know who Jesus was, but Jesus was still willing to heal him. Today, as His precious children, how much more does Jesus want to come into our lives to make us well? He does not desire for us to suffer alone. Instead, He wants us to turn to Him so that He can make us well. Let us not make Him our second choice, but rather our first choice in life. When there is something that makes us anxious, we can ask Him to give us peace in our hearts. So, how do we remind ourselves to turn to Jesus first?

1. Count our blessings

We should remember the grace that God has bestowed upon our lives. He wants us to give thanks to Him in all circumstances. Whether good or bad, God wants us to turn to Him with thanksgiving (1 Thess 5:18). When we remember to give thanks in our times of joy, then we will remember to turn to Him in our times of need.

2. Be connected to Him

In our time of need, we will often go to those in whom we trust. However, trust requires time and effort to grow. This is also true of our relationship with our Father in heaven. When we pray or study His word, we connect with our God in heaven. Through this daily cultivation, we are able to grow in our trust in Him.

When we are willing to bring ourselves to Jesus Christ first, we will find that He is waiting for us to turn to Him. The things that we have relied on before will pale in comparison to our Savior, who has the power and compassion to help us overcome any obstacle we may encounter. He is the only one who can truly help us!

Testimony: Healed from the Inside Out

In the name of the Lord Jesus, I testify to glorify His name. I grew up in the church, attending religious education classes, and even receiving the Holy Spirit when I was young. When I started high school, my behavior and spirituality were good. However, my spiritual life spiraled downward as my freshman year progressed. By my junior year, I quarreled with my family daily, went wherever I

wanted to go, lied constantly, and made bad friends. It progressed to the point where I thought about quitting church because I couldn't understand why I was bound by so many rules when all I wanted was to be free. Pride also began to grow in my heart because everything else in my life was so good. I was young and doing well in school. I felt untouchable. What I didn't realize was that even though I was very much alive on the outside, inside I was dying.

One morning in October 2012, during my junior year, I woke up with a very stiff neck. When I went to the bathroom and looked in the mirror, I saw a lump the size of a gumball, sticking out of my left clavicle. A week passed and the gumball had swollen to the size of my fist. As the weeks passed, the lump seemed to grow bigger and bigger.

After seeing a series of head and neck specialists and oncologists, I was diagnosed with having cancer of the lymph nodes. Finally, the panic set in, but my faith was weak, so I neither blamed God nor sought His help. It seemed pointless because I thought that God didn't love me.

After being diagnosed with cancer, it is standard procedure to undergo several body scans. It turned out that there were two tumors in my body. Thank God, though I had two large tumors, the lymphoma was only at stage II, meaning that it was discovered early and very treatable. My chemotherapy took place about once every fortnight. I had to receive special shots to replenish my white blood cells. As a result, there were countless nights when I was jolted awake by a painful burning sensation in my spine. In one particular instance, I asked God why He would bring me this suffering, and I pleaded for Him to take away the pain. As I lay there, I started to reflect on how sinful my life was. I recalled that, "For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights" (Prov 3:12). As I thought about this verse, my prayer started to change. I began to understand that God was chastising me, and I accepted His actions. In prayer, I started admitting my wrong. I recognized that this was something I deserved, and I accepted it. When I returned to God, He showed His faithfulness and lessened my suffering.

God also protected me psychologically. Throughout my entire diagnosis and treatment, I cried only once. I knew that God had put me into good human hands while covering me with His own hand. I had a great support system consisting of my parents, friends, family, and church. I felt a peace and joy washing over me, which could only have been possible through hope in God.

Another blessing was that I was able to go to church throughout my illness, even though I was housebound. The cancer affected my immune system, so I had to be home-schooled. But when Saturdays came around, I would get dressed and go to church to keep the Sabbath. I had no fear about going to church because I felt that God was protecting me, that He would not allow anything to happen to me. Because of this, church was my only source of influence during that six-month period. This was another blessing, because it meant that I was removed from the darkness I had been living in. I was no longer surrounded by bad friends or negative influences at school. God was detoxifying me spiritually, and at the same time, He was filling me with His love and mercy through church members and my family. I no longer felt the need to be sinful or to fulfill my own pleasure, because I felt filled already.

The greatest blessing was that cancer transformed my relationship with my family. After six months of being sick and spending every day with my parents, I experienced their love more than imaginable. They supported me throughout my chemotherapy, as they accompanied me to every session, made me feel comfortable, cleaned me up after every long day, and helped me recover. They dropped their

entire lives to take care of me and make sure I was okay. I really thank God for giving me such amazing parents.

As the chemotherapy was working to shrink the malignant cells and tumors, I also felt my evil desires, anger, and weaknesses diminishing. It was spiritual chemotherapy. I found it especially interesting that I had a huge growth right in front of my heart, as though it was a physical manifestation of all the evil that was covering my heart. It had brought me so much anger and emptiness, preventing me from seeing God and other people in a good light. During my treatment, even though I felt like my outer body was dying, my inner person was slowly being brought back to life, being strengthened and restored on the right path.

Thank God, I was declared cancer-free in April 2013. Even though I suffered, I came out practically unscathed. Even now, my experience of having cancer feels like a dream that I can hardly remember. My only reminders of ever being sick are the scars on my body. God really protected me and showed me His mercy and love. He placed me in the fire in order to refine me so that I would be a more complete vessel. He showed me His righteousness. Even more, He showed me He is my heavenly Father. He took me back and saved me from being lost. Now I feel that I should do everything for the glory of God to repay His love.

I'm very thankful that He saved my life. May all glory and praise be unto His name.

- Steffi Joeng, USA

Adapted from *Manna 75: Towards Maturity*

Memory Verse

"Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise." (Jeremiah 17:14)

Meaning

1. God has the authority to heal and save us.
2. If it is His will to heal us, we will be healed.
3. God is worthy of our praise because He is our healer and Savior.

Conclusion

Jesus Christ is the ultimate healer and Savior. He heals us out of His love by His word. For this reason, we should open our hearts and bring our wounds to Him. If we put our trust in Him, we will find that He is able to heal us both inside and out in the most wonderful of ways.

Lesson 9 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about God's nature?
God has the authority and power to heal and save us from anything. He is compassionate towards us.
2. What did the nobleman believe that Jesus needed to do in order to heal his son?
He believed that Jesus needed to see his son in person.
3. Why did Jesus approach the man He healed at Bethesda again in the temple?
Jesus did not limit His healing to the physical. He also wanted the man to transform from within and depart from his sinful lifestyle.
4. What do these two miracles teach us about Jesus Christ's sovereignty?
Both the nobleman and the man at Bethesda had preconceived notions about what was required for healing. But Jesus is not bound by the thinking of mankind; no matter what we believe we may need, His understanding and power are infinitely greater than our own.
5. What do these two miracles teach us about Jesus Christ's compassion?
Jesus shows no partiality in His healing; He has great compassion for us, especially we who are His beloved children.
6. Share one way that you have experienced God's grace this past week.
Personal answers.