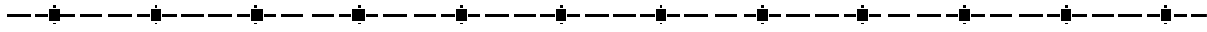


GOD'S BIG PLAN

Jesus Has Power Over Sickness John 9:1-41

Supporting Scriptures: Mt 4:24; Mt 8:14-17; Mt 9:1-8,12; Mt 11:5; Mt 25:31-46; Lk 4:40; Lk 5:17-26; Lk 6:18; Lk 7:1-16,21; Jn 4:46-54; Romans 8:28



Lesson Goals:
To see that Jesus is Creator and spoke things into being.
To see that nothing is impossible with God.
To see that Jesus put Himself in our place and suffered what we should have suffered.

Scripture Memory He suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on himself the pain that should have been ours. Isaiah 53:4 (NIV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Don't read it. Tell it as a STORY. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: Let's review what we have learned so far. (Review the previous stories, focusing on the ones that specifically point to Christ's birth. Encourage more and more students to share.)

Last week we remembered that Jesus was in the beginning with God. Anything that was created, He created. How did God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bring things into being? How was light created? How did the waters come together? (God spoke and it happened!) Is there anything too hard for God to do? (No!)

We also saw last week that when Jesus learned about John's death, He was tired and sad. He wanted to be alone, to talk to God. When He saw the crowd that had gathered, though, He wasn't selfish, but helped them and taught them before multiplying loaves and fish to feed the crowd. Then, Jesus walked on water to where His disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. By doing these things, Jesus showed that He has power over the things He has created. Is there anything else Jesus has power over?

READ: John 9:1-3 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Jesus' disciples thought the way many people thought. They assumed that if someone were sick or suffering they must have done something wrong. If the sick person hadn't done anything wrong, surely their parents had. That is why they asked Jesus whose fault it was. "Who sinned that made this man blind. Did he sin? Did his parents?" Jesus' answer was amazing! "It's no one's fault that this man was blind. God allowed his blindness to happen so that people could see God at work."

To show what God can do, Jesus spit on the ground. He made mud with the dirt and spit. Then Jesus rubbed the mud on the blind man's eyes. But that wasn't all. Instead of washing the man's eyes there, Jesus sent the man to a pool of water called "Siloam." He was to wash his eyes in that pool. The man didn't complain or make up excuses for why he couldn't get to the Pool of Siloam. He didn't offer better ideas. The blind man obeyed Jesus. We don't know who helped him get there, but the blind man went to the Pool of Siloam and washed his eyes. When he returned home, he could see!

What an amazing day! This man had been blind all of his life. He had never seen grass nor dirt. He had never seen trees nor the sky. He had never seen his mom and dad. What wonderful discoveries he made that day. As wonderful as it was to see for the very first time, another wonderful discovery awaited him.

Jesus found the man again. When He found him, Jesus asked him, “Do you believe in God’s Son?” The blind man could see with his eyes, but he didn’t know who Jesus was talking about. “Who is he,” the man asked Jesus, “so that I can believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have already seen him. In fact, you are talking to Him right now!” And just as quickly as the blind man had obeyed Jesus in washing at the pool, he said, “Lord, I believe.” Right there the man worshipped Jesus. Not only did the blind man receive his sight that day, he received eternal life by believing in God’s One and Only Son.

Review:

Let’s review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

The Bible is full of stories of people who were sick or blind, of people who couldn’t walk or who were dying. Jesus healed many people when He walked on the earth. Maybe you know someone right now who is blind, deaf or very sick. We saw in our story that God allowed the man’s blindness to happen so that people could see God at work. That’s hard for us because we think that when we follow God, nothing bad should ever happen to us. God still allows things to come into our lives that might be difficult. God is big enough and powerful enough to take the bad away, if He wants to. God is also big enough and powerful enough to turn the bad into something good in our life.

You may not be blind like the man in our story and you may have never had trouble walking. But you and I and all of us are sick with something called sin. Sin separates us from God, like a stone wall. But Jesus chose to suffer the death we deserve because of our sin. He took the pain that should have been mine and yours when He died on the cross. He did it because He loves us. And when He came back to life on the third day, He showed that He has power over the sickness of sin, as well.

Have you accepted the gift Jesus gave you by taking your pain and suffering as His own? Would you like to? He’s waiting for you. Let’s talk, if you do.

And if you have already accepted God’s indescribable gift of Jesus, there is something you need to do. In God’s book, He describes those who are His followers. He said, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you gave them to me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.” Jesus explained that when we help someone else, we are really helping Him. True followers of Jesus care about others who are sin-sick. When you give food to someone who is hungry, they may want to know why. You can tell them that God loves them very much.

Planning for Next Week
Lesson 38 • Jesus Has Power Over Death
John 11

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

SHARE: One day, as Jesus was walking along, he saw a blind man. This blind man had been blind all of his life. He was born blind. Jesus’ disciples thought the man must have done something wrong. If he hadn’t done anything wrong, surely his parents had. People in Jesus’ time thought that sickness was a punishment from God for doing something wrong. That is why they asked Jesus whose fault it was. “Who sinned that made this man blind. Did he sin? Did his parents?” Jesus told them, “It’s no one’s fault that this man was blind. God let him be blind so that people could see God do amazing things!”

To show what God can do, Jesus spit on the ground. He made mud with the dirt and spit. Then Jesus rubbed the mud on the blind man’s eyes. But that wasn’t all. Instead of washing the mud off right there, Jesus sent the man to a pool of water called “Siloam.” The man didn’t complain or make up excuses about why he couldn’t get to the Pool of Siloam. He didn’t offer better ideas. The blind man obeyed Jesus. We don’t know who helped him get there, but the blind man went to the Pool of Siloam and washed his eyes. When he headed home, he could see!

What an amazing day! This man had been blind all of his life. He had never seen grass nor dirt. He had never seen trees nor the sky. He had never seen his mom nor dad. What wonderful discoveries he made that day. As wonderful as it was to see for the very first time, another wonderful discovery awaited him. Jesus found the man again. When He found him, Jesus asked him, “Do you believe in God’s Son?” The blind man could see with his eyes, but he didn’t know who Jesus was talking about. “Who is he,” the man asked Jesus, “so that I can believe in him?” Jesus said, “You have already seen him. You are talking to Him right now!” And just as quickly as the blind man had obeyed Jesus by washing at the pool, he said, “Lord, I believe.” Right there the man worshipped Jesus. Not only did the blind man receive his sight that day, he received eternal life by believing in God’s One and Only Son.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for making sick people well.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Illustrate the memory verse. On a poster board or white board, ask the students to tell you things they have done that are sin. Ask for a volunteer. Begin by placing a backpack on their back. Place heavy items in the back pack, pairing them with sins your students have committed. When the pack is pretty heavy, talk about how sin weighs us down. It causes us to suffer. Then, take the backpack from them and wear it yourself. Explain that Jesus carried all of our suffering and pain when He chose to die on the cross for us. Be sure to practice the memory verse several times.
- Bring blindfolds to class. Allow students to experience what it is like not to see. Talk about the many people Jesus healed. Remind them that He may not have healed them from sickness, but Jesus died in our place to take away our sin-sickness.
- Make “Jesus Heals the Sick” pictures. Frame the pictures with bandages.
- Finger paint with brown tempera paint, mud, or chocolate pudding. Remind your students of the mud Jesus made to put on the blind man’s eyes.
- Make a “Mud Dessert” by layering chocolate pudding and crushed chocolate sandwich cookies. For added effect, place a few candy worms in the “mud.”
- Encourage students to draw pictures of the first things they would want to see if they had been blind all of their lives.
- Practice using only four senses. Prepare a bag or box of leaves, gummy candy, fur, feathers, rocks, fruit, etc. Blindfolding your students, allow them to touch, smell, taste and hear the things in your bag. Encourage them to guess what each item is. Explain to your students that when one sense has been taken away, such as sight, the other four senses grow stronger.
- Practice reading Braille. Check out a Braille book from the library and give your students an opportunity to experience how the blind read.