



# JESUS HEALED A MAN BORN BLIND



### LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

People can obey Jesus as a response to His love.

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

John 9:1-34

### SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

September 15

### UNIT VERSE

Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you through him. *Acts 2:22*

### WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE

The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. *1 Corinthians 4:20*



## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Long passages of Scripture seem, well, long. Before you choose to forgo a careful look at these thirty-four verses, know that they represent some of the most artistic work in the Gospel. In these verses John beautifully contrasts the themes of light and darkness. Later, Jesus explained the miracle when He proclaimed that He came into this world for judgment. Jesus also said those who did not see would see, and those who did see would become blind.

When the disciples asked what caused the man’s blindness, Jesus declared that neither the man nor his parents were the cause, and then Jesus took the opportunity to shine the light on God. Jesus, as the Light of the world, used the blind man’s life to illustrate His point. Jesus spit on the ground—quite human—and made some mud that He put on the man’s sightless eyes. Jesus sent him to wash in a pool with a name that means “sent.” The man washed his eyes in the pool and came back seeing—quite divine. When the blind man’s shocked neighbors asked what had happened, the only thing the man could tell them was that his healing came from a man named Jesus.

This miracle caused quite a stir with the religious elite. Never offering help before, the Pharisees stepped into this man’s life to accuse Jesus of breaking the laws of the Sabbath. But even they were at odds with each other after witnessing this good deed to help someone in need, in spite of what their law said. Because of Jesus’ actions light shined in the man’s eyes for the first time. But the Pharisees continued to live in darkness. They refused to be enlightened by the way Jesus met this man’s need.

The man was healed because of Jesus. He obediently went to the pool without questioning the Lord. How strong is your faith? Do you always take Jesus at His word? Do you ever have doubts or reservations?

Some of his neighbors recognized the man, but others did not. He was the same but different. How can you help your kids understand that Jesus has the power to meet people’s needs? Like the man, when kids trust and follow Jesus, they are the same but different.



## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- › Form small groups of kids. Explain that kids will use their Bibles to research some of Jesus' powerful miracles.
- › Guide each small group to select a "Scripture Reference" card, read the verses in the Bible, and answer the following questions: Who had a problem? What was the problem? What did Jesus do? What was the miracle? How did people respond?
- › After kids complete the activity, invite them to share what they learned.



## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- › Challenge the kids to walk from one side of the room to the other without stepping on any sheets of paper. Then call additional challenges such as, walk backward, tiptoe, and hop on one foot.
- › For the final challenge, show the blindfolds. Discuss whether or not the kids can cross the room without stepping on any paper wearing blindfolds. Talk about the challenges of being unable to see.
- › Guide kids to form partners. One partner will wear the blindfold while the other partner guides her across the room. After the pair successfully moves across the room, they will switch roles.
- › Explain that today's Bible story tells about a man who was born blind.
- › Point out that the blindfolded kids needed help to make it across the room. The guides met a need by making it possible for their partners to cross the room successfully. Comment that today kids will hear how Jesus used His power to meet people's needs.



## MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- › Tell kids that in a big city, they might see people from all over the world. Many people move to cities for work and to enjoy a better way of life. God loves all of them. A city is a great place to tell lots of different people about Jesus!
- › Explain that the Rigneys are a missionary family who moved to London, England so that they could share the gospel with people who come from other countries to live there.
- › Invite kids to watch the "Our London" video.

- › paper
- › pencils
- › marker
- › index cards—Write 1 reference per card:
  - *Matthew 9:1-8*
  - *Matthew 12:10-14*
  - *Matthew 14:34-36*
  - *Mark 1:40-45*
  - *Luke 13:10-17*
  - *John 5:1-13*
- › Option: "Scripture References" (Printables)
- › dry erase marker
- › marker board—Write these questions: *Who had a problem? What was the problem? What did Jesus do? What was the miracle? How did people respond?*
- › sheets of paper—Scatter several sheets on the floor, leaving some open space between the sheets.
- › blindfolds
- › Option: "Jesus Healed a Man Born Blind" coloring page (Printables)

- › Videos



## STUDY THE BIBLE



### 1. BIBLE STORY

- » Sing “Your Amazing Power, Jesus.”
- » Point out the “Unit 1 Banner.” Briefly remind kids of the previous sessions and what they learned about Jesus’ amazing power over sickness and nature.
- » Explain that in today’s Bible story kids will hear how Jesus showed His power to meet people’s needs.
- » Open the Bible to John 9 and tell the Bible story.

#### **BIBLE STORY: JESUS HEALED A MAN BORN BLIND**

Jesus and His disciples passed a man who had been blind since he was born. The disciples asked, “Teacher, what caused this man to be blind? Did he sin? Did his parents sin?”

Jesus said, “This man is not blind because he or his parents sinned. This happened so God’s power can be seen in him.” Then Jesus spit on the ground, made mud with the spit, and rubbed it on the man’s eyes. “Go wash in the pool of Siloam,” Jesus said. The man did, and when he returned, he could see!

The man’s neighbors were confused. “Isn’t this the blind man?” some asked. Others said, “No, he just looks like the blind man!”

But the man said, “I’m the one!”

His neighbors asked, “How can you see?”

“The man called Jesus made some mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam,” the man explained. “When I went and washed, I received my sight!”

The neighbors brought him to the religious leaders. The leaders were angry because the man was healed on the Sabbath. They accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath laws and questioned how a sinner could perform such a miracle.

The religious leaders tried to question the blind man’s parents, but they were afraid and said that their son was old enough to explain for himself what had happened.

They sent again for the man born blind. He said to the religious leaders, “Whether Jesus is a sinner or not I cannot say. I only know that I was blind, and now I see. If Jesus was not from God, He would not have been able to open my eyes.”

The angry leaders threw the man out of the synagogue.

— BASED ON JOHN 9:1-34

- » Pack Items 1, 2, 5: “Unit 1 Banner,” “Unit 1 Verse,” “God’s Plan for Me Poster”
- » Teaching Picture 3
- » Music
- » Videos
- » masking tape—Create a child-size tic-tac-toe grid on the floor.
- » marker
- » sticky notes—Write 1 word or phrase of the Unit Verse per sticky note. (Create 1 note per child, if possible.) Attach the notes to a focal wall. For older kids, place the notes on the wall in scrambled order.
- » blindfold

## 2. REVIEW

- › Show the Teaching Picture. Encourage the kids to tell what happened before and after the scene in the picture.
- › Draw attention to the tic-tac-toe grid on the floor. Explain that players will form Xs and Os with their bodies and stand in the spaces.
- › Form two teams. Designate one team as Xs and the other team as Os.
- › Alternate asking a Review Question to each team and, if needed, create additional questions from the story. A team who answers correctly will select one team member to make an X or O on the grid. If a team answers incorrectly, the opposing team may answer. The first team to get three Xs or Os in a row wins.
- › **Option:** Show the “Notebook Bible Story” video.

## 3. LIFE ACTION

- › Restate that Jesus has the power to meet people's needs. Discuss the difference between needs and wants.
- › Invite the kids to share some needs that Jesus can meet. Suggest salvation if no one mentions it.
- › Use the “God's Plan for Me Poster” to discuss the truth that we need a Savior to rescue us from sin. Explain that only Jesus is able to meet our need for salvation. People can obey Jesus as a response to His love.
- › Remind kids that no matter what our needs are, Jesus has the power to meet them.
- › Guide the kids to pray silently for a moment, asking Jesus to meet any needs they have. Voice a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus for His power to meet people's needs.
- › **Option:** Show the “Mooseberry Life Application” video.

## 4. UNIT VERSE

- › Say the “Unit 1 Verse” together.
- › Show the sticky notes you prepared. Guide the kids to read the verse from the sticky notes.
- › Invite a child to wear a blindfold and guide him to remove one sticky note. After a sticky note is removed, kids will recite the verse, including the removed word or phrase.
- › Select another person and continue until kids remove all the sticky notes.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › What did the disciples ask Jesus about the man's blindness? *(whether it was because the man or his parents had sinned)*
- › How did Jesus heal the blind man? *(Jesus put mud on the man's eyes and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam.)*
- › Why were the religious leaders angry? *(Jesus healed the man on a Sabbath.)*
- › What did the man tell the religious leaders about Jesus? *(“If Jesus had not come from God, He could not do miracles.”)*
- › What did the religious leaders do to the man? *(threw him out of the synagogue)*
- › How did Jesus meet the blind man's needs? *(Answers will vary.)*

**Option for Unit Verse:**  
Teach the weekly Bible verse, 1 Corinthians 4:20.



## LIVE IT OUT

### CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › white glue
- › liquid starch
- › food color
- › measuring cups
- › small plastic bowls (1 per person)
- › plastic spoons
- › sandwich-size ziplock bags
- › table covering
- › wet wipes

#### Need some help?

Activity answers are on page 31 of the Kids Activity Pages.

### CHOICE 2

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › dry erase marker
- › marker board or poster board

### CHOICE 1

#### MAKE SLIME

- › Instruct the kids to complete “I See!” and “Texting Truth” on their Kids Activity Pages. Kids will unscramble the words to review how Jesus meets our biggest need—the need for a Savior.
- › Ask the kids how Jesus healed the blind man. (*He put mud on his eyes.*) Emphasize the “gross factor” of Jesus spitting and making mud.
- › Invite the kids to make slime to remind them that Jesus made mud that healed the man born blind.
- › Set out the supplies. Guide each person to measure and mix these ingredients in a bowl, a little at a time, mixing well.
  - 4 ounces of white glue
  - 2 ounces of liquid starch
  - 1-2 drops food color (if desired)
- › After the mixture begins to pull away from the edges of the bowl, lead kids to take it out to begin kneading and stretching the slime, an important step to fully combine the ingredients.
- › While kids are kneading, share an age-appropriate personal story of a time when Jesus met a need in your life.
- › When kids finish kneading the slime, direct them to store it in ziplock bags.
- › Wrap up by emphasizing that Jesus has the power to meet people’s needs.

### CHOICE 2

#### MEETING NEEDS ROLE PLAY

- › Instruct the kids to complete “I See!” on their Kids Activity Pages. Kids will unscramble the words to review how Jesus meets our biggest need—the need for a Savior.
- › Encourage the kids to think of needs kids their age might have. Write kids’ responses on a marker board. If someone mentions a want instead of a need, gently encourage a different answer.
- › Guide kids to select a need from the list and role play a situation where they are a friend encouraging another person with that need. Give everyone a turn to be the person in need and the encouraging friend.
- › Draw kids’ attention to “Texting Truth” on their Kids Activity Pages. Based on the role plays, lead kids to write an encouraging text message to a friend.
- › Wrap up by emphasizing that Jesus has the power to meet people’s needs.

**CHOICE 3****DIFFERENT NEEDS AWARENESS**

- » Guide the kids to complete “I See!” and “Texting Truth” on their Kids Activity Pages. Kids will unscramble the words to review how Jesus meets our biggest need—the need for a Savior.
- » Mention that the man in today’s Bible story was blind from birth. Talk about the difficulties he might have faced growing up.
- » Lead the kids to share other types of needs people might have today, such as being wheelchair bound, being unable to hear, needing crutches, or being unable to speak.
- » Remind the kids that Jesus cared about the man born blind. Jesus used His power to perform a miracle and healed the man.
- » Invite kids to attempt three different activities that will remind them to show compassion to people with different needs. Explain that kids should not race or hurry to complete the activities. Kids also should not make fun of or laugh at others having difficulty.
- » **Note:** Consider forming partners and allowing partners to work together. This especially will help any kids in your group who have special needs.
- » Draw attention to the activity stations and give directions for each one:
  - Complete a simple puzzle wearing a blindfold.
  - Without using your hands write today’s Life Point: *Jesus has power to meet people’s needs*. Hint: Kids will hold markers in their mouths. Make sure that kids use different markers and disinfect the markers with wipes after using.
  - Tie a shoe with only one hand.
- » Challenge kids to move to the different stations and complete all three activities.
- » Debrief by talking about the difficulties some people face every day. Encourage kids to be aware of people who might be struggling and help them when they can.
- » Wrap up by emphasizing that Jesus has the power to meet people’s needs.

**WRAP UP**

- » Explain that Jesus met the need of the man born blind by healing him. Challenge the kids to be ready to help meet someone’s needs.
- » Pray, thanking God that Jesus has the power to meet people’s needs.
- » Give kids One Conversation™ pages.

**CHOICE 3**

- » Kids Activity Pages
- » pencils
- » wooden preschool puzzles (less than 10 pieces)
- » blindfold
- » paper
- » markers
- » disinfectant wipes (to clean markers after being placed in kids’ mouths)
- » dry erase marker
- » marker board or poster board—On the board write: *Jesus has power to meet people’s needs*. Set up the markers, paper, and disinfecting wipes near the board.
- » shoes with laces
- » **Activity stations**—Set up 3 stations around the room.
  - puzzles and blindfolds
  - markers, paper, disinfecting wipes
  - shoes with laces