

Teachers Dig In**Dig In to the Bible**

- Read: John 4:43-54
- In This Passage: A government official comes to Jesus, pleading for Jesus to heal his son, who is dying. Without even going to see the son, Jesus heals him just by speaking. As the father travels home, a servant meets him to tell him that his son is alive and well. Jesus is amazing, so we believe in him.
- Bible Point: Jesus is amazing...
- Application: ...so we believe in him.
- Summary Verse: "Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy" (Psalm 100:2).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is amazing.* Kids may feel as if they don't get to see Jesus do many amazing things in their lives. But Jesus encouraged the father in the Bible story to believe even without seeing signs and wonders. Help kids trust that Jesus is amazing because of all the things they know he's done, and help them take notice of his small but no less amazing miracles, like a heartbeat or a beautiful day.
- Think About: What amazes you about Jesus? Tell him!

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that kids would believe in the amazing power of Jesus.

Quick Tip

- When a lesson is a shorter story like this one, you may be tempted to simply open your Bible and read the passage aloud to your kids. It will certainly be less noisy, but it won't actively involve your kids. Help kids experience the Bible story using the activity blocks as written; they'll remember it and have an emotional connection when they feel like they were there with Jesus.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids act out the two scenes of the story without being able to see the other side.

Supplies

- Bible
- large bedsheet

Easy Prep

- Identify a city or well-known location that's about 17 miles from your church.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray for each other.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids make toothpicks move through water.

Supplies

- round wooden toothpicks (1 per child, plus extras)
- scissors
- sturdy disposable dinner plates (1 per child, plus several extras)
- water
- shampoo
- 3-ounce cups (1 for every few kids)
- large bowl

Easy Prep

- Pour a small amount of shampoo into each 3-ounce cup so kids can easily dip their toothpicks in it.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to toss a ball into a cup from a great distance.

Supplies

- ping-pong balls (1 per child)
- markers (1 for every 3 kids)
- large plastic cups (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids jump up when they make eye contact.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids make mazes where they try to control two balls at once.

Supplies

- sturdy solid-colored paper plates (1 per child)
- pencils (1 per child)
- chenille wires (in a variety of colors)
- scissors
- Mini Glue Dots
- round beads that roll well (not pony beads; see Tip below) (2 per child)
- markers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids give a high-one (high-five with just one finger) to three friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say, "Long live [name of birthday child]!"
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that Jesus is amazing. Before we find out what amazing thing he did in today's Bible story, let's talk about amazing things we've seen people do.**

Share

- Tell kids the most amazing thing *you've* ever seen someone do.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about the most amazing thing *they've* ever seen someone do.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to John 4, and say: **We've seen people do amazing things, but no one is as amazing as Jesus! Let's explore the Bible to see what amazing thing he did in today's story. The Bible isn't like other books; it's God's special book. The Bible is one way God shows us how amazing he is. As we read his Word today, let's see how he helps us believe in him. Let's praise him for being amazing.**

Pray, praising Jesus for being amazing.



Supplies

- Bible
- large bedsheet

Easy Prep

- Identify a city or well-known location that's about 17 miles from your church.

Play Believe It or Not

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is amazing, so we believe in him. Some things are hard to believe! I'm going to read some statements—some are true, and some are false. You're going to vote on whether you believe each one or not, and then I'll tell you who's right.**

To vote, kids will go to one side of the room if they believe the statement and the other side if they don't believe it.

- **When the person who invented the Frisbee died, he had his ashes turned into a Frisbee.** (True.)
- **A group of hippos is called a "chunk."** (False; but "bloat" is one term that's used!)
- **An eagle can kill a young deer and fly away carrying it.** (True.)
- **You can hear a lion roar from 5 miles away.** (True.)
- **If you mix neon green paint, white paint, and just a little bit of lime Kool-Aid powder, you can make your own glow-in-the-dark paint.** (False.)
- **The first hot air balloon passengers were a sheep, a duck, and a rooster.** (True.)
- **Pizza was invented by accident when a chef spilled a jar of tomato sauce and a bowl of cheese and they landed on a piece of flatbread.** (False.)
- **The first video game was invented in 1890.** (False; it was 1958.)
- **A blue whale's veins are big enough that a small child could swim through them.** (True.)

Ask: • **How did you decide what to believe?**

Say: **We hear a lot of things, and sometimes it's hard to know what to believe! We can't believe everything we hear, but one thing we can always believe is that Jesus is amazing! Let's look in the Bible to find out about a guy who believed in Jesus' amazing power.**

See It From One Side

Have one child be the sick boy, one child be his dad, and at least one child be a person taking care of the sick boy. Have all these kids gather on one side of the room.

Choose another child to play the part of Jesus. Have "Jesus" and the remaining kids, who will be the crowd, gather on the other side of the room. You can have as many kids as needed play the crowd and the caregivers so that everyone is involved.

Have two people (these could be tall kids or adult and teen helpers) hold up the bedsheet so that it divides the room in two, separating Jesus and the crowd from the rest of the actors. Kids on each side should arrange themselves so that they can't be seen from the other side of the sheet.

Say: **As I read our Bible story, you'll act it out.** We include general guidelines below for acting, but encourage kids to use dramatic flair and think of their own ideas!

Read John 4:43, and have Jesus walk back and forth on his side of the room.

Read John 4:46-47. The father will go around the sheet to Jesus' side of the room.

Say: **Meanwhile, people were still trying to take care of the little boy. What things might they have done to take care of him?** Encourage the caregivers to think of what their parents and doctors do when they're sick, and have them act those things out.

Read John 4:48-50. Have actors repeat the dialogue. Encourage kids in the crowd to react to this conversation; then have the dad start to head back.

Read John 4:51. Have the boy jump up and act all better, and have his caregivers cheer. Send one caregiver to meet the dad near the sheet and deliver the message.

Read John 4:52-54, pausing periodically for kids to act it out.
Have all the kids shout: Jesus is amazing!

Talk About It

Have kids sit down, and set the sheet aside.

Ask: • **In our drama, you couldn't see what was happening on the other side of the sheet. How is that like what happened in the Bible?**

• **If you were *really* in the Bible story as it was happening, which side would you rather be with—the side with Jesus or the side that got to see the moment the boy was healed? Explain.**

• **If I told you right now that something amazing was happening in your house, would you believe me? Why or why not?**

• **If something amazing happened right now, how would you know if Jesus did it?**

Say: **The father couldn't see for a fact that Jesus was telling the truth, but he knew that Jesus is amazing, so he believed Jesus. He headed home to see his son, who was all better.**

And the father wasn't walking just a short distance, like across the room to the other side of a sheet; he and Jesus were 17 miles away from the sick boy! That's like from here to [name a place that's 17 miles from your church]. You can probably control some things in your house with a remote control—but only when you're home. You couldn't turn on a TV in your house from here! Jesus is amazing, and his miracle wasn't limited by him being far away. He could heal the boy without ever seeing him!

And the boy never got to see Jesus, either; he just got better even though he was far away! Jesus is amazing, and he can do amazing things even if we don't actually see him doing them.

Ask: • **What amazing things would you like Jesus to do in your life?**

Lead kids in a prayer for Jesus to do those amazing things.

Say: **Jesus is amazing! He could heal a boy who was so sick that he was about to die. And he healed the boy without even meeting him! Jesus won't do everything we ask...but he *could!* Jesus has the power to do anything. Jesus is amazing, so we believe in him.**



Value Prayers

Share and Pray

- Have kids form groups of four.
- In their groups, have kids tell about ways people have shown they value them.
- Next, have kids show value for each other by praying for one another. Each child in a group will get a turn to be the "Pray-ee." The other three kids (the "Pray-ers") will pray for the Pray-ee, thanking God for how he created that person.
- Kids can also pray a blessing over the Pray-ee. For example, kids could pray, "May God show you his love this week," or "May God give you peace this week."
- Make an announcement periodically to switch Pray-ees so that each child gets a turn.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you for valuing every person in this room. Thank you that you value people.**

Help us value people the way you do. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Motor Toothpick

Supplies

- round wooden toothpicks (1 per child, plus extras)
- scissors
- sturdy disposable dinner plates (1 per child, plus several extras)
- water
- shampoo
- 3-ounce cups (1 for every few kids)
- large bowl

Easy Prep

- Pour a small amount of shampoo into each 3-ounce cup so kids can easily dip their toothpicks in it.

Fill Plates With Water and Cut Toothpicks

Say: **In our Bible story, Jesus did something amazing! Through Jesus' amazing power, a boy who was about to die got well and moved around again!** Hold up a toothpick. **Right now these toothpicks aren't moving, but let's see if we can make them get moving through water.**

- Give each child a plate, and have an adult or teen helper pour water onto each plate so it covers the bottom completely.
- Give each child a toothpick.
- Have each child use scissors to cut the toothpick in half to create two toothpicks that each have a sharp end and a blunt end.

Make Toothpicks Move

Say: **First, place one of the halves in the water with the sharp point forward. What happens?** Have each child place half of the toothpick into the water to see if it moves on its own. Kids will find that it floats a little but doesn't move quickly through the water. **Now let's add something special to power the toothpick through the water.**

Ask: • **What do you think will happen if you dip one end of the toothpick in shampoo?**

- Have each child dip the cut end of the other toothpick half into shampoo and then place it into the water so the sharp point faces forward.
- The toothpick will move quickly through the water in the direction the sharp end is pointing.
- If kids want to see the experiment again, have them pour out the water into the bowl and clean the plate to remove the shampoo completely before repeating the activity.
- If time allows, have kids form pairs, and give each pair another plate and toothpick. Have kids cut the toothpicks in half, add shampoo to the cut end of both halves, and race the toothpicks to the other side of the plate.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did the shampoo affect the toothpicks?**

Say: **One dab of shampoo made the toothpick do something amazing! And one word from Jesus caused the boy to get all better. Amazing! Jesus is amazing. When we see or read about the amazing things Jesus has done, our faith grows. We know that he really does deserve our praise and our trust.**

Ask: • **What's something amazing that Jesus has done in your life or in a friend or family member's life? How has that helped you trust him more?** Share an example from your own life to begin.

Say: **Jesus is amazing, so we believe him and trust in him.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Go for Distance

Supplies

- ping-pong balls (1 per child)
- markers (1 for every 3 kids)
- large plastic cups (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Toss Ping-Pong Balls Into Cups

Say: **Today's Bible story is about one of the amazing things Jesus did. Jesus healed a sick boy from far away. That's amazing! For us, being far away usually makes things harder. Let's play a game to see if that's true.**

- Give each child a cup and a ball. Distribute the markers, and have kids write their initials on the balls. Collect the markers.
- Have everyone line up along one wall in the room.
- Have kids place their cups on the floor in front of them and try to toss the balls into the cups.
- Whenever someone successfully tosses a ball into a cup, that person will move the cup farther away by 1 or 2 feet.
- As the distance increases, successful tosses will become harder and harder.
- When tosses are unsuccessful, players will run to the ball, pick it up, run back to the wall and try again.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- When it looks like everyone is stuck with a cup at an impossible distance away, allow kids to start over and play another round of the game.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Why did the growing distance between you and your cup make things harder?**

Say: **Our game shows that doing things from farther and farther away gets really hard—maybe even impossible. That's not true for Jesus, though!**

Ask: • **Why do you think the distance from the boy wasn't a problem for Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus is amazing! He can help us even though we can't see him there with us, just as he helped the boy.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Jump Up, Jump Back

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Jump Up and Back When You Make Eye Contact

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is amazing. One of the amazing things Jesus did was heal a man's very sick son from miles away. That's amazing!**

Seeing amazing things can make us jump with surprise, so let's play a fun game where you'll jump up and jump back when something surprising happens.

- Have everyone crouch in a circle.
- For each round, you'll count to three. While you're counting, everyone will look at the ground and select another person in the circle to look at when you say "three."
- On "three," each person will look up at the person he or she has chosen.
- If two people make eye contact—meaning they've managed to choose each other—both people will jump up and back out of the circle. Encourage everyone to have fun with the game and be dramatic.
- As people move out of the circle, those remaining can move closer together and continue the game. When the circle has three or fewer people, start the game over with everyone back in the circle.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while everyone plays as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Say: **In the game our reaction was to jump.**

Ask: • **How do you react when you see amazing things in your life?** Share an example of your own, such as wondering if you really saw what you just saw and then being excited to tell others about it.

Say: **What Jesus did for the sick boy was almost too good to be true—it was *amazing*. Jesus still does a lot of things that leave people wondering if they could be true because Jesus has the power to do anything. Jesus is amazing, and we can believe in him and his power to make miracles happen!**



CRAFT

Double-Trouble Maze

[20 min]

Supplies

- sturdy solid-colored paper plates (1 per child)
- pencils (1 per child)
- chenille wires (in a variety of colors)
- scissors
- Mini Glue Dots
- round beads that roll well (not pony beads; see Tip below) (2 per child)
- markers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- For the round beads, we cut apart inexpensive beaded necklaces from the dollar store. If you use these, you'll need to trim right up against the beads.

Make Mazes

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a plate, and set out the remaining supplies to share. Have kids follow these directions to make a maze.

- Using a pencil, draw three rings like a target on your paper plate.
- Erase a section about an inch long on two or three parts of each ring.
- Cut chenille wires to match the lengths of the lines on your rings.
- Using Mini Glue Dots, attach the chenille wires over your lines. Make sure you leave the erased parts uncovered.
- Use a pencil to poke two holes on opposite sides of your plate somewhere within the outer ring.
- Put two beads in the center of your maze.
- If time allows, decorate your plate with markers.

Play

Say: **In our Bible story, Jesus was in one place but used his power in another place! That's amazing! Let's see how amazing you can be at focusing on things that are in two places at once.**

- Have kids each place two beads in the center of the plate.

- Kids can twist and turn the plate to get both beads through the maze and into opposite holes at the same time.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like trying to control beads in two places at once?**

• **If you could be in two places at once, which two places would you pick?**

Say: **It's really hard to focus on beads that are in two places at once! But Jesus is so amazing that he could be in one place and use his power to heal someone in a completely different city! Whenever you play with your maze, remember that even though Jesus is in heaven now, his amazing power is here with you!**

Have kids take their mazes home and play with them along with their friends and families as a reminder of Jesus' amazing power to be in one place and heal someone in another place.

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