

LESSON 12: JESUS HEALS AN OFFICIAL'S SON

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 John 4:43-54

12/29/2019

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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers act out the story, show off their talents, and talk about what they believe about Jesus.

Supplies

- Bible
- room partition or bedsheet
- baby doll

Easy Prep

- Place a partition in 1 corner of your room, or hang a bedsheet across 1 corner of the room. This will demonstrate that the boy was so far away that Jesus couldn't physically see him when he healed him.
- Enlist an adult or teen helper to come running from behind the partition near the end of the "Act It Out" section as indicated.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers cheer for Jesus.



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers make soda rise out of bottles.

Supplies

- pony beads in various colors (several per child)
- Mentos mint candies (2 per bottle of soda)
- 20-ounce bottles of soda (1 set of 3 different bottles for every 10 kids: 1 clear, 1 orange, and 1 dark-colored) (We used Sprite, Fanta, and Diet Coke.)
- large bowls (1 for each soda bottle)
- tarps

Easy Prep

- Place soda bottles in large bowls, and place the bowls on tarps to avoid a sticky mess!



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Tag.

Supplies

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



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers try to do amazing things.

Supplies

- roll of wide masking tape
- large (12- to 16-ounce) plastic cups (1 for every 2 kids)

Easy Prep

- Set up 3 stations for fun challenges. At Station 1, tape an 8-foot line on the floor.
- At Station 2, place a stack of the large plastic

- small, lightweight balls such as ping-pong balls (3 for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music
- music player

- cups.
- At Station 3, place the balls in a group on the floor.



CRAFT

Preschoolers search for pictures in magazines.

Supplies

- colored construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- several child-friendly magazines
- glue sticks
- crayons

Easy Prep

- Cut each sheet of construction paper in half lengthwise, and tape the 2 pieces together to create 1 long strip.
- 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 preschoolers high-five three of their friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers shout this birthday cheer: “Two, four, six, eight; it’s birthday time, let’s celebrate! Gooooo, [name of birthday kids]!”
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out that Jesus is amazing. Jesus is God, so he’s the most special person ever. Jesus can do anything he wants; he can even walk on water and make people better when no one else can! Today we’ll read in the Bible about someone who was very sick and about to die but Jesus healed him. Jesus can fix any sickness whether it’s just an owie or something bigger.**

Share

- Share about an injury you’ve had recently—a scrape, sprain, or bruise.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about owies *they’ve* had recently.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Jesus can heal any owie we have because Jesus is amazing! He can do anything, and we can believe in him. Jesus is our best friend!**

Pray, thanking God for Jesus, who is amazing.



Supplies

- Bible
- room partition or bedsheet
- baby doll

Easy Prep

- Place a partition in 1 corner of your room, or hang a bedsheet across 1 corner of the room. This will demonstrate that the boy was so far away that Jesus couldn't physically see him when he healed him.
- Enlist an adult or teen helper to come running from behind the partition near the end of the "Act It Out" section as indicated.

Act It Out

Have kids sit away from the partition you placed ahead of time. Say: **Today we'll talk about how Jesus is amazing. Because he's God, Jesus can do the most amazing things that no other person can do. Let's read in the Bible about a time Jesus did something that showed he's amazing.**

Show your Bible. Say: **Jesus had been spending time in his hometown. The people in Jesus' hometown didn't see how amazing he was at first, so Jesus decided to travel to a new place called Galilee.** Lead kids in standing up and marching in place for about 15 seconds, and then have them sit.

Say: **The people in Galilee were glad Jesus came there because they had heard he'd done some amazing things. They didn't realize that Jesus is God and just how amazing he is! They just wanted to see him do some neat stuff. After all, he *had* changed water into a totally different drink in their hometown.**

Tell about someone *you* know of who can do something amazing. It could be someone you know personally or someone you've seen on TV or in a movie. Maybe you saw a motocross biker do a flip or an Olympic gymnast do a neat move. Or maybe you have a friend who won a local 10K running race or a child who learned to ride a bike at a young age.

Ask: • **What's something amazing *you've* seen someone do?** Preschoolers might share about something they saw a friend or relative do, or they might share about something neat they saw on TV.

Say: ***What* someone can do tells us something about *who* they are. If someone does an amazing flip in the Olympics, that tells us the person is a professional gymnast. In the Bible when Jesus did amazing things, it was one way he showed people that he's God. But some people didn't realize that Jesus is amazing and can do incredible things *because* he's God. Let's look back at the Bible to find out how a leader learned that Jesus is God. The leader's son was very sick.**

Read John 4:47, 49. Cradle the baby doll in your arms, and say: **The leader's son was so sick that he was going to die. The man begged Jesus to make his son better. But the son wasn't there with Jesus; he was at home far, far away where Jesus couldn't even see him.** Walk to the partition and place the doll behind it.

Ask: • **What are things you could do to help the sick boy?** Invite children to tell ways one can help a sick person. As they mention things, point out that they can't see the doll or touch it, so they won't be able to do those things. Encourage them to try to think of ways they could help the sick boy without seeing him or touching him. If no one suggests it, you might mention prayer.

Say: **Jesus couldn't see the boy, and it would've taken hours and hours for him to walk to where the boy was. But Jesus told the boy's dad, "Go home—your son will live!" The dad believed Jesus, and he started to travel home.** Lead children in standing and walking in place. After about 10 seconds, the adult or teen helper will run from behind the partition, shouting and making plenty of noise. He or she will shout, "Leader, leader!"

When the adult or teen helper reaches you, say: **The leader's workers had come from the leader's home. They met the leader along the way and told him that his son was all better!** Lead children in cheering.

Say: **The leader asked when his son had gotten better and found out it was at the exact same time**

that Jesus had said, “Your son will live.” Jesus is amazing! He made the boy better without even touching or seeing him! So the leader and his whole family believed in Jesus.

Show Amazing Things

Say: **What Jesus did was amazing, and it showed that Jesus is God. Often what a person *does* shows us who that person *is*. That’s true of Jesus. When we see that Jesus is amazing, it shows us we can believe in him. Let’s show some amazing things we can do and talk about what those things show about us.**

Show kids something neat you can do, or act it out. Maybe you can cook well; if so, pretend to cook. If you’re a fast runner, pretend to run fast.

After you show kids a talent of yours, share a title that talent gives you. For example, if you cook well, you might call yourself a *cook* or a *chef*.

Invite each child to show or act out a talent that he or she has. Let each child know that what he or she did was neat, and assign each child a title. If kids aren’t sure what to do and need some ideas, you could share the following:

- A child who does a somersault can be called a gymnast.
- A child who has learned to read can be called a reader.
- A child who has learned to ride a bike or tricycle can be called a biker.
- A child who can create something like a drawing, painting, or sculpture can be called an artist.
- A child who can build with Legos can be called a builder.

If time allows, let children show more than one talent.

Say: **In the same way we looked at what our friends could do, the leader in the Bible looked at what Jesus could do, and he saw that Jesus is amazing. The leader looked at Jesus and believed that Jesus is God. We can look at the amazing things Jesus did in the Bible and believe in him, too.**



Three Cheers for Jesus

Tell Why Jesus Is Amazing

Have kids stand in a circle. Say: **Today we found out that Jesus is amazing. We heard how he healed a boy who was very sick and about to die. But that's not all Jesus can do. He's so amazing that he can do anything he wants!**

Share a couple of things that *you* think are amazing about Jesus or about what he can do. You might mention healing, patience with people, or forgiveness. After you share each idea, lead kids to say to Jesus, "Jesus, you're amazing!" and have them point up and then raise both of their hands in the air and shake them, making "jazz hands."

Say: **Now you share about some things you think are amazing about Jesus, and we'll keep telling him we think he's amazing for each thing we think of.** Encourage children to share freely. They might say something about what Jesus can do, like walk on water or make sick people better. Or they might say something about who Jesus is, like he's God or he's the strongest. They might even say something more practical to their lives, like Jesus is with them when they're scared. Help them think of ideas. After each child shares an idea, lead kids to say to Jesus, "Jesus, you're amazing!" and have them point up and then raise both of their hands in the air and shake them, making jazz hands. Repeat this for each thing that's shared.

Thank Jesus

Say: **Wow! Jesus really is amazing! And all these things that show he's strong, powerful, and loving remind us that we can believe in him. Let's thank Jesus for all he does for us and let him know that we *do* believe in him.**

Lead kids in a brief prayer, thanking Jesus for all he does, and then encourage kids to say, "Jesus, we believe in you" together.

Thank kids for coming to your class, and let them know that you hope to see them again soon.



Supplies

- pony beads in various colors (several per child)
- Mentos mint candies (2 per bottle of soda)
- 20-ounce bottles of soda (1 set of 3 different bottles for every 10 kids: 1 clear, 1 orange, and 1 dark-colored) (We used Sprite, Fanta, and Diet Coke.)
- large bowls (1 for each soda bottle)
- tarps

Easy Prep

- Place soda bottles in large bowls, and place the bowls on tarps to avoid a sticky mess!

Place Pony Beads in Soda

Say: **In our Bible story, only Jesus had the power to keep the boy from dying. Let's see what has the power to make this soda rise up and come out of the bottles.** Have kids gather around the tarps with the soda bottles. **Will these beads make the soda rise up? Let's find out. What color of bead should we try first?**

- Place pony beads within reach of kids.
- Ask a child to choose a color, and have each child find a pony bead of that color. For example, have everyone find a green bead.
- Open the soda bottles, and have kids take turns putting their beads inside a bottle.

Say: [Color of bead kids chose] **beads didn't do anything. Maybe we should try a different color. Now what color should we try?** Have kids suggest a color and then add that color of beads to the soda bottles. Again, nothing will happen.

Place Mentos in Soda

Say: **The pony beads didn't do anything amazing. But I have something special that will. Watch this!**

- Place two Mentos mint candies into the bottle of clear soda. The soda will react and come up out of the bottle like a fountain.
- Respond with amazement! Say something like "Wow! That's amazing!" and encourage kids to be amazed, too.
- Add one or two Mentos to the other soda bottles.

Talk About It

Say: **These special candies caused an amazing reaction—the soda rose up and came out of the bottles!**

Ask: • **Which color of soda do you think had the best reaction?**

Say: **Only the special candies had the power to make the soda rise up. And only Jesus has the power to do amazing things like raise people from the dead! Jesus is amazing. We can believe in him and be amazed by him!**



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](#).

Play a Version of Tag

Say: **Today's Bible story was about just one of the amazing things Jesus can do. Jesus made a sick boy all better without even having to touch him, see him, or be close to him. No one else can do that! Jesus is an amazing helper and friend. Let's play a game where you'll need a helper!**

- Invite a willing preschooler to be "It."
- When It tags someone, that person will lie on the floor with legs and arms held up in the air as if sick and needing help.
- Kids who haven't been tagged can be "Helpers" and tap the feet and hands of anyone lying on the floor. Once tapped, those kids can jump back into the game.
- Give a signal to start the game. If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- Every minute, invite a different preschooler to be It.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Why did you like having a helper in the game?**

Say: **When you got tagged and had to lie on the floor, it was almost like you were sick and needed to be healed—like the boy in our Bible story. The Helpers in the game made you all better so you could play again. Jesus helped the sick boy, but he didn't even have to touch him! Jesus is the best helper!**

Share about something *you'd* like Jesus to help with, such as needing Jesus to help you or a loved one get better or help with a big decision.

Ask: • **What's something *you'd* like Jesus to help with?** Preschoolers might share about a parent needing Jesus' help with finding a job, or they might say they need Jesus' help finding something they've lost, making friends, or even learning to tie their shoes.

Say: **When we see what Jesus did for the sick boy, we know that Jesus is amazing and that Jesus can help us, too. We can believe in our friend Jesus!**



Supplies

- roll of wide masking tape
- large (12- to 16-ounce) plastic cups (1 for every 2 kids)
- small, lightweight balls such as ping-pong balls (3 for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Set up 3 stations for fun challenges. At Station 1, tape an 8-foot line on the floor.
- At Station 2, place a stack of the large plastic cups.
- At Station 3, place the balls in a group on the floor.

Tips

- 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](#).
- If your total number of kids is small, you can move from station to station together rather than breaking into smaller groups and rotating.

Try to Do Amazing Things

Say: **Today's Bible story was about a time Jesus healed a sick boy—Jesus made him *all better* without being close enough to even see the boy. That's amazing! Jesus can do so many amazing things. Let's see if we can do some amazing things in a fun game!**

- Form teams of four, and have teammates form pairs. If possible, have an adult or teen helper join each team of four preschoolers.
- Walk with everyone to each station, and demonstrate what kids will do with their partners at each station.
 - At Station 1, kids will try to walk on the piece of tape without stepping off. They can also try to hop on one leg along the piece of tape.
 - At Station 2, partners will take turns placing a cup on each other's head. The partner with the cup on his or her head will try to balance the cup and even take a few steps while balancing the cup.
 - At Station 3, partners will work together to try to "juggle" three balls. They can try doing this one ball at a time or working together, tossing and catching one ball first and gradually adding more. This will be a challenge, and that's okay!
- Have teams each choose a starting station, and play some music to signal the beginning of the game.
- Give teams a few minutes at each station, and call out "Rotate!" when it's time for teams to move to the next station.
- When time's up, turn off the music and have everyone put the station supplies back the way they were in the beginning.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What amazing things did you do in the game?**

• **What made any of the stations hard for you?**

Say: **You're all amazing! We all have great things we can do.**

Share an example of something *you're* good at, such as being a good cook, a good artist, or a good friend.

Ask: • **What's something *you're* good at?** Preschoolers might share about being able to run fast, saying a complex word, or helping a parent take care of a younger sibling.

Say: **We all have things we can and can't do, but our friend Jesus can do *anything*. Jesus healed the boy in our Bible story, and Jesus does wonderful things for us today, too. Jesus is amazing, and that's why we believe in him!**



CRAFT

Family Pictures Accordion

[20 min]

Supplies

- colored construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- several child-friendly magazines
- glue sticks
- crayons

Easy Prep

- Cut each sheet of construction paper in half lengthwise, and tape the 2 pieces together to create 1 long strip.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- You can also cut long strips from a roll of bulletin board paper instead of using sheets of construction paper.

Fold Paper

Say: **Jesus is amazing! In our Bible story we heard how Jesus healed a sick boy without touching him or even seeing him.** Hold up the sample craft showing only the picture of the boy on the front. **And because Jesus healed the boy, his parents and brothers and sisters and whole family believed in Jesus!** Stretch out the accordion-folded paper to show all the pictures. **Let's make this craft to remember our Bible story.**

- Give each preschooler a length of prepared construction paper.
- Show preschoolers how to accordion-fold the paper, making six or seven large folds.

Glue Magazine Pictures

- Have preschoolers flatten and spread out their paper strips in front of them.
- Set out the magazines, and have each preschooler search for a picture of a boy.
- Preschoolers can tear out the pictures and glue them into the rectangles on either end of the paper strips.
- Then preschoolers can look for other pictures of people in the magazines, tearing them out and gluing the pictures into the rest of the rectangles.
- If there is time left over after preschoolers have glued pictures into all the rectangles on one side of the paper, they can turn the paper over and decorate the opposite side with crayons.

Show preschoolers how to fold the paper strip again so that the picture of the boy is on top; then show them how to pull the other end to reveal all the pictures.

Say: **When you go home, you can use this craft to tell your families and friends about our Bible story. Like the whole family believed in Jesus because Jesus made the boy all better, we can believe in Jesus when we see him do amazing things.**

Share an example of how you've seen Jesus work in someone else's life, such as seeing a friend healed from an illness or a family member get a job offer at just the right time.

Say: **Seeing all the ways Jesus is good to others helps us see that Jesus is amazing...so we believe in him!**



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