

 Mark 7:31-37

04/19/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Mark 7:31-37
- In This Passage: People bring a deaf man to Jesus to be healed. Jesus puts his fingers in the man's ears, then spits on his fingers and touches the man's tongue. Then Jesus sighs and says, "Be opened!" and the man can hear and speak! People are impressed by how wonderful Jesus is.
- Bible Point: Jesus is wonderful...
- Application: ...so we expect good things from him.
- Summary Verse: "For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does" (Psalm 33:4).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is wonderful.* Kids who've grown up in church may be so used to stories of Jesus healing people that they've lost the sense of how wonderful Jesus' miracles really are. Help kids recapture their sense of wonder about how amazing Jesus is.
- Think About: What do you find wonderful about Jesus?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to reveal to your kids how wonderful he is.

Quick Tip

- Your excitement about what you teach will be contagious. If *you've* gotten numb to the wonder of Jesus, read this story from a different perspective as you prepare the lesson. Slow down and picture yourself there. Put yourself in the deaf man's shoes. Read it again, imagining you're in the crowd looking on. What if you were one of the people who brought the man to Jesus? The more wonder *you* have about what happened, the more wonder your kids will have.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids learn sign language and praise Jesus for being wonderful.

Supplies

- Bible
- cross or picture of a cross
- “Hearts” handout (1 for every 6 kids) ([download here](#))
- pens
- tape

Easy Prep

- Review the sign language for “Jesus,” “wonderful,” and “open” as described in this lesson, and practice the signs. If needed, use the internet to find a video that will show you these signs.
- Set up the cross or hang a picture of a cross on the wall.
- Cut apart the hearts on the handout. You don’t have to cut out the heart shape—just cut squares around the hearts.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids use sign language to pray.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids listen to follow directions.



CRAFT

Kids make bulletin boards to record Jesus’ wonders.

Supplies

- corrugated cardboard (two 8x8-inch pieces per child) (you can cut boxes apart)
- duct tape
- ½-inch fabric ribbon
- scissors
- permanent markers
- slips of paper
- pens

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids unwrap a surprise, one layer at a time.

Supplies

- roll of plastic wrap
- Hershey’s Kisses or similar treat (1 per child, plus a few extra just to make sure there’s a piece for everyone)
- pair of dice

Easy Prep

- Prepare a large ball of plastic wrap. You’ll start the ball by wrapping a handful of pieces of candy with plastic wrap. Continue to add separate layers of plastic wrap, with a piece of candy between each layer. Make sure you’re creating layers using

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

several different pieces rather than 1 long piece.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids hear sounds from a spoon.

Supplies

- 4-foot lengths of string (1 per child)
- metal teaspoons (1 for every 2 kids)
- metal tablespoons (1 for every 2 kids)

Easy Prep

- Tie a loop in the middle of each string by wrapping one end of the string over the other, then pulling the loop so it's in the middle of the string.
- Slip the handle of a teaspoon or tablespoon through the loop and then tighten it so the spoon won't fall out.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids explore various wonderful things Jesus did.

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens

**Marked supplies can be reused from 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 pat the people next to them on the back.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “Appy-hay irthday-bay!” (“happy birthday” in pig Latin).
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that Jesus is wonderful, so we expect good things from him.**

Share

- Tell kids something good *you* expect to do today, such as eating something delicious or seeing a good friend.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share something good *they* expect to do today.
- 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 Mark 7, and say: **We expect good things when we know they’re coming. And we know that Jesus will do good things in our lives because Jesus is wonderful! The Bible is wonderful, too! It’s full of incredible stories—and they’re all true! God gave us the Bible so he can speak to us anytime. He’s wonderful, and he’s always here for us. Let’s hear from him as we explore the Bible. And let’s talk to him right now.**

Pray, praising Jesus for being wonderful.



Supplies

- Bible
- cross or picture of a cross
- “Hearts” handout (1 for every 6 kids) (download [here](#))
- pens
- tape

Easy Prep

- Review the sign language for “Jesus,” “wonderful,” and “open” as described in this lesson, and practice the signs. If needed, use the internet to find a video that will show you these signs.
- Set up the cross or hang a picture of a cross on the wall.
- Cut apart the hearts on the handout. You don’t have to cut out the heart shape—just cut squares around the hearts.

Have a Silent Conversation

Say: **Today we’re going to see that Jesus is wonderful, and we’ll find out what wonderful things he did for a deaf man in the Bible.**

Let’s imagine what it would be like to be deaf. Find a partner, and have a conversation about something interesting that happened to you this week. But you can’t actually talk aloud; you can only mouth the words.

Allow about a minute, and then let partners switch so the second partner has a chance to “talk.”

Ask: • **If you were deaf, what would you most miss being able to hear?**

Say: **The Bible doesn’t tell us if this man was born deaf or went deaf later in life. If he lost his hearing later, it’s possible he missed the same kinds of sounds you just mentioned!**

We do know that he had a lot of people looking out for him. Listen to what happened when they met Jesus.

Read Mark 7:31-32.

Say: **Jesus is wonderful, so we expect good things from him. The deaf man’s friends expected something wonderful: healing for their friend! They begged Jesus to do it.**

Sign It

Say: **What happened next is kind of weird and gross. Sometimes when Jesus heals, he just says a word. Sometimes he reaches out and touches the person. This time, he did something a little different. Listen to this!**

Read Mark 7:33.

Say: **Let’s act that out. You be the deaf man, and I’ll stick my fingers in your ears and then touch your tongue with my spitty fingers.** (Don’t worry, you don’t have to do this! This is just to get a reaction out of kids. To make the reaction even stronger, you can go up to some kids and pretend you’re about to stick your fingers in their ears.)

Ask: • **Why doesn’t anyone want me to do this?**

• **If you were deaf and this was the way Jesus wanted to heal you, would you let him do it?**

Explain.

Say: **We don’t know for sure why Jesus chose to heal this way. Some people think it was kind of like using sign language to tell the man what he was about to do. It’s kind of cool to think of Jesus speaking in a way the deaf man could understand!**

Let’s learn a little sign language right now. First, since we’re learning that Jesus is wonderful, let’s learn how to say that! Teach kids the following signs. After you teach each sign, ask kids why they think that sign would mean “Jesus” or “wonderful.”

Jesus: Touch the middle finger of one hand to the palm of the other, then switch hands and repeat.

Is: (In sign language, this word would be implied and wouldn’t need to be signed.)

Wonderful: Hold both hands up with palms facing out, then push out once at chest level and once a little bit lower.

Have kids practice telling each other “Jesus is wonderful” in sign language. For the rest of the lesson, sign these words with kids whenever you say the phrase.

Say: **We’ll learn another sign after we see what Jesus did next.**

Read Mark 7:34.

Say: **Since the word *epiphatha* means “be opened,” let’s learn the sign for “open.”**

To sign “open,” hold up your hands with your palms facing your chest, pinkies touching. Then turn your hands around so the palms face out as you spread them apart. Have kids practice with each other.

Say: **Let’s see what happened after Jesus said that.**

Read Mark 7:35.

Wonder

Say: **Wow! Jesus is wonderful. Listen to how the people reacted to what Jesus did.**

Read Mark 7:36-37.

Say: **The people who saw Jesus heal the deaf man knew everything he does is wonderful. Let’s praise him for being wonderful right now. We’ll take turns finishing this prayer: “Jesus, you’re wonderful because...”**

Start with your own prayer, such as: **Jesus, you’re wonderful because you always love me.** Allow plenty of awkward silences; kids may be getting up the nerve to pray aloud.

Expect Good Things

Say: **Jesus is wonderful, so we expect good things from him. The deaf man in the Bible had a crowd of people who were expecting good things for him from Jesus.**

Let’s expect good things for people in our lives. It might be yourself or someone you know who’s sick, injured, or has an emotional pain.

Distribute a heart and a pen to each child.

Say: **Write the name of the person you thought of on your paper heart. Then tear the heart in half to show his or her broken heart. After that, you’ll pray for the person and then take the broken heart to the cross, taping the heart back together on the cross.**

Allow time. When kids are ready, they may go to the cross and tape their heart pieces together on it.

Pray: **Jesus, you’re so wonderful! We expect good things from you because you’re the healer of hurts. In your name, amen.**



Silent Prayers

Lean and Pray

Say: **Today we learned about a deaf man who got to see that Jesus is wonderful. Let's praise Jesus using sign language.**

- Review the signs for "Jesus" and "wonderful" you taught kids in Core Bible Discovery.
 - Jesus: Touch the middle finger of one hand to the palm of the other, then switch hands and repeat.
 - Wonderful: Hold both hands up with palms facing out, then push out once at chest level and once a little bit lower.
- Have kids use the signs to silently praise Jesus.
- Kids can also make up their own signs to talk to Jesus, praising him for what he's done for them.

Wrap Up

Pray: **Jesus, you're wonderful! Help us see the good things you do for us. In your name, amen.**

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



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Unspoken Directions

Play a Silent Version of Scrub the Deck

Say: **Today's Bible story was about a deaf man Jesus healed. It's hard to imagine not being able to hear, but we can play a game to get an idea of what that's like.**

- Stand at one end of the room. Have kids spread out on the opposite side of the room, facing you.
- You're the boat Captain and everyone else is the Crew.
- You'll give directions of things that need to happen to care for the boat, and the Crew will follow your directions.
- Go through the directions first so everyone knows what to expect:
 - Ropes on the right—everyone will run to the right side of the room and pretend to pull ropes
 - Ropes on the left—everyone will run to the left side of the room and pretend to pull ropes
 - Raise the sails—everyone will run to the center of the room and pretend to pull ropes to raise sails
 - Scrub the deck—everyone will drop to hands and knees where they are and pretend to scrub the floor
 - Front of the boat—everyone will run toward you
 - Back of the boat—everyone will run to the other end of the room
- Go through a few of the directions by only mouthing the words. Kids will likely struggle a little, and that's okay! Those who are closer to you may be able to figure out what you're saying, and then the others will follow what they do.
- Go through the directions quickly and in random order, but this time you can mouth the words and use gestures to communicate.
- Play a final round where you'll call out the directions audibly. Have a lot of fun with this one and change the directions often and quickly.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did this game show you about what it's like to not be able to hear?**

Say: **Imagine living your whole life, or even a year of your life, without being able to hear—and then Jesus comes along and heals your ears so you can hear. That's what happened for the man in the Bible story! Jesus did such a wonderful thing for him.** Share about a time someone did something wonderful for you and what it was like, such as when you forgot your wallet and someone paid for your food.

Ask: • **What's something wonderful someone has done for you?**

Say: **We can do awesome, helpful things for each other, but none of them compare to the things Jesus can do. We can expect good things from Jesus because Jesus is wonderful!**



Supplies

- corrugated cardboard (two 8x8-inch pieces per child) (you can cut boxes apart)
- duct tape
- ½-inch fabric ribbon
- scissors
- permanent markers
- slips of paper
- pens

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Bulletin Boards

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make bulletin boards.

- Get two equal-sized pieces of cardboard (about 8x8 inches is a good size).
- Duct-tape them together around the edges to make one thick board.
- Cut pieces of ribbon to lay diagonally across the board, long enough to wrap to the back of the board with about 2 inches between each piece.
- Tape down the ribbon at the back of the board. Make sure it's really tight!
- Do the same with ribbon going diagonally the *other* way. If you know how, you might weave the ribbons over and under the first set.
- Decorate the cardboard behind the ribbons using permanent markers. Include the point: Jesus is wonderful.

Add Paper

- Distribute slips of paper and pens. Have kids think of wonderful things Jesus has done, either in the Bible or for them personally, and write each thought on a slip of paper.
- Have kids tuck their papers under the ribbons on their bulletin boards.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What are some things you wrote to put on your bulletin board?**

Say: **Jesus is wonderful! But sometimes we're not paying attention to all the wonderful things**

Jesus does. As you expect good things from Jesus this week, watch for the wonderful things he does. Then add more papers to your bulletin board to remember that Jesus is wonderful.

Have kids take their bulletin boards home and show their friends and families all the wonderful things about Jesus they've recorded.



Supplies

- roll of plastic wrap
- Hershey's Kisses or similar treat (1 per child, plus a few extra just to make sure there's a piece for everyone)
- pair of dice
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Prepare a large ball of plastic wrap. You'll start the ball by wrapping a handful of pieces of candy with plastic wrap. Continue to add separate layers of plastic wrap, with a piece of candy between each layer. Make sure you're creating layers using several different pieces rather than 1 long piece.

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](#).

Unwrap the Surprise

Say: In today's Bible story, Jesus gave a deaf man a wonderful gift when he healed the man's ears and the man could hear. I have a wonderful gift for you today, but we'll need to play a fun game to get to it!

- Have everyone sit in a circle, and give the plastic-wrap ball to the child with the closest birthday.
- Starting with the person holding the ball, each child will unwrap as many layers of plastic as possible during his or her turn.
- The person to the right of the Unwrapper will roll the dice continuously until he or she rolls doubles. Then the Unwrapper will pass the ball and the dice to the right.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while everyone plays.
- Play until the ball is completely unwrapped or time is up.
- Have your helpers distribute the candy and make sure each child gets at least one piece.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What's exciting about unwrapping gifts?**

Say: **Gifts are fun because even if you don't know what the gift is, you can usually count on it being something good.**

Ask: • **What would be the most amazing gift you could get?** Share your own example first.

Say: **For the deaf man in today's Bible story, being able to hear was probably the greatest gift he could ever get. Jesus gives the most amazing gifts because Jesus is wonderful, and we can expect good things from him.**



OBJECT LESSON

Spoon Bells

[10 min]

Supplies

- 4-foot lengths of string (1 per child)
- metal teaspoons (1 for every 2 kids)
- metal tablespoons (1 for every 2 kids)

Easy Prep

- Tie a loop in the middle of each string by wrapping one end of the string over the other, then pulling the loop so it's in the middle of the string.
- Slip the handle of a teaspoon or tablespoon through the loop and then tighten it so the spoon won't fall out.



Listen to Spoons

Say: **Did you know that these ordinary spoons can make surprising noises? It's wonderful! Let's listen and see what we hear.**

- Have kids stand around a table.

- Give each child a prepared string with a spoon attached.
- Show kids how to press each end of the string to the outside of their ears. Remind them not to put the string inside their ears—only near the openings. The spoons should hang just below kids' waists.
- Have kids move their bodies so the spoons swing forward and knock against the edge of the table. They'll sound like bells!
- After several minutes, have kids with teaspoons trade with those who have tablespoons. Allow a chance for them to guess whether the new spoon will sound higher or lower pitched (or the same), and whether it will be louder or quieter (or the same). Have them repeat the experiment and notice how different sizes of spoons make different sounds.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did the spoons sound like?**

Say: **These ordinary spoons sounded like extraordinary bells! This experiment didn't seem like it would be very amazing at first—in fact it might have seemed a little odd. In our Bible story, Jesus put his fingers in the man's ears and touched his tongue. That might not have seemed amazing, but something wonderful happened! The man could hear and talk! Jesus is wonderful.**

Ask: • **What's something that seems ordinary but reminds you that Jesus is wonderful?**

Say: **Jesus is wonderful! He fills our lives with wonder through ordinary things all around us.**



What Wonderful Things Can I Expect Jesus to Do for Me?

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens

Set It Up

Say: **We're learning that Jesus is wonderful, so we expect good things from him. In our story, the deaf man's friends expected Jesus to heal the man, and Jesus did. So what wonderful things can we expect Jesus to do for us? Let's dig in to that.**

First, let's consider what's wonderful to each of us.

Distribute paper and pens. Have kids each write something wonderful they wish would happen to them. Encourage kids to dream big! Then have kids crumple their papers and throw them around the room, picking up papers that land near them and continuing to throw the papers.

After about 30 seconds of throwing the papers, have kids each pick up a paper near them and read what it says.

Ask: • **If that happened to you, would you think it was wonderful? Explain.**

Say: **What's wonderful to me might not seem wonderful to you. Maybe you'd love to get season tickets to an NFL team's games, but someone else hates football. Season tickets wouldn't be so wonderful to that person. Maybe someone else would find a new puppy wonderful, but you're really allergic to dogs and don't like to be around them.**

So since we all might find different things to be wonderful, let's see what different wonderful things Jesus did in the Bible.

Dig Deeper

Have kids form five groups. Distribute Bibles, paper, and pens. Assign each group one of the following stories to read. Let groups know that they'll be sharing with everyone else *what* Jesus did that was wonderful, *why* it was wonderful, and *how* he did it. For example, did he say something to make something wonderful happen? Did he touch someone? Groups can also discuss what the miracle tells them about Jesus.

- Jesus calms a storm (Mark 4:35-41)
- Jesus heals a blind man (John 9:1-7)
- Jesus befriends Nathanael (John 1:43-49)
- Jesus heals a boy (John 4:43-54)
- Jesus feeds 5,000 men (Matthew 14:13-21)

Allow time for groups to read and jot down answers to the what, why, and how questions as well as what they learn about Jesus. Then have groups share what they discovered.

Ask: • **Based on what everyone shared, is there one wonderful thing we can all expect Jesus to do? Explain.**

• **Besides the ones we just read about, what are other ways you think Jesus could do wonderful things?**

Say: **Jesus is wonderful, so we expect good things from him. But that doesn't mean we make a list of what we want and expect him to do everything on our list. It means we watch for the good things he chooses to do! We've seen that Jesus did a lot of different wonderful things, and he'll do a lot of different wonderful things for you. Don't limit Jesus to the wonderful things you want or how you expect him to do them; just know that he'll do good things in your life!**

Pray: **Jesus, we know you're wonderful! We don't know what you'll do or how you'll do it, but we expect good things from you. In your name, amen.**

