

LESSON 7: JESUS HEALS A DEAF MAN

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers “wonder” as they hear the Bible story, experience some ways Jesus is wonderful, and pray.

Supplies

- Bible
- inflated balloons (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- baby doll
- baby bottles (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- bandages (1 per child)
- “Station Signs” handout (1 copy) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Create 3 stations that kids can visit. Hang 1 station sign in each station. In the “Love Station,” hang the sign of the heart. In the “Protect Station,” hang the sign of the soldier. Place the inflated balloons in this station. In the “Provide Station,” hang the sign of the parent and child. Place the baby doll, baby bottles, and bandages in this station.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers wonder and pray.

Supplies

- paper cup
- uninflated balloon
- small pompoms (at least 1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Cut off the bottom of the cup. Tie off the opening of the balloon, then cut off the bottom of the balloon and stretch it over the edge of the now-open bottom of the cup. Place the pompoms in the contraption, and practice holding the balloon in place over the bottom of the cup, pulling the tied end and then letting it go. The pompoms will fly out, as the contraption will act as a launcher.



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers hear sounds through a balloon.

Supplies

- inflated balloons (1 per child)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Follow the Leader.



PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- globe or map of the world

Easy Prep

- Place the globe or map of the world near where you'll be doing your puppet skit.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers unwrap a surprise.

Supplies

- gift box
- roll of wrapping paper
- transparent tape
- scissors
- 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
- cellphone timer or clock
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place the candy pieces in the box, and wrap the box in layers of wrapping paper until you've used the entire roll.
- Put the pair of dice in your pocket or somewhere else out of reach of the children but where you can access the dice easily.
- Set your cellphone timer to 5 minutes, or make sure there's a clock in sight you can use to time 5 minutes for the game.

**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 preschoolers give an “elbow-five” to three friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say, “Three cheers for our birthday friends! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! It’s your birthday!”
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out that Jesus is wonderful. He’s amazing, he’s incredible, and he’s the most wonderful person we’ll ever know! Since we’re talking about our wonderful friend Jesus today, let’s start by sharing about wonderful things that could happen to us.**

Share

- Share what *you* feel would be the most wonderful thing that could happen to you today. If your kids or grandchildren live out of state, you might share that it’d be the most wonderful thing for them to show up to see you. Or you might share that a surprise trip to Hawaii would be the most wonderful thing that could happen to you today.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share what *they* think would be the most wonderful thing that could happen to them today. Preschoolers might share that the most wonderful thing that could happen to them today would be if their dogs started talking to them, if they could grow wings and be able to fly, or if their favorite stuffed animals came to life.
- 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: **Wow! Those things all sound pretty wonderful! But do you know what the most wonderful thing is? Jesus! Jesus is the most wonderful person ever! Jesus loves us and cares for us, and we can expect amazing things from him!**

Pray, thanking Jesus for being wonderful.



Supplies

- Bible
- inflated balloons (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- baby doll
- baby bottles (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- bandages (1 per child)
- “Station Signs” handout (1 copy) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Create 3 stations that kids can visit. Hang 1 station sign in each station. In the “Love Station,” hang the sign of the heart. In the “Protect Station,” hang the sign of the soldier. Place the inflated balloons in this station. In the “Provide Station,” hang the sign of the parent and child. Place the baby doll, baby bottles, and bandages in this station.

Tip

- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

Act and Wonder

Say: **Today we'll find out that Jesus is wonderful.** Pause. **I wonder what that means.** Show the Bible. **Let's look at today's Bible story to find out. The Bible says Jesus was traveling to a place called Sidon (SY-don).** Lead kids to make walking sounds by patting their legs.

Say: **In Sidon, some people brought a man to Jesus. The man couldn't hear anything.** Have kids cover their ears. **I wonder what that would be like.** Instead of speaking or whispering, only mouth “Jesus loves you” about three times.

Ask: • **What do you think I was saying just now?**

Say: **The man couldn't hear anything anyone said. He could only look at people's mouths like you just did and try to guess. He couldn't hear the sound of a song or the sound of a dog barking. He couldn't hear the honk of a horn or anything at all! That's why his friends brought him to Jesus—they wanted Jesus to heal his ears so he could hear. But that wasn't all that was wrong with this man; he also had trouble talking.** Begin repeating the paragraph you just read aloud, but leave out sounds and words or change sounds in the words as you do; for example, you might say, “Zee mah coo-nt her, ning,” for the first sentence, and then pause to see how kids react.

Ask: • **Do you wonder what I was saying just now? What do you think I was saying?**

Say: **Because the man had trouble talking, it was probably hard for people to understand him, too. I wonder how the man and the people felt about that.**

Ask: • **What do you think?** Invite kids to ponder how the man might've felt and the people might have felt because the man couldn't hear or speak well. They might say the man and his family might have been sad because they couldn't talk to each other very well. They might also say the man might have felt frustrated or embarrassed.

Say: **It must've been really hard for the man and the people to understand each other. So his friends begged Jesus to make him better. Jesus listened to the people and then led the man away from all the other people so they could be alone. I wonder why he did that.**

Ask: • **What are some reasons you think Jesus might've done that?** Accept any answers preschoolers share—the idea is to help them practice “wondering.”

Say: **The Bible doesn't say why Jesus wanted to be alone with the man, but it does say that Jesus helped him. Jesus put his fingers in the man's ears.** Have kids touch their ears. **I wonder why he did that. And then Jesus spit on his fingers and touched the man's tongue.** Have kids touch their mouths. **I wonder why he did that, too. There are so many surprising things that Jesus did in the Bible.**

Ask: • **I wonder if you can guess what happened when Jesus did this. What do you think?**

Say: **Let's read the Bible to find out.** Read Mark 7:34-35. **Jesus did something wonderful! He made the man all better! The man could now hear, and he could talk in a way that people could understand him! Jesus is so wonderful!**

Ask: • **Did you expect that to happen? Why or why not?**

Say: **Jesus is full of wonder, and we can expect good things from him! Jesus can do amazing and surprising things, and he always, always does what's good for us!**

Visit Stations

Say: **Let's find out some of the ways Jesus is wonderful to us.** In small groups, lead kids to each of the following stations. Depending on your group size and the number of adult or teen helpers you have, determine whether it's best to have all the kids go to one station at a time or divide into small groups and rotate among the stations. If you choose to have groups rotate, have adult or teen helpers lead the words and actions for two of the stations while you lead the third.

At the Love Station: Talk about how Jesus is wonderful to us with the way he loves us and is a friend to us. Say: **Jesus shows us he's wonderful by being an amazing friend and loving us so well. Let's think about things we do to show love. We...** List the following actions, and have kids do them:

- **give hugs.** (Have kids hug a few friends and then have a group hug in their small groups.)
- **hold hands.** (Have kids hold hands in a circle.) Say: **We love to be close to friends and show them we love them. One way we do that is by holding their hands.**
- **give kisses.** (Have kids blow kisses to three other children.)

Say: **We also play together with friends, and sometimes we snuggle with our parents.**

Ask: • **What are some ways you like to show love?**

Say: **Even though we can't see Jesus with our eyes right now, he's always with us. He wants us to talk to him like we talk to all our friends. Jesus loves us so much, and we can always expect good things from him because Jesus is wonderful.**

At the Protect Station: Talk about how Jesus is wonderful to us with the way he provides. Say: **Jesus shows us he's wonderful by keeping us safe. Let's do something to help us think about staying safe.** Have each small group make a circle with one child standing in the center of the circle. Have the children making the circle create a "roof" over the center child's head by raising their arms and placing their hands together in the center.

Say: **Protect your friend in the center from this balloon.** Toss a balloon at each circle multiple times, reminding kids to keep their roof in place so the child in the center isn't touched by the balloon. After about 20 seconds, have groups choose a different child to be in the center. Repeat this game until all the children have stood in the center.

Ask: • **What was it like to protect your friend?**

• **What was it like to be protected?**

Say: **Jesus is powerful and can keep us safe from any harm. We can expect him to be good to us because he's wonderful! Sometimes Jesus protects us by giving us adults who know what will keep us safe. Jesus protects us in all kinds of ways.**

At the Provide Station: Talk about how Jesus is wonderful to us with the way he protects. Say: **Jesus shows us he's wonderful by giving us what we need. Let's do something to help us think about some of the things we need that Jesus gives us. We need...** List the following things, and have kids do the actions in their small groups:

- **to eat food and drink water.** (Have kids take turns pretending to feed the baby doll).
- **to have help when we're hurt.** (Have kids take turns placing bandages on one another).
- **To have our friends and families when we're sad.** (Have kids get in pairs, and have one child pretend to cry while the other child does things to "comfort" the child, like rubbing his or her back or saying "I'm here" or "It'll be okay." Have kids switch roles so each child gets to play each part.)

Ask: • **What was it like to be comforted in our activity?**

• **How did you feel, or what were you thinking?**

Say: **Jesus is always with us, and he wants to help us feel better when we're sad. He wants us to have everything we need, whether it's food, friends and families, or help when we're hurt. Jesus is so wonderful that he can make sure we have what we need through people, things, or even the Bible.**

Pray

Say: **We can expect good things from Jesus because he always wants what's best for us. And Jesus is so wonderful that he can do any amazing thing. There's nothing too hard for Jesus. Let's talk to Jesus and then expect good things from him.**

Share about something you want to ask Jesus for. It may be something you need from him, or it might be something someone you love needs from him.

Say: **Just as Jesus helped the man when his friends brought him to Jesus, we can bring our needs to Jesus, too.**

Ask: • **What's something you or someone you know needs right now?**

Say: **Let's tell Jesus these things, and then we'll wait and expect Jesus to answer us in a way that's very best for us and the people we love! Jesus is wonderful—there's nothing he can't do.**



Supplies

- paper cup
- uninflated balloon
- small pompoms (at least 1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Cut off the bottom of the cup. Tie off the opening of the balloon, then cut off the bottom of the balloon and stretch it over the edge of the now-open bottom of the cup. Place the pompoms in the contraption, and practice holding the balloon in place over the bottom of the cup, pulling the tied end and then letting it go. The pompoms will fly out, as the contraption will act as a launcher.



Share Prayer Requests

Say: **Today we learned that Jesus is wonderful and we can expect amazing things from him. We can talk to him anytime about our worries, fears, or hurts, and we can be sure he'll take care of us. Let's share some things we'd like to ask Jesus for.**

Share a few of your own prayer requests, and add a pompom to the pompom launcher for each one. You might share about an illness a family member has, a job you hope to get, and something you're sad about.

After you share, say: **I'm asking Jesus for help with these things, and I expect him to take care of me.** Pull the tie on the balloon, and launch the pompoms. **I don't know what Jesus will do to take care of me, but I know he will. Jesus is wonderful, and he loves us and wants only the best for us!**

Give each child a pompom. Ask: • **What do you want to ask Jesus for?** Encourage children to share prayer requests, rather than asking for toys or things like that. Preschoolers might ask for help with a friend they had a fight with, for Jesus to bring them a baby sister, or for Jesus to help grandma get better. Have kids add pompoms to the launcher after they share.

Say: **Because Jesus is wonderful, we can expect him to hear all of these things we're sharing, and he'll do amazing things. We don't know when or how, but we can expect amazing things from Jesus!** Launch the pompoms into the air, and invite children to celebrate.

Repeat as time allows. Collect all the pompoms, and place them in the launcher.

Pray

Say: **Let's thank Jesus for being wonderful and let him know we expect amazing things from him.** Lead children in a brief prayer.

Say: **Thanks for coming to learn about our wonderful Jesus today! This week, talk to Jesus about everything you need, and then expect amazing things from him!** Launch the pompoms once more.



Supplies

- inflated balloons (1 per child)

Tip

- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

Tap a Balloon

Say: **Let's pretend these balloons are drums. We'll hold the tie with one hand and tap our fingers on the other end. I wonder how loud our drum sounds will be?**

- Give each child a balloon.
- Show kids how to hold the balloon tie with one hand.
- Show kids how to tap lightly on the other end of the balloon with the other hand.

Tap a Balloon Near Your Ear

Say: **The drumming sound isn't very loud. Even if we try to tap our fingers harder, it's still pretty quiet. I wonder what will happen if we hold our balloons closer to our ears?**

Ask: • **What do you think will happen?**

- Show kids how to hold their balloons near one ear. Encourage them not to touch their ears with the balloons.
- Have kids tap on their balloons again. This time, the tapping will sound louder through the balloons!
- If it's difficult for kids to hold the balloons near their heads and tap at the same time, have them pair up so one child taps the balloon near the other child's ear. Then have kids switch places so everyone has a chance to listen through the balloon.

Talk About It

Say: **Our drums are so loud now! That's wonderful! I wonder if this is how the man in the Bible felt when Jesus healed him so he could hear. Jesus is wonderful. Our wonderful friend, Jesus, healed the man, and we can count on Jesus to do good things in our lives, too.**

Share an example of something good Jesus has done for you or a friend or family member that you know. It could be a way he's shown his love or a way he's protected or provided for you. After sharing your story, have kids help you celebrate how wonderful Jesus is by tossing balloons into the air and shouting, "Jesus, you're wonderful!"



Play a Silent Version of Follow the Leader

Say: **Today's Bible story was about a time Jesus helped a deaf man to be able to hear. Being deaf means you can't hear anything and your world would always be quiet. Let's play a game to see what that might be like.**

- Have the kids face you while standing in a half circle around you.
- Play a game of Follow the Leader where you'll lead the kids using gestures and motions only—no words.
- Do the motions as gently and quietly as you can so the kids follow your quiet example. Switch between the motions at varied intervals to keep the game interesting and so the kids have to pay attention to you to know when it's time to do something different.
 - flap your arms like a bird
 - gently bunny hop
 - take big tiptoe steps
 - crawl
 - crouch down, then stand up repeatedly
 - pretend to climb a rope
 - lie on your back and do sit-ups
 - touch your head, then shoulders, then knees, then toes repeatedly
 - quickly walk backward around the room
 - cover and uncover your eyes a few times
 - mouth the words "Jesus loves you"

Talk About It

Ask: • **Why would the game be easier if I could *tell* you what to do instead of just showing you?**

Say: **Being able to hear is a wonderful gift that maybe we don't think about until things are very quiet. The man Jesus healed had never been able to hear, so it was amazing and wonderful when Jesus healed his ears! Jesus is wonderful!**



Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- globe or map of the world

Easy Prep

- Place the globe or map of the world near where you'll be doing your puppet skit.

Tip

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.

Leader: **It's time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let's call him to our class with a "woof, woof." Ready?** *(Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.)*

Theo: **Hi, friends!** *(Pants.)* **My back is so itchy today. Would you scratch my back?** *(Circulates among kids so each child can pet him.)*

Leader: **Thanks for giving a friendly welcome to Theo, kids!**

Theo: **Thank you!** *(Looks to the globe/map.)* **Wow! I love those.** *(Goes to the globe/map and touches it.)* **This shows all the places all over the world!**

Leader: **That's right!**

Theo: **Can you show us where we live?**

Leader: **I'd love to!** *(Point to your city and show Theo and the kids.)*

Theo: *(Looks to kids.)* **Did you know the world is big and round and people live all over the world!?** *(Points to different places on the map.)* **Have you ever traveled to a new place?** *(Invites kids to share if they've gone on a trip somewhere, and responds to their answers with "wondering" questions such as "I wonder what the trees look like there—can you tell me?" "I wonder if you can see a city on the other side of the ocean—can you?" "I wonder what the doggies' names are there—do you know any?")*

Leader: **You have a lot of "wondering" questions, Theo!**

Theo: **I wonder about so many things!** *(Looks to kids.)* **Do you wonder about other people or places around the world?** *(Invites kids to share what they wonder about, and if needed, helps them think of questions they have. For example, he might say "Name another place," and then after kids name the place, he might share wondering statements to spark ideas, such as "I wonder if they have ice cream there" or I wonder if it's cold there.")*

Leader: **Did you know that Jesus is FULL of wonder? Jesus is wonderful!**

Theo: *(Looks confused.)* **So Jesus has a lot of questions?** *(Stops to think.)* **I must be wonderful, too!**

Leader: **You are wonderful, Theo, but not like Jesus is. When I say Jesus is wonderful, I mean he's so amazing and exciting that the things he can do make us wonder. He surprises us with such amazing love and care that we can't imagine how he does it! That's why we say he's full of wonder.**

Theo: ***I think I get it! Jesus is awesome and incredible and terrific! Jesus is wonderful!*** (Invites kids to cheer with him about how wonderful Jesus is.)

Leader: **Jesus IS wonderful, and we can expect good things from him.**

Theo: (Jumps excitedly.) ***What good things can we expect from him? Like a fancy new soccer ball?***

Leader: I'm not sure about that. What we *can* expect from Jesus is that he's always with us, and he'll give us what we need. And he loves us so, so much!

Theo: (Jumps excitedly.) ***Wow! Jesus is so wonderful! I'm so excited to look for good things for Jesus, I just need to go outside and run and howl!***

Leader: (Chuckles.) **You go outside and let out your excitement, Theo! Friends, let's give Theo a big "woof, woof, goodbye"!** (Leads kids to say "woof, woof, goodbye," and then places Theo out of sight.)



Supplies

- gift box
- roll of wrapping paper
- transparent tape
- scissors
- 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
- cellphone timer or clock
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place the candy pieces in the box, and wrap the box in layers of wrapping paper until you've used the entire roll.
- Put the pair of dice in your pocket or somewhere else out of reach of the children but where you can access the dice easily.
- Set your cellphone timer to 5 minutes, or make sure there's a clock in sight you can use to time 5 minutes for the game.

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 we read about when Jesus healed a man who couldn't hear anything. Jesus gave him a wonderful gift when he healed the man's ears and the man could hear!**

Ask: • **What do you think would be the best gift you could get?**

Say: **I like your gift ideas, and I have a 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 wrapped box to one of the adult or teen helpers.
- Starting with the person holding the box, everyone will unwrap one layer of wrapping paper at a time, unwrapping as many layers as possible during his or her turn.
- You'll set a timer for five minutes, and the unwrapping can begin.
- You'll roll the dice continuously during the five minutes of the game. Each time you roll doubles, you'll call out "Pass!" and the person unwrapping the gift will pass it to the person on his or her right. Rolling the dice is simply a way to randomly call out when it's time to pass and will vary the length of the turn each person gets for unwrapping.
- Play until the five minutes are up or until the box is completely unwrapped, whichever comes first.
- Then allow the person holding the box to open it and show the gift to everyone.
- Have your helpers distribute the candy, making sure each child gets one piece.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while everyone plays.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you think was in the gift box?**

Say: **You knew there was a gift in there, so no matter what it was, you knew something good was coming. You expected something good, and that was exciting and fun!**

Share about a time in *your* life when you knew something wonderful was coming and you were excited about it, such as a weekend adventure with friends or getting presents from your family for Christmas.

Ask: • **What's something wonderful you've been excited about?** Preschoolers might share about getting gifts for Christmas or birthdays or going on trips with their families.

Say: Life is so good when we're expecting something good, and we can always expect good things from Jesus because Jesus is wonderful! Jesus is a gift in our lives all the time.

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