

# HEALINGS IN CAPERNAUM

MARK 1; LUKE 4



**KEY PASSAGE:** Daniel 4:3

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus has all authority and power to heal the sick and save sinners. Anyone who repents and trusts in Him will be forgiven of sin and can look forward to the new heaven and earth where sin, death, and sickness will no longer exist.

**STORY POINT:** With authority and power, Jesus healed people.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' power to heal the sick comprised an important part of His ministry—drawing people to Him in desperation, curiosity, and wonder. Though His signs and wonders led crowds to gather in His presence, Jesus did not perform healings as a mere party trick or performance. His healings pointed to a need much greater than they could see with their eyes or even feel within their bodies; Jesus came to save sinners from the power of sin and death.

When Jesus spoke in the synagogue, people listened intently, aware that He was different from the others who taught the Scriptures. Jesus spoke with authority, confidence, and a sincere reliance upon God's Word. He had power that came from being one with His Father. Those gathered in His presence didn't just hear His words; they witnessed His truth in action as He commanded unclean spirits and healed those in need. He didn't just talk about God's salvation; He demonstrated God's desire to save those He created.

Healings were an important part of Jesus' ministry because sickness is a reality that impacts lives deeply and personally. Jesus also knew, however, that our great physical need for healing would point to our even greater need for salvation. Jesus' signs lead us to experience the truth that He came to save all who believe in Him by faith. This ability to repent and trust in Him for the hope of eternal life is the free gift offered to us by grace.

The man with the unclean spirit recognized the power and holiness of Christ and received healing in his time of need. Simon's mother-in-law was bedridden and feverish until Jesus raised her up, and she began to serve her son's household. Jesus went on to restore many more people who had been afflicted with sickness and unclean spirits. All these experienced healing, in contrast to those who believed themselves too righteous to need a Savior, unable to recognize Jesus as the true Son of God.

As you teach the kids in your class this week, pray that they would look to Jesus as the one with all power, authority, and rule over their lives. Ask the Lord to make His truth evident in their lives, that they would repent of their sins and experience salvation in His name.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



#### PREPARE

##### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



#### WELCOME

##### 10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



#### LEARN

##### 25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



#### LOVE

##### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



#### LIVE

##### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- "Find It!" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- balloon
- Allergy Alert



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Reflection and Prayer

- Bible story coloring page



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- "Healings in Capernaum" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Bible costumes (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- "Unit 22, Session 3" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- "South America Map" printable
- "Smith Family Photo" printable

#### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "From Generation to Generation (Daniel 4:3)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “ If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Why would you choose that one? ”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Find It!” activity page.

| **SAY** “ While make believe is fun to think about, Jesus’ miracles were real events that showed who He is! In today’s story, we’ll learn that **WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER, JESUS HEALED PEOPLE.** ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: NO ONE ELSE



Challenge kids to think of something they can do that no one else in the room can do. It might be telling a joke that no one else has heard before, doing a difficult math problem, doing a handstand, reciting a Scripture verse from memory, or doing a certain amount of push-ups. Encourage the kids to share their skill with the group, and if the environment allows it, show their skill to the group.

| **SAY** “ You guys have some pretty cool skills! But even the most amazing thing we can do can’t compare to the miracles Jesus performed. In today’s story, we will see that **WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER, JESUS HEALED PEOPLE.** While He was on earth, Jesus did what no one else could do! ”

#### OPTION 2: AIRBORNE



Blow up a balloon. Lead kids to spread out around the room. Explain that if someone has authority and power, it means they are in charge and can make something happen in a certain way. Name some people who have authority, such as parents, teachers, police officers, and other leaders. Encourage kids to brainstorm other people who have authority and power. Say that you will throw the balloon out into the group and their job is to keep it in the air by batting it up, but each time someone hits the balloon, they must call out a person who has power or authority. If a kid can’t name someone or if the balloon drops on the ground, that round is over. Challenge kids to see how long they can keep the balloon in the air. Continue playing for several rounds.

| **SAY** “ You did a great job coming up with people who have power and authority! Today we will see that Jesus has the power to help sick and hurting people. Together we will learn that **WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER, JESUS HEALED PEOPLE.** ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

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### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m so excited to explore another story in the Gospels with you! If you brought your Bible to church this morning, go ahead and take it out now. [Use this time to distribute a Bible to any kid who needs one.] Together, we have learned that by healing people and teaching, Jesus was showing the people the reason why He came. Today, we will explore more of the miracles Jesus performed to show His compassion for people. Let’s pray before we open God’s Word. ‘Thank You, God, for showing Your love for us through the power and authority of Your Son, Jesus. Open our hearts and minds to worship You as we read from Your Word. Amen.’ ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “ Our big picture question reminds us why Jesus performed miracles. Can anyone recite our big picture question? [Allow responses.] **Why did Jesus perform miracles?** [Allow responses.] Together we have learned that **Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.** Jesus’ amazing power to heal through miracles revealed that He is God’s Son. Jesus used His miracles to bring glory to God the Father and to show compassion to hurting people. Today, we will see that, **WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER, JESUS HEALED PEOPLE**, both spiritually and physically. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ God’s people were broken by sin, but Jesus taught that He came to bring a new kingdom. Those who trust in Him can be spiritually reborn into God’s family. Jesus demonstrated His power as God’s Son by healing the official’s son. As Jesus spoke in the synagogue, He revealed that He is the Messiah: the one God sent to save us from our sin. Today, we will learn that, **WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER, JESUS HEALED PEOPLE.** ”



## LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Mark 1; Luke 4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Healings in Capernaum.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### HEALINGS IN CAPERNAUM

“ Jesus left Nazareth and went to a town called Capernaum. On the Sabbath, He went directly to the synagogue and began teaching. The people were amazed with how He taught with authority.

As He was teaching, a man with an unclean spirit cried out, “What do You have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!

Jesus commanded the spirit: “Be silent and come out of him!” The spirit made the man shake and shout before coming out of him. But the man was not hurt at all.

This made the people even more amazed. They began to say, “Can you believe it? Jesus teaches with authority and commands unclean spirits so that they obey him.” Pretty soon, everyone in the area was talking about Jesus and His power to heal.

Then Jesus went to Simon and Andrew’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her, took her by the hand, and lifted her up. She was healed!

By the time the sun had set, people were coming from all over so that Jesus could heal them. Everyone who came, as a sick or demon-possessed person, was healed by Jesus.

Christ Connection: Jesus has all authority and power to heal the sick and save sinners. Anyone who repents and trusts in Him will be forgiven of sin and can look forward to the new heaven and earth where sin, death, and sickness will no longer exist. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Dress up:** Consider dressing up as a person in Bible-times. Read the story as if you are a witness sharing what you saw.

**Amazed!:** As you read, invite the kids to listen for the word *amazed* and show the emotion of amazement on their faces.

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ The people recognized that Jesus was different than other teachers in the synagogue. Jesus was not repeating the words that others had taught; He was teaching with the authority of God. He continued to show His authority to the people by healing a man who was possessed by a unclean spirit. What did the unclean spirit say to Jesus? [Allow responses.] The unclean spirit knew who Jesus was and the authority that He possessed. But the unclean spirit did not trust in Jesus. In fact, the unclean spirit was afraid because he knew Jesus had come to destroy him! Just as the official’s son had been healed by Jesus speaking, again



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus demonstrated the power of His words by commanding the unclean spirit to leave.

Whose house did Jesus visit in the story? [Allow responses.] Jesus' healing of Simon's mother-in-law showed that He had power not just over spirits, but over diseases, too! Sickness and disease exist in the world because Adam and Eve brought sin into the world, which is why Jesus came to offer us more than temporary healing. Jesus came to offer believers freedom from sin once and for all.

Jesus has all authority and power to heal the sick and save sinners. Anyone who repents and trusts in Him will be forgiven of sin and can look forward to the new heaven and earth where sin, death, and sickness will no longer exist. ”

### 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ Jesus healed sickness and drove out unclean spirits, but He came to do so much more. As He taught and healed, He revealed our need for a Savior. By dying on the cross and rising again, Jesus defeated sin and death forever. When a person trusts in Jesus as Lord, they receive freedom from sin and eternal life in God's kingdom. To learn more about what it means to trust your life to Jesus, you can speak to one of your parents or a church leader. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 22, Session 3” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. If Jesus healed people and brought people back from the dead, why don't we see miracles like that more often now?
2. What is something you can trust Jesus with this week?



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Point out the country of Peru on the “South America Map” printable.

**SAY** “ People from all over Peru in South America come to the capital city of Lima to work. Holly and Jonathan Smith are missionaries working with a local church in Lima to help start a church in a small community about two hours outside the city. ”

Show the “Smith Family Photo” printable.

Share that Holly was getting discouraged about her Spanish language skills. She wanted to tell people about Jesus, but it was difficult because she didn’t know the language. She prayed for a way to tell people about Jesus’ love. Soon Holly responded to an opportunity to use her phone and computer to connect with people online. Holly responded to several people who were lonely or needed encouragement. One day, a woman named Stella, who was going through a hard time, asked for prayer. Holly prayed for her and told her about Jesus. They messaged back and forth over a few days. Holly was thrilled when Stella told her she had trusted Jesus as her Savior. Even though the two women never met in person, God used Holly’s online messages to change Stella’s life.

Pray, thanking God for the Smiths and other missionary families serving in Peru. Pray that missionaries continue to use many different opportunities to help more people know about Jesus.

#### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Daniel 4:3 together.

**SAY** “ Jesus healed with power and authority because He is God’s Son. With teaching and miracles, Jesus was bringing forth God’s eternal kingdom. Let’s explore this more in our key passage. ”

Display the Key Passage Poster and instruct the kids to recite the passage aloud together. Name a type of voice and invite the kids to recite the key passage using that voice. Some ideas include scuba diver, lion, sloth, cartoon character, robot, or opera. Invite the kids to join you in saying the passage aloud together in their different voices. Play several times, allowing the kids to use different voices each time.

Lead kids to sing “From Generation to Generation (Daniel 4:3).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

#### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “ God, thank You for inviting us into Your eternal kingdom through Your Son, Jesus! Help us share and invite others to experience the good news of salvation through Jesus. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Mark 1. Explain that today's story can be found in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. These writers were not eyewitnesses to these events; however, they wrote according to the stories of those who were. Share that Mark's entire Gospel was likely based on the account of Simon Peter. Consider pointing out the location of Capernaum [C6] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Mark 1:32-34 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** “ Think about a time that you waited in line to see something. How long did you wait? [Allow responses.] When we get excited to see something, maybe our favorite singer or a new movie, we are willing to wait to experience it. When people heard of Jesus' power and miracles, the whole city came to be healed by Him! Jesus' miracles were amazing, but Jesus came to offer more than physical healing and signs. He is the Messiah who came to deliver us from the spiritual death we deserve because of our sin. God wants people who have been saved from their sins to tell others the good news about Jesus! ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ Do the unclean spirits believe in Jesus? ”

Remind the kids that the unclean spirits knew who Jesus was. One of them even called Him “the Holy One of God.” But the unclean spirits did not trust in or worship Jesus. Share that Scripture teaches that simply knowing about God does not save us. Only those who trust in Jesus as Lord and put their faith in Him will be saved. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 2:19.)

**SAY** “ How does Jesus' healing of people point to God's greater plan for sin? ”

Explain that Jesus healed people and cast out unclean spirits to reveal His authority as the Son of God. Share that this, however, was not Jesus' main goal. Jesus came to be the sacrifice for sin for all who would believe in Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 19:10.)

**SAY** “ Does Jesus heal only when we have faith? ”

Jesus wants us to believe that He can heal people physically, and we should ask Him to heal us and others when we are sick. But Jesus also wants us to trust Him to do the right thing at the right time. Sometimes, Jesus might choose to heal people's bodies, and other times He may decide not to heal. However, Jesus always heals people of their sins the moment they have faith in Him. One day, Jesus will end all sickness and pain forever for people who believe in Him (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:8-9.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: SIMON SAYS AND DOES



Lead kids to spread out around the room. Play a game of Simon Says, but explain that the kids will need to both listen and watch Simon. Instead of listening for “Simon says” before each action, kids will follow the instruction if they hear Simon say an instruction while Simon also performs that instruction with his actions. If Simon says an instruction, but his action does not match the instruction, the kids must freeze. Start the game with an adult leader as Simon, then pass it off to one of the kids. Play several rounds, allowing different kids to lead the game.

**SAY** “ In our game, you only followed the leader when they both said the instruction and showed the instruction with their actions. In today’s story, we saw that Jesus showed that He is the Son of God both through what He said in the synagogue and through His actions. **WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER, JESUS HEALED PEOPLE.** ”

##### OPTION 2: FIND IT!

Lead kids to form small groups of three or four kids. Give each group a Bible and encourage them to open the Bible to the Table of Contents. Explain that you will ask a question and that both teams will use the Table of Contents to find the answer. Once they find it, the whole team will jump up. First team to jump up wins that round. Some suggestions include: How many books begin with the letter J? How many books are in the New Testament? How many books are named after women? How many books have the number two in their title?

**SAY** “ Great job using the Table of Contents! We can find this at the beginning of every Bible, and it is very helpful in finding books within the Bible. It’s important that we understand how to use our Bible, because that helps us know God’s Word better. ”

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.