

An illustration of Jesus, with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a white robe with a red sash. He is surrounded by a crowd of people in a town setting. In the foreground, a woman with a red headscarf and a purple robe is touching Jesus' arm. Other people in various robes and head coverings are visible in the background, some looking at Jesus with expressions of awe or hope. The scene is set in a town with buildings and a palm tree in the distance.

UNIT 25 | SESSION 4

JESUS GAVE LIFE AND HEALING

MATTHEW 9; MARK 5; LUKE 8

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 40:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true and has no error.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus healed people and raised the dead to life. By doing this, He showed that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He made the way for people to be healed from something even greater than disease or death. He made the way for us to be forgiven of our sin and have eternal life.

STORY POINT: Jesus healed people and raised the dead to life.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

You've likely heard the saying, "Desperate people do desperate things." Most of the time, that phrase implies someone makes a bad decision because of their desperate situation. In this week's session, however, we see two people doing desperate things that are, in fact, bold acts of faith.

First, there's Jairus, a respected synagogue leader. But none of that mattered when his little girl was dying. In that moment, Jairus wasn't a leader; he was just a dad, desperate for someone to save his child. By going to Jesus, Jairus could have been risking his position and standing in the synagogue and community. But desperate people do desperate things.

As Jesus went with Jairus, a woman appeared from the crowd. This woman had suffered for 12 years from a bleeding condition that left her socially, spiritually, and emotionally isolated. According to Mosaic law, everything she touched became unclean, and anyone who touched her became unclean. She wasn't allowed to participate in the synagogue or the community. But she had heard about Jesus and had faith that touching even the edge of His clothes could heal her, so she reached out. Desperate people do desperate things.

Two people from opposite ends of society—one well-known, one forgotten; one pleading publicly, the other reaching secretly—yet both came to Jesus in faith. And in both cases, Jesus stopped for them and tenderly met their needs.

Our desperate moments are often the doorway to deeper faith. When we come to Jesus, whether boldly like Jairus or quietly like the woman, He meets us where we are. This week, help kids understand they can take their cares to the Savior who loved us enough to provide for our greatest need: forgiveness from sin.



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

- ☐ "Hidden Letters" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ ball



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



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

- ☐ "Jesus Gave Life and Healing" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 25, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Jesus Loves Me in Sign Language" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ sticky notes
- ☐ "Forever (Isaiah 40:8)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ dry erase board and marker

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ distilled white vinegar
- ☐ baking soda
- ☐ empty water bottle
- ☐ balloon
- ☐ funnel
- ☐ Allergy Alert

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



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** “What are some things that help you feel better when you are sick?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Hidden Letters” activity page.

| **SAY** “By finding the missing letters, you were able to learn what Jesus said made the woman well. Jesus shared that those who have faith in Him will be saved. Today, we’ll learn about Jesus’ power over death and disease.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: BANDAGE TAG



Explain that the kids will be playing a different version of tag. Choose one kid to be It. When a kid is tagged, he or she becomes bandaged to the spot they are in. He or she must freeze until another kid comes by and gives them a high five. Continue playing until one kid remains.

| **SAY** “By high-fiving your friends, you were able to heal and unbandage them! Jesus helped heal those in need. Today we will see how **JESUS HEALED PEOPLE AND RAISED THE DEAD TO LIFE.**”

☐ OPTION 2: TIGHT-KNIT CIRCLE

Guide the kids to stand in a circle and link arms. Choose one volunteer to stand outside the circle. Place a ball in the middle of the circle. Explain that the kid outside the circle must try to get through the circle and retrieve the ball. The other kids’ goal is to keep their classmate out. Once the kid retrieves the ball, reset the game and choose a different volunteer to try to get the ball. Continue play as time allows.

| **SAY** “How hard was it to get through the circle? [Allow responses.] Today we will hear about a woman in a crowd who needed to get through the crowd to get to Jesus. We’ll learn that **JESUS HEALED PEOPLE AND RAISED THE DEAD TO LIFE.**”

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





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

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 glad you could join me today! Who can remind me what we talked about last week? [Allow responses.] By calming the storm, Jesus showed His disciples that He is God. Our story today comes from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Jesus continued to show His power as God by healing the sick and raising the dead.

Let’s pray together as we open God’s Word. ‘God, thank You for showing us compassion through Your Son, Jesus. Please help us pay attention as we study the truth of Your Word together. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Over the last few weeks, we have learned more about God’s Word through our big picture question. Let’s repeat the big picture question aloud together. **Is the Bible true?** Can anyone share the answer? [Allow responses.] **Yes, the Bible is true and has no error.**

God has revealed Himself to us through the Bible, which is His inspired Word, and through His Son, Jesus. We can trust the Bible because it was inspired by the Holy Spirit and faithfully passed down to the church. Jesus is the Word made flesh. He is the Messiah who came to earth to live among us and show us God’s character. Today, we will learn how Jesus healing the sick and raising the dead reveals God’s compassion for sinners. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

SAY “Through teaching parables, or stories, Jesus revealed the hearts of those who gathered to hear Him. He shared that God’s kingdom was near, but not everyone would enter into God’s kingdom. Jesus shared that those who follow God will be separated from those who have rejected Him. But by calming the storm, Jesus showed that He was more than a teacher. He is God, and He has power over creation. Today, we’ll see Jesus’ power as He healed the sick and raised the dead. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

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

Open your Bible to Matthew 9; Mark 5; Luke 8. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Gave Life and Healing.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS GAVE LIFE AND HEALING

“One day, a man named Jairus (JIGH ruhs), a leader in the synagogue, came to Jesus. “My little daughter is very sick,” Jairus said. “Please come and put Your hands on her so she will get well and live.”

Jesus went with Jairus, and a crowd followed. In the crowd was a woman who had been sick for 12 years. She had gone to many doctors, but no one could help her. She had spent all her money trying to get better, but she only got worse.

The woman had heard about Jesus. She thought: If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed. She came up behind Jesus, reached out, and touched His robe. Right away, her sickness was gone!

Jesus stopped and asked, “Who touched My clothes?” The woman came forward, trembling. She told Jesus what had happened. Jesus said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

While Jesus was still speaking, people came from Jairus’ house. “Your daughter has died,” they told Jairus. But Jesus told Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just believe.”

When they reached Jairus’ house, people were crying loudly. Jesus said, “Why are you crying? She is not dead. She is sleeping.” The people laughed at Him.

Jesus went into the room with the girl’s parents and three of His disciples. He took the girl’s hand and said, “Talitha koum” which means, “Little girl, get up.” Immediately, she stood up and began walking around! Everyone was amazed. Jesus told them to give her something to eat.

Not long after, Jesus healed two blind men who asked for mercy. Jesus also gave a man who could not speak the ability to talk. When Jesus saw the crowds of people, He felt compassion for them. Everywhere He went, Jesus showed that He has power over disease and death.

Christ Connection: Jesus healed people and raised the dead to life. By doing this, He showed that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He made the way for people to be healed from something even greater than disease or death. He made the way for us to be forgiven of our sin and have eternal life. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Differences: As kids listen, encourage them to notice the similarities and differences between the people Jesus healed in this story. He healed children, adults, men, women, the rich, and the poor.

Listen up: As you read, encourage the kids to listen for each time they hear Jesus mentioned. When they hear Jesus’ name, have them stand up. When they hear it again, have them sit back down.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ While Jairus was someone who held great authority, He sought Jesus’ help when his daughter became sick. Jairus understood that Jesus’ authority was much greater than his own. What did Jairus say when he came to Jesus? [Allow responses.] Jairus demonstrated his faith in Jesus’ power and authority by asking Jesus to make his daughter well. The woman who had been sick demonstrated this same incredible faith when she reached out to touch Jesus’ robe. What was Jesus’ response to the women? [Allow responses.] Only Jesus has the power to save. Both the faith of the woman and of Jairus revealed their trust in who Jesus is.

What did Jesus say to Jairus’ daughter? [Allow responses.] Though the people were sad, Jesus was not late; He was right on time. During Jesus’ day, touching a dead body was considered unclean. But by touching and healing the girl, Jesus revealed His power to make the unclean clean again, just as He had done with the sick woman. These miracles showed that Jesus did not come to simply heal physical diseases; He came to heal spiritual sickness. As Jesus looked on the people, He had compassion over their spiritual brokenness. We are all dead in sin; Jesus desires healing for our hearts.

Jesus healed people and raised the dead to life. By doing this, He showed that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He made the way for people to be healed from something even greater than disease or death. He made the way for us to be forgiven of our sin and have eternal life. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Death has no power over Jesus. He came to raise us from spiritual death because of sin, to new life in Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has brought salvation for all those who turn from their sin and trust in Him. To learn more about what it means to trust your life to Jesus, you can see 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 25, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How did the Bible come to us? How were all the books put together?
2. What is your favorite story from the Bible? Who can you share it with this week?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Prior to the session, print a copy of the “Jesus Loves Me in Sign Language” printable and hang it somewhere for the group to see.

Explain that it is estimated that approximately 70 million people are deaf and use sign language as their primary language. This represents about one percent of the world population. The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf (SBCD) is a special group for Deaf Christians and Deaf churches.

Every year since 1950, believers from across the country have gathered to worship together, encourage each other, and discuss ideas for how they can work together to tell people about Jesus. The group’s core values include: the fact that every person is important to God, the Deaf are a people group, and they want to reach each deaf and hearing person with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

SAY “ Many of the churches involved in the first meetings of the SBCD were ministries started by J.W. Michaels and other leaders. God used him and his volunteers to start ministries that have banded together to tell more people about Jesus. ”

Show kids the poster and teach kids the signs for the words. Sing the song using sign language. Pray for the work of the SBCD as they continue to work together to tell the Deaf community about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 40:8 together.

SAY “ Though our lives on this earth will eventually come to an end, God’s Word is eternal. And He promises in His Word that those who trust in Him will have life with Him forever. Let’s look at this in our key passage. ”

Write each word of the key passage on individual sticky notes. Hide the sticky notes around the room. Challenge the group to find all the sticky notes and then work together to put them in the correct order. Once they have been assembled, lead the group in saying the key passage together. Lead kids to sing “Forever (Isaiah 40:8).” 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 revealing Yourself to us through Your everlasting Word. We trust that though the world will change and fade, the truth of Your Word never changes. Give us the courage to share this truth with others. 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 Matthew 9. Explain the Gospel of Matthew is one of four Gospels that give an account of Jesus' life and miracles. Jesus performed many signs and healed many people. By dying on the cross, He performed the greatest miracle: saving God's people from sin.

Consider pointing out the location of Capernaum [C6] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 9:35-36 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ God’s people were spiritually blind and sick with sin. And because of His great compassion over them, He sent Jesus to be the light in the midst of their darkness. God’s people had become blinded by sin and were deaf to the truth that Jesus shared about God’s kingdom. Jesus’ miracles of healing pointed to the greater purpose He came to serve. He came to raise the spiritually dead to life. While sin has made all of us unclean, Jesus came to make us clean. Through His death on the cross and His resurrection, Jesus defeated sin and death once and for all. He saves anyone who turns away from sin and believes in Him. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ How did Jesus’ miracles point to His death and resurrection? ”

Share that Jesus has power over disease and death because He is God. By healing disease and raising the dead, Jesus pointed to His future death and resurrection, which would save God’s people from sin. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 11:25.)

SAY “ What part does faith play in our salvation? ”

The Bible reminds us we are saved by God’s grace through placing our faith in His Son, Jesus. Explain that faith is trusting that Jesus is God’s Son, that He died for our sins, and that His death and resurrection have made us right before God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:8.)

SAY “ What does Jesus’ compassion over the crowd show us about how we should treat others? ”

Jesus had compassion for people. Explain that followers of Jesus should have compassion over those who are lost in sin. Encourage the kids to pray for friends or family members who may not know Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 5:8.)

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: COMPASSION



Discuss what it means to show compassion to others. Lead kids to discuss ways that Jesus showed compassion to people in today's story. Then write the word COMPASSION vertically on a dry erase board. Challenge kids to come up with a way to show compassion that starts with each letter of the word. As they come up with ideas, write it beside the corresponding letter. Examples might include Sit with a new kid at school or Offer to play a younger sibling's favorite game with them.

SAY “ Those were great examples of compassion! Jesus gives us the ultimate example of how to show compassion to others. We can follow His example every day. ”

☐ OPTION 2: INCREDIBLE INFLATION



Set up a table with your supplies. Invite the kids to have a seat around the table. Choose a volunteer to help you pour 1 to 2 inches of distilled white vinegar into the empty water bottle. Fill the deflated balloon halfway up with baking soda using a funnel. Twist the end of the balloon to keep any baking soda from getting out and carefully place the end of the balloon over the mouth of the bottle. Hold the twisted balloon tightly around the mouth of the bottle and hold the balloon up to allow the baking soda to release. The baking soda and vinegar will allow the balloon to slowly inflate.

SAY “ Jesus came to heal the sick and raise the dead to life. Similar to the balloon, when we repent of our sin and trust Jesus as Lord, He forgives us and raises us up to new life with Him! ”

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.