

JESUS HEALED A CHILD AND A MAN

MATTHEW 15; MARK 7



KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do we need to be born again? Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus has power over sickness and healed many people to show He is God's Son. Jesus also has power over sin and came to bring forgiveness, life, and hope to everyone who believes in Him.

STORY POINT: People were amazed at Jesus' miracles and praised God.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Jesus often called His disciples to follow Him outside their comfort zones. In both Matthew 15 and Mark 7, Jesus intentionally stepped into Gentile regions, places considered far from the center of God’s covenant people. Yet these “outside” spaces became the grounds where faith sprang up and healing flowed.

When Jesus healed the Canaanite woman’s daughter, He was in the region of Tyre and Sidon—territory no faithful Jew would deliberately travel through. Jesus was purposely moving into spaces that were likely unfamiliar and uncomfortable for His disciples.

But then came an astonishing expression of faith—not from a disciple or a religious leader—but from a desperate Gentile woman. Her theology was simple but profound as she pleaded, “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table” (Matthew 15:27). She understood something essential about Jesus: He is the Savior whose grace overflows into places everyone else has written off.

Mark’s account of the deaf man who had difficulty speaking shows something similar. Jesus traveled through the Decapolis—another Gentile region—and again performed a healing. He pulled the man away from the crowd, put His fingers in the man’s ears, touched his tongue, and said ephphatha—“Be opened.” This healing was deeply personal as Jesus literally touched the areas that needed healing. Once again, Jesus was not ministering in spaces that were considered safe or familiar to Jews. Jesus was stepping across human boundaries to open what had long been closed.

Jesus is the Savior who moves toward people when they feel furthest from His presence. He is not threatened by people’s confusion or weaknesses. And He is not hesitant to enter the messy or overlooked corners of one’s life.

This week, help kids see that Jesus longs to meet them where they are and provide for their greatest need, the forgiveness of sin, to bring them into a right relationship with Him.



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

- ☐ "Miracle Maze" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ index cards

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ chair or stool



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ dry erase board and marker

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ story props
- ☐ costumes

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

- ☐ "Jesus Healed a Child and a Man" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ biblical costumes (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 26, Session 3" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Mark and Vesta Sauter Photos" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "The One Who Believes in Me (John 11:25)" 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 “Have you ever seen something so amazing that you wanted to tell everyone about it? What was it? Who did you tell?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Miracle Maze” activity page.

SAY “Today we will see how Jesus healed a child and a man. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS’ MIRACLES AND PRAISED GOD.** I am looking forward to sharing this story with you today!”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: READ MY LIPS

Before this activity, write several words found in today’s story on index cards, such as: Jesus, heals, speak, daughter, amazed, and crowd. Gather kids into one group. Ask for one volunteer to come to the front. Challenge her to draw a card from the stack, silently read the word, and mouth the word for the group to guess without verbally saying the word. Be sure to instruct kids not to whisper or make any sound while mouthing the word. Encourage the rest of the group to shout out their guesses as to what word she is mouthing. Continue letting other kids take turns.

SAY “Today we will learn about two of Jesus’ miracles including healing a man who could not hear or speak. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS’ MIRACLES AND PRAISED GOD.**”

☐ OPTION 2: THE CHAIR TEST



Ask one kid to volunteer as your assistant for this activity. Place a chair or stool at the front so all kids can see it. Ask the volunteer if they think the chair would hold them up if they sat in it. Encourage them to share some reasons why they think the chair will hold them up. Then, ask the volunteer to sit down on the chair. Challenge the group to think about what other things they trust will do the job they were made for such as cars, planes, cups, pencils, etc. Explain that we trust that these things will work the way they are supposed to to keep us safe, able to travel, or allow us to do certain things.

SAY “In today’s story, we will see how people’s faith is important to Jesus. The people in today’s story believed Jesus would heal them or their family members. Because of their faith, they got to see Jesus perform miracles. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS’ MIRACLES AND PRAISED GOD.**”

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 “ Welcome, kids! I am so glad you are here. My name is [your name], and today I get to share a true story from the Bible with you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? (Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have them.) Today as we learn about some of Jesus’ miracles, let’s ask God to prepare our hearts to hear from His Word. ‘Lord, You have power over sickness because You are God. Remind us that You also have power over sin and came to bring forgiveness and life to everyone who trusts in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ As we study God’s Word together, we like to think about a big picture question and answer to help us focus on an important truth. Does anyone remember our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is: **Why do we need to be born again?** The answer to this question is: **Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.**

Today we will be reminded that Jesus has the power to heal sickness and also has power over sin. Through Jesus believers have forgiveness for sins and new and eternal life in Him. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

SAY “ Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry, He taught the truth of God through His words and actions. We saw how Jesus fed a crowd of thousands with just a few bread loaves and fish. Last week, we learned how Jesus walked on water, showing that He is God. Today we will see how **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS’ MIRACLES AND PRAISED GOD.** ”



LEARN the Bible Story

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

Open your Bible to Matthew 15; Mark 7. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Healed a Child and a Man.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS HEALED A CHILD AND A MAN

“A woman from Canaan came to Jesus. She believed Jesus could help her daughter. Her daughter was very sick. The woman cried out to Jesus, “Please help my daughter!”

At first, **Jesus** was quiet. Then He **said**, “I was sent to help God’s people.”

The woman said, “Even dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

When **Jesus** heard the woman’s response, He **said**, “You have great faith! Your daughter is healed.”

And **right then**, her daughter was made well!

After that, **Jesus went to a crowd by the Sea of Galilee. Many people brought their sick loved ones to Jesus. Some people couldn’t hear or talk, and some couldn’t walk. Jesus healed them all!**

Jesus helped a man who could not hear or speak. Jesus put His fingers in the man’s ears and touched the man’s tongue. Then Jesus said, “Be opened!” Suddenly, the man could hear and talk clearly!

The people who saw what Jesus did were amazed. They said, “Jesus does wonderful things! He even helps people who cannot hear or speak!”

Because of Jesus’ miracles, the people praised God.

Christ Connection: Jesus has power over sickness and healed many people to show He is God’s Son. Jesus also has power over sin and came to bring forgiveness, life, and hope to everyone who believes in Him. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Point of view: Dress up in biblical costume and tell the story from the point of view of someone who witnessed Jesus healing the child and the man in today’s story.

Location: Change where you tell the story. For example, if you normally tell the story with kids seated in chairs, invite them to join you on the floor as you tell the story.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “Today we heard about two specific miracles where Jesus healed a child and a man. First, we saw a woman from Canaan go to Jesus crying out for Him to heal her daughter. At first, Jesus didn’t respond to the woman, but when He saw that she truly believed He could heal her daughter, what did He say? [Allow responses.] Jesus told the woman that because of her great faith, her daughter was healed. When the woman went home, she found her daughter completely healed.

People continued to bring those who were sick to Jesus, and He healed them.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS' MIRACLES AND PRAISED GOD. As Jesus continued His ministry, He helped a man who could not hear or speak. What did Jesus do? **[Allow responses.]** Jesus took the man away from the crowd and touched his ears and his tongue. Jesus commanded his ears and mouth to be opened, and immediately the man could hear and speak. Those who saw this man healed, proclaimed all that Jesus had done. The people were amazed and praised God for all they had seen and heard.

Jesus has power over sickness and healed many people to show He is God's Son. Jesus also has power over sin and came to bring forgiveness, life, and hope to everyone who believes in Him. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Today we saw that Jesus has power over sickness, but He also has power over sin and came to bring forgiveness and life. If you would like to learn more about trusting Jesus as your Savior, I encourage you to talk to your parents or a church leader. We would love to talk more with you about this important decision. ”

(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 26, Session 3” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why do miracles not seem to happen as often now as they did in the Bible?
2. How have you seen God work in your life?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “When Vesta Sauter was a child, her father who was deaf wanted to enter full-time ministry. Their pastor told her father that there were not many options for Deaf people to receive training, which meant he would not be considered qualified to serve in ministry. That memory stayed with Vesta.”

Show the “Mark and Vesta Sauter Photos” printable.

SAY “Nevertheless, Mark and Vesta Sauter moved to the Czech Republic in 1997 to serve among the Deaf. They found that it was very difficult for Deaf children in Czech schools to learn sign language. As a hearing child of Deaf parents, Vesta’s first language was American Sign Language. When she started school, she initially struggled with the pronunciation of certain words. Vesta knew it was difficult for Deaf students to study in a language that was not their heart language, or the language they first learned to communicate in.

While the Sauters have been on the mission field, they have worked hard to help Deaf people learn Bible stories through sign language. They are working on the Deaf Pathway Global project to have at least 300 Bible stories translated into 300 sign languages. They also helped start a special school near Nashville, Tennessee, to train Deaf people to be pastors and missionaries.”

Pray, thanking God for the work of the Sauters and others who help Deaf people know about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 11:25 together.

SAY “Our key passage says that we must believe in Jesus to be saved. When we believe in Him, our sins are forgiven and we have eternal life with Him.”

Lead kids to say the key passage together. Then, add a beat or a rhythm as you say the key passage a second time. Encourage kids to clap, jump, snap, or stomp along as you say the key passage together. Repeat, challenging kids to think of a new action to do as you say the key passage as a group.

Lead kids to sing “The One Who Believes in Me (John 11:25).” 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 “Thank You, Lord, for Your power over everything, including sickness, and even sin. Thank You for sending Jesus to conquer sin and death for us so that we can have forgiveness, life, and hope when we believe in You. In Jesus’ name, 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 7. Explain that God used four different men to write the Gospels. Two of the men, Matthew and John, were part of Jesus' twelve disciples. Mark was a friend of Peter, another disciple, and Luke was a doctor. Luke was a doctor who recorded eyewitnesses' accounts of Jesus' life and ministry.

Consider pointing out the location of the Sea of Galilee [D6] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Mark 7:36, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ Jesus healed many people in front of large crowds, but some people He met with away from a crowd. When Jesus healed the man who could not speak or hear, He took him away from the crowd and met with him in private. There, Jesus healed him, and the man began to speak. The man was so overwhelmed at what Jesus had done for him that he could not keep it to himself. The Bible tells us that he excitedly shared what Jesus had done. This is the kind of response we should all have when we see Jesus working in our lives. We should want to tell the world what Jesus has done for us so that they can experience the same love, joy, peace, forgiveness, life, and hope we have in Him. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why do you think the woman kept asking Jesus to heal her daughter, even when He didn't immediately respond? ”

The woman knew that Jesus is the Son of God and has the power to heal sickness. She had faith that Jesus could heal her daughter, so she persisted in crying out to Jesus. Jesus saw her great faith and healed her daughter. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 21:22.)

SAY “ What can we learn about asking God for help? ”

The Bible tells us that if we are a child of God, He hears us and will answer us when we pray. Just like the woman calling out to Jesus, we should continue to pray, asking God for help in every situation. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Philippians 4:6.)

SAY “ Through today's story we saw that **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS' MIRACLES AND PRAISED GOD.** What are some things we can do that cause people to praise God? ”

It is important for Christians to point people to God through their words and actions. The best way to do this is to know what God's Word says and to do it. When we obey what God says, we can show others that life with Jesus is better than anything else. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 10:17.)

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WE PRAISE GOD



Lead kids to brainstorm things God has done in their lives or the lives of those around them and write them on a dry erase board. As a group, praise God for each good thing that's listed.

SAY “ Today we saw how **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS’ MIRACLES AND PRAISED GOD.** God is worthy of our praise simply because of who He is. But the good works He does in our lives and the lives of those around us can also lead us to praise Him. Believers can praise God for the miracle He has worked in their lives when He saved them and gave them new life in Him. ”

☐ OPTION 2: ACT IT OUT

Form kids into small groups and assign each group a miracle from today's story to act out. Encourage kids to think about the people involved in each miracle and what types of props they might want to use as they act it out. Consider providing props and costumes for kids to use as they present the story. Allow kids time to work together to assign roles and practice their skits. Then, invite each group to come to the front, one at a time, and present the skit of the miracle they were assigned. If time allows, have groups act out another miracle from the story or a previous miracle they have learned about.

SAY “ **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS’ MIRACLES AND PRAISED GOD.** Jesus has power over sickness and sin. He came to bring healing, forgiveness, life, and hope to everyone who believes in 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.