UNIT 27 | SESSION 1

JESUS HEALED A BLIND MAN

JOHN 9



KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:21

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *What is justification? Justification is when God declares that we are forgiven of sin and are made righteous.*

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus came to bring light into the darkness. He healed the blind man to show God's power and to point to a greater truth: Jesus came to give spiritual sight. When we trust in Him, He forgives our sin and helps us see and know God.

STORY POINT: Jesus healed a blind man to glorify God.

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PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The Christian phrase to "give one's testimony" means that a believer shares how God led them to respond to the gospel in faith and repentance. The challenge for many believers, however, is that their testimony seems to lack the dramatic twists and turns that other evangelists may share. Thus, some Christians shy away from sharing their testimony because they deem it boring and ineffective.

Nothing, however, could be further from the truth. Every salvation—from a person raised in a Christian home and coming to know Jesus at a young age, to the person who accepts Jesus on their death bed after a life spent running from Him—is the story of the Savior dramatically reversing the very nature of one's life.

Through this lens, one of the greatest tools we have in declaring the goodness of our God is our own testimony. Every testimony is a powerful example of God's grace and mercy.

This week's story shows the power of a testimony. Jesus heals a man who had been born blind. Because he was born blind, most of his community was convinced that his blindness was a result of sins committed by his parents or sins committed by himself. Jesus argued against that claim and explained that his blindness was an opportunity to see God glorified.

Not everyone in the community was excited for or convinced by the healing. The Pharisees in particular were suspicious of Jesus and looked for ways to trap Him. They began to ask hard questions of both the man and his parents. And amid that questioning, the healed man gave one of the best answers one can give when people question a believer's faith: "I once was blind, but now I see."

Isn't that the story of all believers—we once were blind, but now we see? We once were lost, but now we are found. We once were far from God, but now we have been brought close. We once were God's enemies, but now we are God's family. We once were condemned, but now we are forgiven. We once were dead in our sins, but now we are alive in Christ.

This week, point kids to the transformative power of Jesus who enlightens hearts and calls the spiritually dead to life.



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



THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel

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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
- ☐ "Can You See It?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)
- ☐ images of objects under a magnifying glass or microscope

Session Starter (Option 2)
- ☐ ½ cup butter
- ☐ ½ cup milk
- ☐ ⅓ cocoa powder
- ☐ ¼ tsp salt
- ☐ 2 cups sugar
- ☐ 3 cups quick oats
- ☐ cookie sheet, bowl, spoon
- ☐ microwave, refrigerator
- ☐ Allergy Alert

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 Blind Man" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ picture of the Pool of Siloam from an online search database (optional)

Questions from Kids
- ☐ "Unit 27, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

Key Passage Activity
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "The Righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)

LOVE

Review & Bible Skills
- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)

LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)
- ☐ watercolor paints
- ☐ water
- ☐ paintbrushes

Activity Choice (Option 2)
- ☐ dirt
- ☐ plastic containers, 2
- ☐ large craft sticks

Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Bible story coloring page

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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 is an unusual or surprising solution you have seen to a problem?"*

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Can You See It?" activity page.

> **SAY** *"Great job spotting all the items that can and can't be seen with our eyes! Today, we'll read about Jesus healing a man born blind in order to bring glory to God."*

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: MAGNIFIED



Before this activity, search the internet for pictures of different objects under a magnifying glass or microscope. Explain to kids that they will be viewing pictures of things that have been magnified. Display a picture and encourage kids to raise their hand to guess what they think the magnified object is. If no one guesses correctly after a few tries, give some simple hints about the object, like *this is found in nature* or *this is something artificial*.

> **SAY** *"When something is magnified, it helps us pay attention to many of its important details. Today we will learn that* **JESUS HEALED A BLIND MAN TO GLORIFY GOD.** *Like the microscope draws our attention to the details of small objects, Jesus' miracles helped point people to God and His power and glory."*

☐ OPTION 2: MICROWAVE MUD PIES



Lead kids to wash their hands and gather around the table. Invite the kids to help you add the butter, milk, cocoa powder, salt, and sugar to a microwave-safe mixing bowl. Microwave on high for three minutes; then stir and microwave for two more minutes. Have a kid add the oats and stir. Let the kids take turns dropping spoonfuls of the mixture onto the cookie sheet. Refrigerate and serve at the end of the lesson.

> **SAY** *"Making mud pie cookies will help us get ready to hear about how Jesus used mud in today's story! Together we will learn that* **JESUS HEALED A BLIND MAN TO GLORIFY GOD.**

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



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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! I'm so glad you're here! My name is **[your name]**, and today we will be reading a story that can be found in the Gospel of John. If you brought your Bible with you, please take it out and place it in your lap. (Distribute a Bible to any kid who needs one.) We have learned that Jesus performed many miracles to show that He is the Son of God. Jesus is the only way to salvation from our sin. Let's pray together as we open God's Word.
>
> 'God, thank You for sending us Your Son so that through Him, we can be forgiven of our sin. Open our hearts and minds as we read from Your Word today. Amen.'"

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

> **SAY** "Today we will be learning a new big picture question and answer together! In our last big picture question, we learned that we are all spiritually dead because of sin. But Jesus came to give us new life through His death and resurrection. He is the only way to salvation. Our new big picture question is: **What is justification?** The answer we will learn is: **Justification is when God declares that we are forgiven of sin and are made righteous.** Jesus has taken on our punishment for sin and we are made right before God because of His sacrifice. Let's learn more about justification as we read today's story."

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

> **SAY** "Jesus ministered to people through miracles as He fed thousands and healed those who were sick. As He continued to travel, many people placed their faith in Him. Jesus revealed that He came to help and heal God's people, not only from disease, but from sin. By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed that He is the resurrection and the life. Today, we will learn how Jesus came to heal His people from spiritual blindness."

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LEARN the Bible Story

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

Open your Bible to John 9. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Healed a Blind Man." Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS HEALED A BLIND MAN

"**Jesus and His disciples saw a man who had been blind since he was born. The disciples asked Jesus, "Why was this man born blind?** *Did he do something wrong? Did his parents do something wrong?"*

Jesus said, "No one's sin made this man blind. He was born this way so people could see God's power in him. *We must do the works of Him who sent Me. While I am in the world,* **I am the Light of the world."**

Then Jesus *spit on the ground,* **made some mud, and put it on the man's eyes. Jesus told the man, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam."**

The man went *and washed.* **He came back being able to see!**

The people in that area were confused. Some said, "This is the same man who used to sit and beg." Others said, "No, it just looks like him." But the man said, "I'm the one! *Jesus put mud on my eyes, I washed, and* **now I can see!"**

The Pharisees didn't believe Jesus had healed the man. *They even asked the man's parents, who said, "Yes, this is our son, and he was born blind. But we don't know how he can see now."*

The Pharisees kept asking **the man** *what happened. He* **said, "All I know is I was blind, and now I can see!" The Pharisees got angry and made the man leave.**

Later, Jesus found the man again and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

The man asked, "Who is He?"

Jesus said, "*You have seen Him.* **He is talking to you now."**

The man said, "I believe, Lord!" and he worshiped Jesus.

Christ Connection: Jesus came to bring light into the darkness. He healed the blind man to show God's power and to point to a greater truth: Jesus came to give spiritual sight. When we trust in Him, He forgives our sin and helps us see and know God. "

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY "*What question did the disciples ask Jesus when they saw this man who had been born blind?* **[Allow responses.]** *The disciples' question was a common one among the ancient Jews. Many believed that sickness or physical problems*

STORYTELLING TIPS

Eyes closed: Invite the kids to close their eyes as you read through the first part of the story. Instruct them to open their eyes when Jesus heals the man born blind.

Picture it: Find a picture of the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem on an online search database to show the kids. Share that this site of Jesus' miracle was discovered in 2004 in the City of David.

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happened because of a person's sin or the sins of his family members. But Jesus reminded the disciples that this man was not born blind because of his sin or his parents' sin. He was born this way so that God's incredible power would be shown through his healing! Though there may not always be an answer that we see, God is in control even over suffering. He is able to use our suffering for His glory and our good, even when it's hard for us to understand.

How did the man respond when the Pharisees asked him what happened? **[Allow responses.]** *Though the Pharisees had heard what Jesus had done, they chose to not believe it. Jesus has come to heal those who are blind, not only physically, but blind spiritually because of sin. Who is the Son of Man?* **[Allow responses.]** *By asking the man if he believed in the Son of Man, Jesus called the man to faith in Him. Jesus revealed that He is God's Son who has power over sin. He calls everyone to repent of their sin and trust in Him for salvation.*

Jesus came to bring light into the darkness. He healed the blind man to show God's power and to point to a greater truth: Jesus came to give spiritual sight. When we trust in Him, He forgives our sin and helps us see and know God. "

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY " *Though suffering and pain continue on this earth, Jesus came to be the light of the world. He suffered in the place of believers on the cross and His punishment has made believers right before God. We are offered salvation when we turn from sin and confess Jesus as Lord. To learn more about what it means to trust your life to Jesus, you can see one of your parents or a pastor.* "

(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 27, Session 1" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. I have a physical disability, and kids sometimes call me mean names because of it. How should I respond?
2. What is a way that God has created you to be unique?

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5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

> **SAY** "Brentwood Baptist Church has helped many people in Tennessee know about Jesus using American Sign Language (ASL). They started a worship service for the Deaf in 1984, a Deaf Sunday School class in 1986, and hired a pastor for the Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church in 1995.
>
> The church began holding camps for Deaf children in 2002, and in 2003, the church held its first worship service in their new Inman Deaf Chapel. The chapel can seat 257 people. It was the first of its kind, specifically built with the needs of the Deaf community in mind. Each row rises 13 inches to allow a clear sight to the person signing on stage. The floors have speakers mounted in them so the Deaf can feel the music. The entire room is on a loop system to allow a Deaf person with a hearing aid to tie into the sound system by turning on a switch of their hearing aids.
>
> The church has started other Deaf churches and worked in partnership with Brentwood Baptist Church, the International Mission Board (IMB), and Union University to start the Deaf Theological Center to train leaders for working with the Deaf culture and starting new Deaf churches."

Pray, thanking God for the Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church and the work they are doing to help Deaf people know about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Corinthians 5:21 together.

> **SAY** "On the cross, Jesus took sin upon Himself. Because of His death and resurrection, we are offered forgiveness from sin and new life with Him! Let's explore this in our new key passage."

Gather the kids in a circle. Show the Key Passage Poster and assign each kid one word of the key passage. Encourage the kids to come up with a type of movement for his or her word. Begin reciting the verse by starting with the first word. Invite the kid with this word to do their movement. Instruct everyone to repeat the word and the action. Continue going around the circle this way until the entire key passage has been repeated.

Lead kids to sing "The Righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)." 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 sending Your Son, Jesus, who never sinned, to take on our sin. May we remind ourselves every day of the amazing love You have shown to sinners. Help us share the truth of the gospel with others. Amen."

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

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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 John 9. Explain that the Gospel of John is found in the New Testament. The Old Testament law explains that sin separates people from God. In the Gospels, God sent Jesus to heal sinners and bring them back into a relationship with Himself.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem [H5] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 9:3-5, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

> **SAY** *"Think about a time that you or someone you know was sick. The world we live in is sick with sin and as a result, we often experience suffering in our lives. Seeing the man who had been blind his whole life made the disciples question Jesus about the source of suffering. God is not responsible for suffering and evil. However, Jesus reminded His disciples that God can use our suffering to bring Him glory. Through the blind man's healing, many were able to see God's glory! Even when we experience trials and difficult times in our life, we can trust that God is in control. He loves us so much that He sent His Son to suffer in our place to save us for His glory!"*

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

> **SAY** *"Why does God not always heal us?"*

Encourage kids to think about Jesus' response to His disciples. While suffering does exist because we live in a fallen world, it is not always the result of someone's personal sin. Explain that whether God offers healing or not, all of our suffering is working to bring about His plan of redemption. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 8:28.)

> **SAY** *"How does the blind man point to our own spiritual blindness?"*

Explain that the man's physical blindness was not his greatest problem. Similar to the blind man, we are all spiritually blinded by sin. Remind kids that Jesus came as the light in a dark world. Jesus' miracle points to the greatest miracle: His death and resurrection. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 9:39.)

> **SAY** *"Who can you encourage with the promise that God works all things for His glory and our good?"*

Answers may vary. Invite kids to think about friends, family, or church members who may be suffering and need to be reminded that God is with them. Encourage kids to comfort those who are hurting by telling them about God's love and control over their lives. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Proverbs 19:21.)

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

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LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: GLORIFY GOD



Give each kid a piece of white paper and a paintbrush. Spread watercolor paints and cups of water around the tables for kids to share. Remind kids that **JESUS HEALED A BLIND MAN TO GLORIFY GOD.** Explain that to glorify God means to praise and worship Him. Encourage kids to use the watercolor paints to paint a picture of something that glorifies God or reminds them to glorify God.

> **SAY** "**JESUS HEALED A BLIND MAN TO GLORIFY GOD.** *God is worthy of all our praise and honor. He is perfect and holy. Let's hang these pictures somewhere that will remind us to glorify God this week!*"

☐ OPTION 2: DIRT DIG

Fill two plastic containers with dirt. On two sets of large craft sticks, write the words to the story point. Mix a set of story point craft sticks into each container of dirt. Separate the kids into two teams. Give each team a container. Explain that each team must work together to find all the words to the story point. Once the kids have found all the words, instruct the team to put the craft sticks in order and then raise their hands up. The first team to correctly place the story point in order wins.

> **SAY** "*Great job putting today's story point in order! Jesus put mud on the man's eyes, and when he washed it off, he could see! Jesus came to glorify God by freeing us from our blindness to sin. We are made clean when we trust 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.

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