

Jesus Heals

Bible Verse

You are my Son, whom I dearly love. (Luke 3:22)

Did You Know?

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all recount the story of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law. In Luke, Peter is referred to as Simon and had not yet become one of Jesus' disciples. We don't often think about the disciples' families. Simon Peter was obviously married, since he had a mother-in-law. She appears to have lived in Peter's house with Peter and his wife, which was common practice at the time. As no father-in-law is mentioned, it is likely Peter's mother-in-law was a widow.

When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, he finds Peter's mother-in-law sick with a fever. In the Gospel of Luke, the story says Jesus ordered the fever to go away. The very next verse tells of the woman serving Jesus a meal. This is not an attempt to illustrate Jesus and others in the house as demanding, but rather to demonstrate the immediacy and completeness of the woman's recovery. Peter's mother-in-law felt so much better that she was ready to get up and serve.

After Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, people with all kinds of diseases were brought to Jesus. Luke tells us Jesus put his hands on each one of them and healed them. The Gospels contain many stories of Jesus healing people. Jesus cared about people. He cared not only for their spiritual well being, but also for their physical well being. Healing was a way for Jesus to show his compassion for people, as well as serving as a sign of the power that was given him by God.

When we follow Jesus' example of how to live, we will show compassion for those around us. Opportunities to care for others and to be kind present themselves every day.

For more Bible background information, go to: DeepBlueKids.com.

Exploration Points

- The children will learn about Jesus' healing ministry.
- The children will have opportunities to be in ministry like Jesus.



Bible Story


Luke 4:38-44

Anchor Point

God chose Jesus; Jesus chose God.

Your Lesson

- Welcome
- Make Thank-you Cards
- Guess What I'm Drawing
- A Story of Healing
- Jesus Heals
- Review the Bible Verse
- Worship
- Younger Elementary Small Group
- Older Elementary Small Group

 Requires preparation.



Jump In!

The following activities are planned to introduce today's theme. Be sure that there is a leader to welcome and direct the kids to the interest groups of their choice.

An adult will be needed at each group to lead the activity with the children.

WELCOME

- Greet each parent and child as they arrive.
- Play music to make your room cheerful.

MAKE THANK-YOU CARDS (SERVICE ACTIVITY)

Supplies: "Card Messages" Template, copy paper (white or colored), construction paper, crayons, markers, scissors, gluesticks

 Photocopy "Card Messages" for each child.

ASK: What are some jobs that are helping professions? In what jobs do people often help other people who are sick or hurting?

- Encourage the children to think of helping professions.

SAY: Today you are going to make thank-you cards for some people who help other people.

- Tell the children how their cards will be distributed and who will receive them.
- Have the children follow these directions to make thank-you cards.
- Fold a piece of copy paper in half by bringing the short sides together.
- Use scissors to make a one- to two-inch cut in the paper beginning at and perpendicular to the folded edge. (The cut should form a T with the folded edge.) The cut can be anywhere along the edge of the paper, but should not be too close to the top or bottom of the card.
- Fold back the flaps created by the cut to form two triangles. Crease the folds.
- Unfold the flaps, turn the card over, and fold and unfold the flaps on the other side.
- Open the card like a tent, push the triangles toward the inside, reclose the card, and press firmly.
- Open the card and notice how the cut portion resembles a mouth.
- Choose a piece of construction paper and fold it in half by bringing the short sides together.
- Glue the paper card into the construction paper card, taking care not to glue the pop-up area.
- Draw a face around the pop-up mouth on the inside of the card.
- Cut out one or more speech bubbles from "Card Messages" and glue them on the

≈ TIP ≈

Arrange to distribute the cards the children make to people who are in helping professions, such as doctors, nurses, medical technicians, firefighters, police officers, and so forth. Decide where the cards will go before class so you can let the children know.



PHOTO OF FINISHED CARD

inside of the card.

- Decorate the front of the card.
- Have the children sign the cards they make using only their first names.

SAY: The cards you have made will make some people happy this week. It is always nice to be told thank you for the things you have done.

GUESS WHAT I'M DRAWING (GAME ACTIVITY)

Supplies: paper, basket, markerboard and erasable markers or mural paper and markers

⊗ On small pieces of paper, write the following words: *bandage, crutches, thermometer, ice pack, get-well card, bowl of soup, bed, doctor, medicine, soap, flowers, balloons, hospital, ambulance.*

- Place all the pieces of paper face-down in the basket.
- Place the markerboard or mural paper where the children are able to draw on it.

SAY: We are going to play a guessing game. One person at a time will choose a card from the basket. That person will draw the item on the card. The rest of the class will try to guess what is being drawn.

- Choose a child to begin the game. Have the child choose a card and begin drawing.
- Encourage the class to guess what is being drawn. The first child who guesses correctly will be the next artist.
- Continue playing until all of the words have been guessed.

ASK: What do all of these words have in common? (*They are all related to helping someone who is sick.*) Our Bible story is about Jesus helping people who are sick.

A STORY OF HEALING (WRITING ACTIVITY)

Supplies: paper, pencils, crayons, colored pencils

ASK: In today's Bible story, Jesus heals many people who are sick. Do you remember a time when you were sick or hurt? Who took care of you? Who helped you feel better? Have you ever helped someone who was hurt or sick?

SAY: Even though we can't perform miracles and heal people like Jesus did, we can still be healers. We can help people who are hurt or sick. We can be thankful for the people who take care of us when we are sick.

- Invite each child to write a story either about a time he or she was sick or about a time he or she cared for someone who was sick.
- Encourage each child to include details of the care and how being cared for or caring for someone else made her or him feel.
- Invite each child to draw a picture to go along with his or her story.
- Encourage the children to share their stories and pictures with the group.

≈ TIP ≈


If you have a large class, divide the children into groups to play the game.

Dive Deeper

Bring the children together to experience the Bible story and worship. Use a bell to alert the children it is Large Group Time.

JESUS HEALS

Supplies: "Jesus Heals" Handout

 Photocopy "Jesus Heals" for each child to take home.

SAY: In today's Bible story, Jesus goes to the home of a man named Simon.

- Divide the class in half. Assign one half of the class to read the words in regular print. Assign the other half of the class to read the words in bold print.
- Have the children read the story aloud from "Jesus Heals."

ASK: What did Jesus do to heal Simon's mother-in-law? (*He told the fever to go away.*) What did Jesus do to heal the other people who came to him? (*He touched them.*)

SAY: Last week we talked about Jesus beginning his ministry. Healing people was a part of that ministry. We do not have the power to heal people with a word or a touch. That is something only God can do. We can help people who are sick or hurting, though, and be a part of the healing process.

ASK: What are some things we can do for someone who is sick? What are some things we can do for someone who is sad? What are some things we could do for someone who is feeling lonely?

- Allow the children an opportunity to share their ideas.

SAY: When we show kindness and compassion, we are following Jesus' example and doing God's work.

SIGN THE BIBLE VERSE

Supplies: Luke 3:22 Bible Verse Poster; Luke 3:22 Sign Language Handout

⊗ Familiarize yourself with the sign language for the Bible verse so you can teach it to the children.

- Show the Bible verse poster.
- Encourage the children to read the verse together with you.

ASK: Who is speaking in this verse? (God) Who is God's Son? (Jesus)

- Show the children the signs for the Bible verse from American Sign Language.
- Encourage the children to sign and say the Bible verse with you several times.

WORSHIP

Supplies: mural paper, scissors, tape, markers

- Play familiar music and encourage the children to sing and move along with the music.

SAY: As this month's song says, "God chose Jesus, and Jesus chose God." God also chooses us as God's children. Let's spend some time thanking God for choosing us.


- Invite the children to find a comfortable sitting position and close their eyes.
- Read the following statements slowly and calmly:
Take a deep breath...and let it out.
Imagine that God is whispering in your ear. What does God's voice sound like?
Imagine God saying to you, "You are my child. I dearly love you."
Take a deep breath, imagining that you are breathing in God's love for you. Breathe out, knowing that God's love stays with you.
Think about God's love spreading throughout your entire body. Know that God's love will always be with you, wherever you are, and whatever you are doing.
Say a silent thank-you prayer to God for choosing you.
Imagine that you are telling God that you choose God. Feel God's love all around you.
Sit silently for a moment.
Take a deep breath in...and let it out.
Amen.
- Invite the children to open their eyes.
- Dismiss the children to their small groups.

Grow Stronger

Divide the children into small groups based on age levels. Keep the groups small, with a maximum of ten children in each group. You may need to have more than one of each group.

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

Supplies: “Many Kinds of Healing” Handout

 Photocopy “Many Kinds of Healing” for each child.

ASK: What do you remember about today’s Bible story? Who did Jesus heal?

- Encourage the children to share what they remember.

SAY: We have mentioned that we do not have the ability to perform miracles and heal people as Jesus did. But we can help people heal.

- Give each child a copy of “Many Kinds of Healing.”
- As a group, look at each picture one at a time and discuss the following questions.
What is happening in this picture?
What kind of healing does this person need?
What could we do to help this person?

SAY: Sometimes the way to be caring is obvious—a child with a skinned knee needs a bandage. Other times, we may not know what to do to help someone who is hurting. When someone dies, it is difficult to find words to say. One thing we can always do is pray. Praying for other people is one way we follow Jesus’ teaching to care for one another.

- Look at the pictures on “Many Kinds of Healing” again.
- Together as a group, think of a one- or two-sentence prayer that could be said for the person in each picture.

ASK: Do you know anyone who needs special prayers right now?

- Encourage the children to share prayer concerns, reminding them it is also okay to keep concerns in our hearts.

PRAY: God, thank you for stories of Jesus. Help us to find ways we can follow Jesus’ example of helping people. We ask you to be with the people we have named who are in need of prayer, as well as those we name silently. Amen.

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

Supplies: paper, colored pencils

ASK: What do you remember about today's Bible story? Who did Jesus heal?

- Encourage the children to share what they remember.

SAY: We have mentioned that we do not have the ability to perform miracles and heal people as Jesus did. There are ways that we can help people heal, though.

ASK: What are some ways we can help people who are sick or hurting?

- Encourage the children to share their ideas.

SAY: Sometimes we know just what to do when people are sick or hurt. Other times it is hard to know what we can do to help. One thing we can always do for other people is pray for them. Sometimes we get busy asking God for what we want or need that we forget to pray for other people.

- Give each child a piece of paper.
- Have each child use a crayon or marker to draw a freeform line on the paper which crosses over itself several times to create multiple spaces.
- Together as a group, think of different people or groups of people you can pray for, such as friends, family, people who are sick, people who are homeless, and so forth. As each group of people is named, discuss what in particular you might pray about for them.
- If you have a prayer list for your congregation, share those prayer requests with the children.
- Invite the children to share their own prayer requests.
- Have each child write a person's name or a category of people in each space on his or her paper.
- Encourage the children to decorate each space differently.

SAY: As you color each section, say a prayer for the person or people named in that section.

- Allow the children time to color and pray.

SAY: Remember that there are many ways to follow Jesus' example of helping people. Praying for people is one way to help.

PRAY: God, thank you for stories of Jesus. Help us to follow Jesus' example of showing kindness and helping people. We ask that you be with each person we have named today. Amen.

Jesus Heals

Jesus went to Simon's house.

Simon, who was also called Simon Peter, became one of Jesus' disciples.

Simon's mother-in-law was sick.

She had a fever.

Jesus went to Simon's mother-in-law and told the fever to go away.

She was immediately healed.

Simon's mother-in-law got up and served a meal to Jesus and Simon.

She felt so much better, she went right to work!

When people heard about Jesus, they brought more sick people to him.

Jesus healed many people by laying his hands on them.

(Based on Luke 4:38-40.)

Card Messages

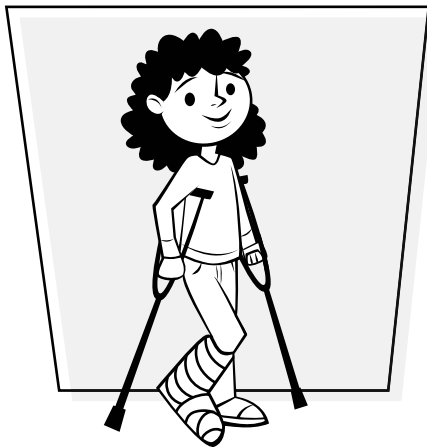
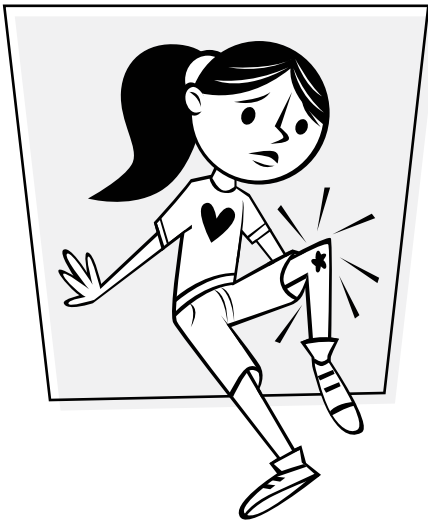
**Thank
you
for
helping
people!**

**Thank you
for making
the world a
better place!**

**You are
appreciated!**

**Your help
makes a
difference!**

Many Kinds of Healing



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**You are my Son,
whom I dearly love.**

Luke 3:22



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Luke 3:22

You are my Son, whom I dearly love.



You
Point out with your
index finger.



Son
Bring your thumb
and extended fingers
of your right hand
to the right side of
your forehead as if
you are grasping an
imaginary hat brim.
Then rest the right
hand in the left elbow
and swing your arms
as if you are rocking
a baby.



Love
Cross your fists at the
wrists and press them
to your heart.