



Date: _____

Series: Jesus is Our Helper
Winter Year 1, Lesson 40

Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Bible Event: Mark 8:22-26

Take Home Point: *JESUS HELPS US – *Give Jesus your hurts.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: If we trust and believe in Jesus' power, then anything can happen.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will that God gave us Jesus who helps us. Of course, his greatest help is his giving his life for us on the cross to take away our sin and fill us with his love. The special story today shows us how Jesus heals the blind man. The blind man was led to Jesus by his friends who trusted that Jesus could help them. So we will lead children to Jesus, as well, so they will know ***JESUS HELPS US – *Give Jesus your hurts.***
- Children respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and sending Jesus for them. They will offer their songs of worship, their offerings and their actions of love as they actively learn God's Word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Gateway Films, *Animated Bible Stories: "The Greatest Story Ever Told – Jesus the Healer,"* Vision Video, 1997

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Imagination Theater

Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God's word, telling us of the wonderful deeds God has done. Then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called on stage.

Props needed:

- a Bible
- strips of cloth for blindfolds for all the children
- spray mister with water
- hand held fan
- peeled orange

Let's look in the imagination box and see what we discover today. Here is the Bible. It's God Word and it's true in every word. It's marked to a special spot. Let me open it to a book written by Mark... chapter 8. This is about when:

Jesus Heals The Blind Man

Story Summary

Wow, I'm sure you know about Jesus already. You probably already know that he's God's own son and he came to our world many years ago so that he could give his life for us on the cross. That means that he would take away our sin and fill us with his love. That is the best way he could ever help us. But this story about Jesus tells how helped a blind man. The blind man could not see. He couldn't even see enough to know how to find Jesus. He had some friends bring him to Jesus. It says here that Jesus took the blind man's hand and led him out of the village. Then, he took some spit from his mouth and rubbed it into the blind man's eyes. At first, the man couldn't see everything clearly. People looked like walking trees. But then Jesus touched him on the eyes a second time and he saw clearly. He saw everything – even at a distance. The man's life was changed forever. He had a terrible hurt. He was blind. But he discovered that Jesus helps us and that we can give him our hurts.

I think we should act this out ourselves. What do you say? Good, let's go.

All pretend blind

Let's all put our imagination hats on and have every one of us pretend that we are blind. Here in the imagination box are blindfolds. I'll take them out and pass them to the helpers. Very quickly, let's have everyone put on a blindfold. As soon as you're blindfolded, sit down on the ground. While we are putting the blindfold on, let me explain to you that being blind can be very hard. Since you can't see you don't know what is coming. You have to rely on other people to help you. Sometimes you must rely on what you touch and what you smell and what you taste and what you hear. If you are blind, you can't rely on your eyes. How do you think you would feel? What do you think you'd miss seeing the most? Would it be seeing your mom or dad? Or how about seeing the beautiful sky or the trees and flowers? My, it would be very hard to be blind. But still you would learn about your world in other ways.

Experience rain, wind, and smell

Now that everyone has their blindfold on, let's pretend that we can't see. How will we know when it's raining? Will we see it? No, we have to feel it. (Lightly spray the kids with water.) Or if it is windy, can we see the wind in the trees? No, we could only feel it. (Let the fan blow on the kids.) Can you feel the breeze or wind on your face? Or how would you know what foods to choose? Someone would probably have to get food for you. But how would you know what's there? Maybe you could smell it. I've got some food here that I'm beginning to pass through the room. Maybe you can smell it. If you can smell what it is,

don't tell anyone; just raise your hand when you think you know.
(Pass a peeled orange through the crowd.) **Right... it was an orange.**

Be led by another

Now if you had to go somewhere, how do you think you'd get there? You would have to have someone lead you around. It's hard when you can't see. So, many years ago when Jesus was walking this earth, people would lead blind people to him. They knew Jesus would help them and that we can give him our hurts... even our blindness. Some of the helpers are now going around and picking some of you up, leading you around for a few steps and sitting you down again. Maybe you know what it felt like to be lead around everywhere you go.

Act out the event

Some friends led a blind to Jesus. Then, Jesus spit in his hands, but I'm not going to spit in my hands, and he touched the blind man's eyes. Everyone touch your eyes through your blindfolds very lightly. Then he asked the man if he could see. (Dim the lights.) Now, boys and girls, you can take your blindfolds off. You will notice that the room is still dark. At first, the blind man couldn't see very clearly. He thought people looked like trees. Look at me; do I look like a tree? (Shape your body like a tree.) So Jesus had the blind man close his eyes again and he touched them. Everyone close your eyes and touch them again. (Turn the lights on brightly.) This time when the blind man opened his eyes, he saw perfectly. How do you think he felt? It was wonderful. He stood up and danced around excitedly. It was the first time he could see the world around him. He knew that God had sent Jesus to help him. He knew that he could give Jesus his hurts and Jesus would help him. Today we can pray to Jesus to help him take our hurts away, as well. We know that he always hears our prayers. Sometimes he heals us just the way we want. Sometimes he uses doctors and nurses. Sometimes he lets us learn from our sickness. But every time he helps us so we can trust him. We can always remember: **JESUS HELPS US – Give Jesus your hurts.*

Pray with the children, having them repeat each phrase.

Dear God, (repeat)
Thank you for being here. (repeat)
Thank you for sending Jesus. (repeat)
Jesus helps us (repeat)
As we give him our hurts. (repeat)
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! (repeat)
Amen (repeat)



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: “Mystery Bag” Use a small paper sack and fill it with different textured snacks (grapes, raisins, pretzels, cereal, marshmallows, popcorn, gummy snacks). Before they can eat, they must close their eyes, feel their snack, and try to guess what items are in the sack.

Option: blindfold kids again.

Drama Zone: Provide doctor and nurse uniforms and kits for the kids. The children can use dolls to do check-ups on.

Messy Zone: Have kids do things that they do in everyday life, but have them do it blindfolded. Examples: put toothpaste on a toothbrush, build a tower with blocks, put on dress up clothes, tie a shoe, etc.

Play Zone: While one child is blindfolded, have another child lead him around the room.

Craft Zone: Have the children decorate faces on small paper plates (dessert size) with materials provided. Tape the waxed paper circle “film” over the paper plate face. Kids will find the face blurry with the wax paper on and clear when lifted.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Read to the children when they are blindfolded.

Coloring Zone: Color page with markers and crayons.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with a band-aid on his hand. He asks the presenter and the kids if they really care. Of course they do. And we also know that Jesus cares. Bubba asks if anyone would care if someone else were hurt – like one of the kids in the audience? The presenter says, "Well, let me show you." Ask kids what kinds of hurts they can have. He gathers one child from the audience and asks him if he ever scraped a knee. Have any of them ever had a scraped knee? (*Wrap toilet paper around the knees of the volunteer.*) How about a tummy ache? (*Wrap toilet paper around stomach.*) Have you ever hurt your elbow? (*Wrap elbows. Continue until the child is completely wrapped in toilet paper.*) No matter what kind of hurts you have, do you think God cares?

And the presenter says, "No, God's too busy to care." The kids will stop and Bubba will stop him to say God does care.

Of course, God cares. Even if we have a little "owie" or get really sick or have our feelings hurt, God always cares for us. He cared so much that he sent his Son Jesus to take all of our hurts away. Remember: ***JESUS HELPS US – Give Jesus your hurts.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

Close today with the "Owie chair." Have a line of chairs for anyone who has an "owie" or has had their feelings hurt this week. Have the other kids surround those in the "owie chairs." Put a hand on them and pray.

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- videos: Jesus for Kids: *Greatest Story Ever Told – Jesus the Healer*—order from: <http://www.stjosephradio.org/pages/videos/jesus-for-kids.htm> or from: http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111_567.vhtml
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- imagination box
- Bible
- strips of cloth for blindfolds for all
- spray mister with water
- hand held fan
- peeled orange

Action Zones:

Snack:

- mystery bag – small paper sack
- varied snacks: e.g. grapes, raisins, pretzels, cereal, marshmallows popcorn, gummy snacks

Messy:

- do routine things with blindfold on.

Play:

- blindfold

Craft:

- small paper plates (dessert size)
- markers, crayons
- google eyes
- waxed paper circles (trace the plate for appropriate size)
- tape
- labels with “Give Jesus your hurts.”

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books
- blindfolds

Coloring:

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- band aid
- toilet paper

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books