

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

John 9



New Testament 5
Part 1: Jesus' Ministry

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 5 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

John 9; John 3:16-21

MEMORY WORK:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“John 3:16”](#)
- [“God Created Me”](#)
- [“Jesus Was a Friend to the Blind Man”](#)
- [“The More We Read the Bible”](#)
- [“Trust and Obey”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Ministry & Last Week Bible fact cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 5 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

To believe in Jesus means that I know He is God's Son and that He is my Savior. But believing is not enough. I must do what He tells me to do in His Word.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

What did Jesus do for the man who could not walk in Lesson 1? Remember the reason Jesus performed miracles?

Do you know what it means if someone is blind? Being blind means not being able to see anything. Close your eyes and imagine what it would be like if you couldn't see. Aren't you thankful God gave you eyes to see His beautiful world? Today, we are going to learn what Jesus did for a man who could not see.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

In Lesson 1, we talked about a man Jesus met at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. What was wrong with the man? What did Jesus do for him? How did many of the Jews react? Do you remember why Jesus did miracles?

Have you ever known a blind person? How do you think life is different for him? One of the main things Jesus did while here on Earth was to heal sick and disabled people, but many Jews were angered by His miracles. Today, we're going to learn about Jesus helping a blind man.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Like other disabled people in New Testament times, most blind people made their meager living by begging because they could not work. As people went in and out of the Temple, those who had some kind of physical problem (like blindness) would sit outside the Temple and ask for money.
2. In John 8, Jesus had a long discussion with some Jews near the Temple. Jesus' words made the Jews very angry, and they picked up stones to kill Jesus. But He "hid Himself, and went out of the Temple" (John 8:59).
3. As the 12 apostles and Jesus were leaving the Temple area, He saw a blind man. The apostles immediately jumped to the conclusion that the man was suffering because of some great sin that he or his parents had done. Jesus quickly told them that the man's blindness was not because of anything someone had done; it was just the way the man was born. This was another opportunity for Jesus to show His power as the Son of God.



NOTE: In Bible times, it was commonly believed that disabilities or severe illnesses were the result of sin. Though suffering is often the result of sin (bad choices), much suffering is not, as is clearly taught in Scripture (Ezekiel 18:20). Recall, for example, that Job's friends, just like the apostles in this story, had made the assumption that Job's disease was due to his sins, and were insistent about it (e.g., Job 4:7-8; 5:6; 8:6,13,20; 11:6,14,20; 15:5,16,20,26; 18:5-21; 20:19; 22:5-9). They, of course, were wrong. Quite the opposite was true.

4. Jesus reminded the apostles that He was "the light of the world." Then, making a paste of saliva and dirt, He put the "clay" on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man did as Jesus told him and returned to Jesus completely healed! For the first time in his

life, the poor man could see flowers and trees and the faces of people all around him. Neither the water nor the clay healed the man. Jesus healed him because of his willingness to obey.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[The Miracles of Jesus](#)” by Kyle Butt and “[The Very Works that I do Bear Witness of Me](#)” by Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for discussions about the purpose of Jesus’ miracles.



HISTORICAL NOTE: This is the only recorded example of Jesus healing someone born blind. It was a common problem in Bible times, just as it is in poorer countries today.

Many Jews thought the water of the Pool of Siloam was full of magical water that could heal diseases, and they believed its water was especially powerful during the Feast of Tabernacles. On the first seven days of the Feast, priests would go in a processional from the Pool of Siloam to the Temple to get some water from the pool to pour out at the base of the altar. Many people who came to the Feast even filled small bottles with the water as souvenirs/keepsakes of the supposedly special water.

In John 9:12-31, the key word is “know.” Pay attention to the repeated statements of what the people in the story know and do not know, i.e., what facts they understand, or think they understand.

This miracle was another instance of Jesus being criticized by the Pharisees because He performed miracles on the Sabbath. (In Lesson 1, Jesus healed the man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath.) The Jews (mainly scribes) had developed a list of 39 types of work they said Jews could not do on the Sabbath. One of those was kneading dough; because Jesus “kneaded” spittle and dirt to make clay, He had broken one of their rules.

5. When people who had known him before as a blind beggar saw that the man was no longer blind, they took him to the Pharisees who asked him how he had regained his sight. They did not like his answers and questioned his parents. The parents, who should have been rejoicing and praising Jesus, refused to stand up for their son. When the Pharisees asked the parents how long their son had been blind, the parents said he was able to answer for himself. (After age 13, a Jewish boy was considered responsible for keeping the Law of Moses and was considered an adult in many aspects.) The parents were afraid because the Jewish leaders threatened to throw anyone out of the Temple (essentially excommunicate them) if they chose to follow Jesus.
6. The Pharisees questioned the once-blind man again but, even before he knew Jesus was the Son of God, he argued with them about Jesus and what a great Man He was. The man who had been blind his entire life knew enough of the Old Law to show that the Pharisees’ arguments did not make sense. Insulted and angry, the Pharisees followed through with their threats and “put him out,” i.e., refused to allow the man into the Temple or to participate in any Jewish rituals.
7. The once-blind man was healed both physically and spiritually, but the Pharisees were unwilling to “see” Jesus for who He was—the Son of God. Therefore, they were blind. They did not want to believe in Him (Matthew 23:31). Today we “see” Jesus in the pages of God’s Word. We can choose to “see” Him and **not** believe (like the Pharisees), or we can choose to believe and obey Him as the blind man did. [Read John 20:30-31 with the OLDER CHILDREN.]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#)

Ages 2-5:

- [“Jesus Heals the Blind Man Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Review game: Make copies of an eye shape, at least one per child. Write review questions on the backs of the eyes, and cut them out. Hide the eyes around the room before class. Let each child take a turn finding an eye. Read the question and let him try to answer it before another child has a turn. Give each child a sticker or stamp on his hand when he answers the question correctly. ([“Eye Cutouts”](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Glasses for the blind: At a discount or party supply store, buy a pair of sunglasses for each child in your class. Paint the lenses black or cover them with black construction. As you retell the story, let the children wear the glasses. When Jesus heals the man, they can take off their glasses and see! Talk about what it would be like to be blind for your whole life and then instantly be able to see.
- Role play: Pretend that you are Jesus and one of the children is the blind man. **Or** let two of the children play the parts of Jesus and the blind man. **Or** ask two people from your congregation to come to class and act out the story.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Hang Man game: Play “Hang Man” with key words/phrases from this week’s lesson.
- Memory Verse Review: On small index cards, write a word or phrase from each memory verse in this unit. Mix up the cards for each verse and put them in separate plastic bags. Divide the class into groups, and give each group a bag. Each group should put the cards in the correct order to form its memory verse correctly. Circulate the bags until each group has completed all the verses. ([“Memory Verse Cutouts”](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Key words: Write key words from this lesson and Lesson 1 on index cards. Draw a line down the middle of the board, labeling one side “Jesus Heals a Lame Man” and the other “Jesus Heals a Blind Man.” Let the children take turns choosing and reading the cards, then putting their cards on the correct side of the board (with tape or a magnet).
- Role play: Let two of the children play the parts of Jesus and the blind man. OR ask two people from your congregation to come to class and act out the story.
- [“Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Hang Man game: Play “Hang Man” with key words/phrases from this week’s lesson.
- Memory Verse Review: On small index cards, write a word or phrase from each memory verse in this unit. Mix up the cards for each verse and put them in separate plastic bags. Divide the class into groups, and give each group a bag. Each group should put the cards in the correct order to form its memory verse correctly. Circulate the bags until each group has completed all the verses. ([“Memory Verse Cutouts”](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Key words: Write key words from this lesson and Lesson 1 on index cards. Draw a line down the middle of the board, labeling one side “Jesus Heals a Lame Man” and the other “Jesus Heals a Blind Man.” Let the children take turns choosing and reading the cards, then putting their cards on the correct side of the board (with tape or a magnet).

- [“Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - John 9
 - “Hide and Seek!” article from the [December, 2002](#) issue of *Discovery Magazine*

SONGS:

“JOHN 3:16”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See [“Hidden in My Heart 2”](#) CD)

“GOD CREATED ME” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

God created me. He gave me hands to wave. (wave)
God created me. He gave me hands to wave.

God created me. He gave me feet to walk. (walk in place)
God created me. He gave me feet to walk.

God created me. He gave me ears to hear. (cup hands to ears)
God created me. He gave me ears to hear.

“JESUS WAS A FRIEND TO THE BLIND MAN” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook*

(Tune: “Battle Hymn of the Republic”)

Once there was a blind man, he could never, never see; (3X)
He was very sad.

CHORUS:

Jesus, Jesus, O, He helped him! (3X)
He made the blind man see.

“THE MORE WE READ THE BIBLE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “The More We Get Together”)

The more we read the Bible,
The Bible, the Bible,
The more we read the Bible,
The happier we’ll be.

We’ll learn about Jesus,
And how we can please Him.

The more we read the Bible,
The happier we'll be.

“TRUST AND OBEY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: John Sammis
(Tune: See church songbook)

VERSE 1:

When we walk with the Lord,
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

CHORUS:

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way,
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

VERSE 2:

Then in fellowship sweet,
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way.
What He says we will do.
Where He sends we will go.
Never fear, only trust and obey.

(CHORUS)

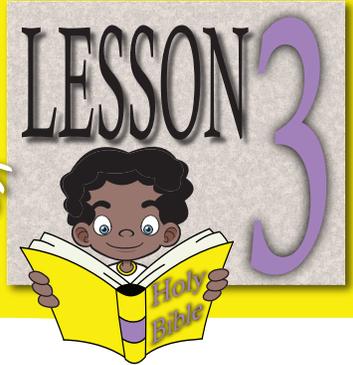
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 5 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 5 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson (see [N.T. 5 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

Talk about the blessing of sight, the great design of our eyes, etc. (Refer to *Discovery* articles listed)

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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