

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 5

**JESUS HEALS A MAN
WITH LEPROSY**

MARK 1:40-45

Life of Christ

Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

Mark 1:40-45

Younger Verse

Be kind and loving to each other.

Ephesians 4:32

Older Verse

Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus loved even those no one else did
Recognize the faith of the leper to come to Jesus
Learn that Jesus can heal us of our sin-sickness

Opener

Have you ever been sick and your parents didn't let you hang out with your friends? Or have you been to a hospital and were not allowed to visit someone because you might catch their sickness? Today we will learn about a man who knew Jesus could heal him.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, Jesus showed us the importance of spending time talking to God. After Jesus had started His morning in prayer, He took His friends with Him and went around telling other people about God's love.

As Jesus was going from town to town, more people began to hear about the things that Jesus was doing. People would walk great distances to be able to see Jesus. One day Jesus was in a small town. A man came right up to Jesus and fell to the ground on his knees. Why do you think he did that? (wait for responses) The man had a disease called leprosy. This is a horrible skin disease that is very contagious. It causes people to lose fingers and toes. People who have this disease are called lepers.

The people that were not sick would make the lepers stay far away from them. They were afraid of getting leprosy, too. The man who came to Jesus was very brave. He could have gotten in trouble for getting too close to healthy people. He really believed that Jesus could heal him.

The man said to Jesus, "You have the power to heal me if you want to." Jesus looked at the man as he was on the ground. Jesus knew the man had been sick for a long time. As He looked down at the man, He reached His hand out. Jesus gently placed His hand upon the man and said, "I want to heal you. Be healed!" The man was probably surprised that Jesus touched him since no one else would. Jesus really cared for this man.

The man looked all over his body and all the spots were gone. He was so excited!

Then Jesus gave him special instructions, "Don't tell anyone what I did for you. I want you to go show yourself to the man that works in the church and offer a gift to God. Then

the man in the church can tell everyone that your leprosy is gone.”

The man did not listen to Jesus, and soon Jesus was surrounded by so many people He was not able to go where He needed to go. That is the reason Jesus told the man not to tell anyone what had happened.

Jesus always had a reason for the things He did. He knew people would come to Him looking for something spectacular. They might even try to make Him their king. But that was not why Jesus came to earth. He came to save people and show them God’s love. To do that, He had to follow God’s commands and do things God’s way.

The man in today’s story had a lot of faith in Jesus. He believed that Jesus had the power to heal him. He even risked getting in trouble by going to Jesus. We can have faith in Jesus, too. But we should also obey Jesus’ commands. If you have asked Jesus into your heart and life, you should want to follow Him by reading your Bible, spending time in prayer and going to church and Bible Study.

If you have never accepted Jesus’ love and forgiveness of your sins, why not come to Jesus like the sick man? You can have faith that Jesus can heal your heart of all the sins and give you a clean heart.

Review Questions

1. What was wrong with the man in today’s story? (He had leprosy, a horrible skin disease)
2. What did the man say to Jesus? (“You have the power to heal me if you want to.”)
3. After Jesus healed the man, did the man do what Jesus said? (No—he told everyone before going to the church.)

Prayer Time

Thank God for loving us and sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Pray that we will have more faith in God and obey Him.

Life Application

People with leprosy were forced to live outside of the towns in a separate place. They were not allowed to live with those who were healthy. This is a picture of what sin does to us. When we disobey God (sin), we become separated from God. God did not want us to be separated from Him forever. That is why He sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. Jesus took our place on the cross. When we believe in Him, we are forgiven of our sins and we get a clean heart. We are then healed of our sin-sickness, and we can be with God. This is called *eternal life*.

We also can help others come to Jesus. We can follow Jesus’ example and love even those who seem different than us. Others may distance themselves from people who are different than them, but we can show that God’s love is for all people.

Planning for Lesson
Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man
Mark 2:1-12

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

Last week, Jesus showed us the importance of spending time talking to God. What is it called when we talk to God? (prayer) After Jesus had started His morning in prayer, He took His friends with Him and went around telling other people about God's love.

One day when Jesus was visiting a certain town, a man fell on his knees before Jesus. (Bow down) Then he asked Jesus to do something. What do you think he wanted? (Wait for responses) The man was very sick. He was so sick that other people would not want to be with him because they did not want to get sick either. The man had spots all over his body! Other people would make these sick people stay away from them. How do you think the sick man felt when people did that to him?

The man looked at Jesus and said, "Jesus, I know that you can make me better if you want to." Jesus felt sorry for the man. He knew the man had been sick for a long time. What do you think Jesus did? (Wait for responses) He reached his hand out and touched the man. Jesus was not afraid of the man. He cared for the man. Then Jesus said, "I want you to feel better. Your sickness is gone!" The man looked all over his body and all the spots were gone. He was so excited! (Give high fives to the children.)

Then Jesus gave some special instructions. He asked the man not to tell anyone what happened. (Have everyone say, "Shhh") Jesus said that because he was not trying to get all the attention. He knew that the people would keep Him from doing what He needed to do. Jesus also told the man to go to the church and give a gift to God for healing him. Jesus said this because it would be a way for the man to show that he was thankful to God. A man that worked in the church would be able to let everyone else know he was better.

The man in today's story had a lot of faith in Jesus. He believed that Jesus had the power to heal him. We can have faith in Jesus, too. And we should also do the things Jesus tells us to do. Jesus loves everybody. He loves us just the way we are. He teaches us how we can show God that we love Him. For example, even though some people were unkind to the man who was sick, Jesus treated him with kindness. Jesus has asked us to treat people the way we want to be treated. Let's pray and ask God to help us be able to treat all people the way Jesus would want us to.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

Let everyone get involved with the story. Bring cosmetics like eye makeup or baby powder to decorate all the faces. Let the kids help each other put on the makeup. Talk about what the man must have felt like to have leprosy and be different from everyone. Tell the story again and wipe off the cosmetics with baby wipes or towels. Talk about how it feels to be back to “normal.” Ask them to think about how the man must have felt when he was well. Now, ask them to think about people who are different from them (no names, please). Remind them that Jesus loves them and cares for them. Ask them how they can be kind to these people this week. (There will probably be a long silence; be patient and wait for answers.)

Illustrate the story in a fun way. Let the kids draw a picture of what the man might have looked like before he was well. Tell them not to make the leprosy spots—you have something special to use. When they are all done, bring out a special little bottle of disappearing ink. Now, put one drop on each picture to show the leprosy. Then when the spots disappear, talk about how Jesus healed the man. (Teachers, you may need to practice this to see how long it takes for the ink to disappear.)

Play a game that gives the children a chance to follow directions. “Simon Says” or “Follow the Leader” are possibilities. Talk about the importance of obeying the things that Jesus taught.

Write out the verse on dark construction paper using glue and baby powder. If you do not have baby powder; glitter, salt, or sand will work as substitutes.

**Be kind and
loving to each
other.
Ephesians 4:32**



Be kind and loving
to each other. For-
give each other just
as God forgave you
in Christ.



Word Search

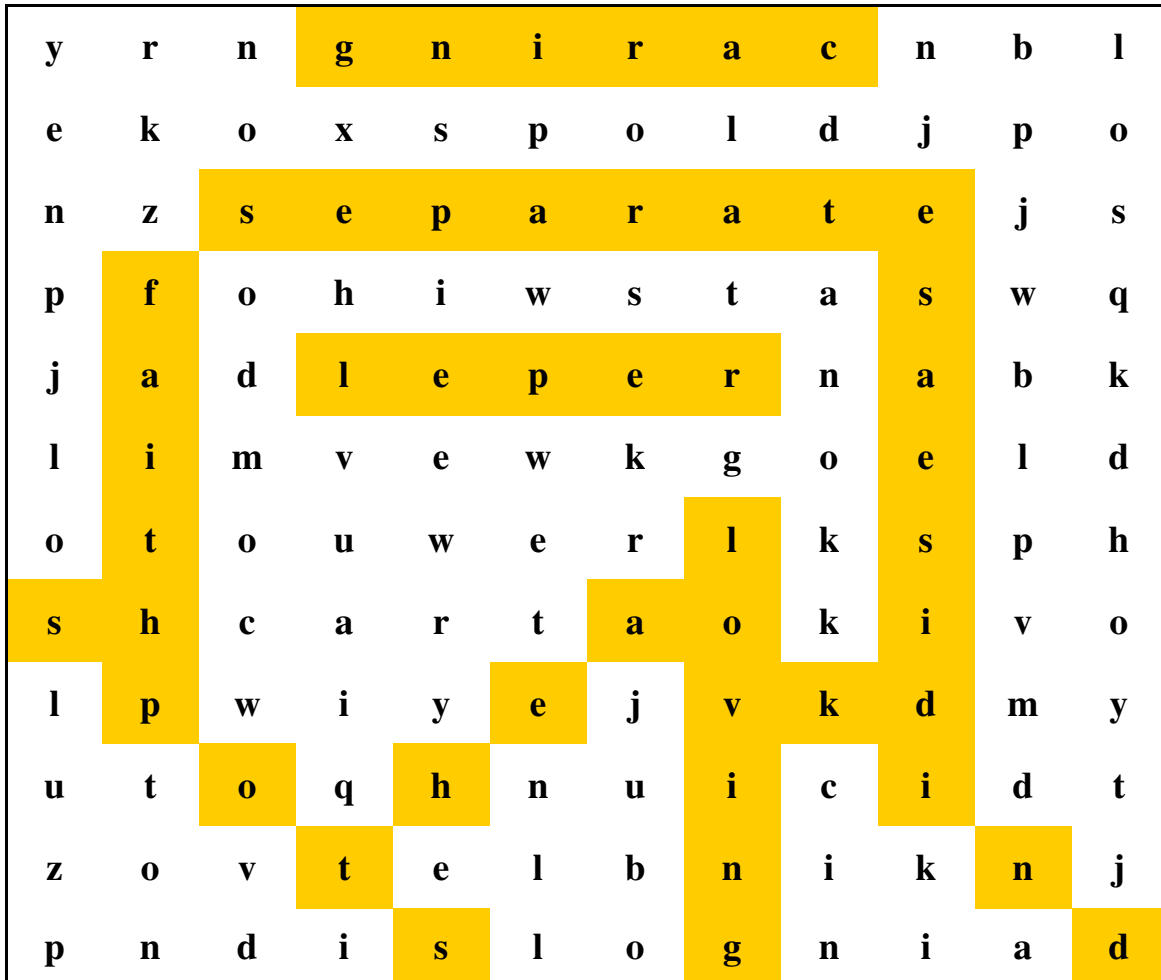
Jesus Heals Man with Leprosy

y	r	n	g	n	i	r	a	c	n	b	l
e	k	o	x	s	p	o	l	d	j	p	o
n	z	s	e	p	a	r	a	t	e	j	s
p	f	o	h	i	w	s	t	a	s	w	q
j	a	d	l	e	p	e	r	n	a	b	k
l	i	m	v	e	w	k	g	o	e	l	d
o	t	o	u	w	e	r	l	k	s	p	h
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l	p	w	i	y	e	j	v	k	d	m	y
u	t	o	q	h	n	u	i	c	i	d	t
z	o	v	t	e	l	b	n	i	k	n	j
p	n	d	i	s	l	o	g	n	i	a	d

leper	heal	disease
separate	spots	faith
loving	caring	kind

Word Search

Jesus Heals Man with Leprosy



leper	heal	disease
separate	spots	faith
loving	caring	kind

**What was wrong with the man in
today's lesson?**

Fill in the missing letters.

He had

L _ _ P _ _ O S _ _

Did Jesus heal him?
(Circle) YES or NO