

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 31

**JESUS HEALS A BOY
WITH AN EVIL SPIRIT**

MARK 9:14-29

Life of Christ

Jesus Heals a Boy with an Evil Spirit

Mark 9:14-29

Younger Verse

Everything is possible for the one who believes.

Mark 9:23

Older Verse

Everything is possible for the one who believes.

Mark 9:23

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus healed a boy with an evil spirit
Recognize that the disciples were not able to help the boy
Learn that Jesus said we need to have faith and pray

Opener

Have you ever tried to do something but you couldn't do it? Then maybe you got someone older than you and they were able to help you. In today's lesson, Jesus' disciples need some help.

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.*

Does anyone remember what we learned about last week? Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain. Who did they see there? Moses and Elijah appeared there with Jesus, and Jesus' clothes became very white. It was quite an experience for these disciples!

Jesus and the three disciples were coming down the mountain to rejoin the other disciples. When they arrived, a large crowd had gathered around the disciples. The disciples were having an argument with the religious leaders. Once all the people saw Jesus, they ran over to Him.

Jesus asked them, "What are you arguing about?"

A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought my son. He is possessed by an evil spirit. The evil spirit keeps him from talking. Whenever the evil spirit wants to, it throws him on the ground and makes him foam at the mouth. His whole body becomes extremely stiff. I asked your disciples to help him, but they could not."

Once Jesus heard the man, He became upset. He looked at the crowd and said, "You people have no faith. How long must I stay with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." The boy was brought to Jesus. The evil spirit recognized Jesus right away and made the boy fall to the ground. He rolled around and began to foam at the mouth. The evil spirit knew that Jesus was God's Son and that Jesus was very powerful.

Jesus asked the father, "How long has the boy been like this?" "Ever since He was little," said the father. "The evil spirit has even thrown him into fire or water to try and kill him. But if you can do anything, please have pity on us."

"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for the one who believes." Jesus knew that the father did not quite believe that Jesus could help his boy. Had the father truly believed, he would not have used the word "if."

When the father heard Jesus' response, he got excited. He exclaimed, "I do believe. Help me

to believe more and not doubt!” What do you think Jesus did next?

Jesus then made the evil spirit leave the boy’s body. He said, “Evil spirit, I command you to come out of the boy and never enter him again!” The spirit yelled and shook the boy’s body and came out. The boy laid on the ground looking as if he were dead. The crowd all thought he was dead because he was not moving. Jesus took his hand, lifted him up and the boy stood up! Jesus healed the boy of the evil spirit!

After everyone had left, the disciples asked Jesus a question. “Why couldn’t we remove the evil spirit from the boy?” Jesus answered, “That kind of spirit can only come out by prayer.”

Jesus was teaching them and us something very important. Prayer is powerful, useful, and important. When we pray about something, we are trusting God that He is going to handle whatever it is we are praying about. The father in the story did not have that trust at first. Once Jesus told him he needed to believe, then he decided he was ready to completely trust what Jesus could do.

Jesus did something for all people so that we can know Him. He died on the cross and came back to life. If we ask Him to take away our sins and believe in our heart He has given us a new life, He will be with us forever. If you want to know more about how to let Jesus in your life, please talk with me.

Review Questions

1. What was wrong with the boy that Jesus healed? (He had an evil spirit.)
2. Why couldn’t the disciples heal the boy? (They needed to pray more.)
3. What did Jesus say to the boy’s father when he asked if Jesus could do something to help him? (“Everything is possible for the one who believes.”)

Prayer Time

Thank God that He has the power to help us with our problems. Pray that we will have more faith in Him.

Life Application

Jesus told His disciples that they needed to pray more to have power over evil. The same is true for us. Satan doesn’t like it when we pray, because he knows it brings us closer to God. We are able to resist temptation and do what God wants us to do.

Ephesians chapter 6 talks about the armor of God. It says that faith is like a shield. A shield protects the fighter from the enemy’s weapons. When we have faith in God, He is able to protect us from Satan’s attacks.

It also says that the sword, which is a weapon, is God’s Word. When we read the Bible and have it in our hearts, we can say Bible verses to help us when Satan tempts us.

God has given us many tools to help us live the way He wants us to. When we accept Jesus into our heart, He gives us the Holy Spirit. His Spirit guides us and helps us make good choices. We do not have to be afraid of evil, because we are on God’s side!

Planning for Lesson 32
Who is the Greatest?
Mark 9:30-37

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Heals a Boy with an Evil Spirit

Hey, boys and girls! Today we are going to join a large crowd. We have walked down a mountain with Jesus, Peter, James, and John. We see a huge crowd of people all gathered around the other disciples. Let's see what's happening!

"Why can't you help my boy? What is wrong with you?"

Sounds like they are having an argument. Jesus comes over to them, "What are all of you arguing about?"

A man steps out of the crowd to speak to Jesus. He looks sad. *"Jesus, I brought my son because he is very sick. He has an evil spirit inside of him that keeps him from talking. It also makes him do things that are very bad for his body. I asked your disciples to help him, but they could not."*

Jesus looks disappointed. I wonder why? Jesus says, "You people do not believe in God's power. How long will you not trust in what God can do? Bring the boy to me."

The boy comes over and falls to the ground immediately! Then he rolls on the ground. Wow, that evil spirit is very mean to the boy. I bet the evil spirit is afraid of Jesus because it knows Jesus is very powerful. Let's see what happens next.

Jesus asks, "How long has your boy been doing these kinds of things?"

"Ever since he was little. Sometimes it even throws him into fire or water trying to kill him. If you can do anything, please help us."

"IF YOU CAN?" says Jesus. "Everything is possible if you believe in what God can do."

"I believe, I believe! Help me to trust and believe in God's power." says the boy's father excitedly.

Wow, the father decided to trust that God's power could help his son. Let's see what happens!

Jesus looks at the boy and says, "Evil spirit, I order you to leave the boy's body and never return!"

The spirit inside the boy lets out a terrible scream. Then it shakes the boy's body. Oh my! The boy is on the ground. It looks as though he is dead! Wait, Jesus is bending over. He has the boy's hand. The boy is alive and the evil spirit is gone! Jesus has helped the father to believe and has healed the boy.

It looks like Jesus is going somewhere, but just with the disciples. Let's see what they are going to talk about.

"Jesus, why couldn't we make the evil spirit leave the boy's body?" the disciples ask.

Jesus answered, "That kind of evil spirit inside of the boy can only be forced out by prayer."

Hmm, seems like Jesus is teaching them and us an important lesson. We need to trust God whenever we pray. If we talk with God about something, then we can know in our heart that He hears us and is going to answer us. The father and the disciples learned this lesson, and so can we. Let's think of how God has answered some of our prayers. (If they can not come up with any, share about some prayers that God has answered for you.) That is why you and I can trust that God's power can do amazing things. The most amazing thing of all is how Jesus died and came back to life so that we can go to heaven. If you want to know more, please talk with me.

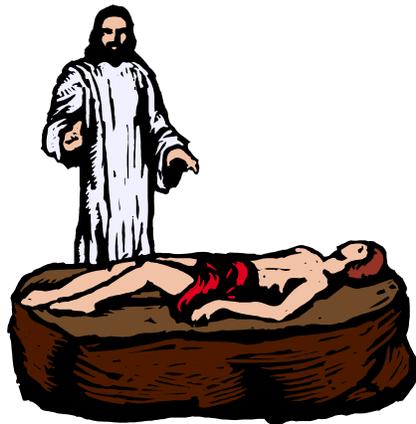
**Hands-on Activities
for
Jesus Heals a Boy with an Evil Spirit**

If you know the Veggie Tales song “God is Bigger than the Boogie Man,” sing it with the kids. Remind them that God is bigger and stronger than ANYTHING! You could also sing “My God is so Big.”

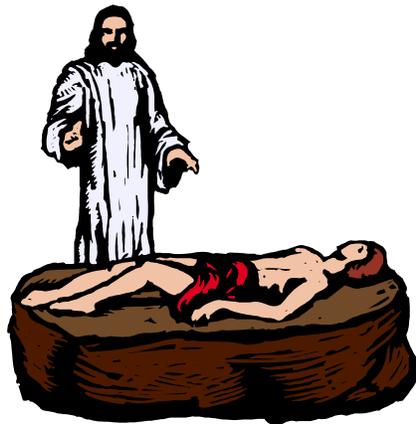
Bring pictures of different superheroes (Superman, Batman, Spiderman, etc.). Ask kids if they think God is stronger than these characters. Remind them that God is the strongest and *He is real!*

Talk about some things that change. Examples may include forms of water, caterpillar to a butterfly, tadpole to a frog, seed to a plant, etc. Let them come up with some ideas. Share how Jesus has changed your life and how glad you are for Him.

**Everything is
possible for the
one who
believes.
Mark 9:23**

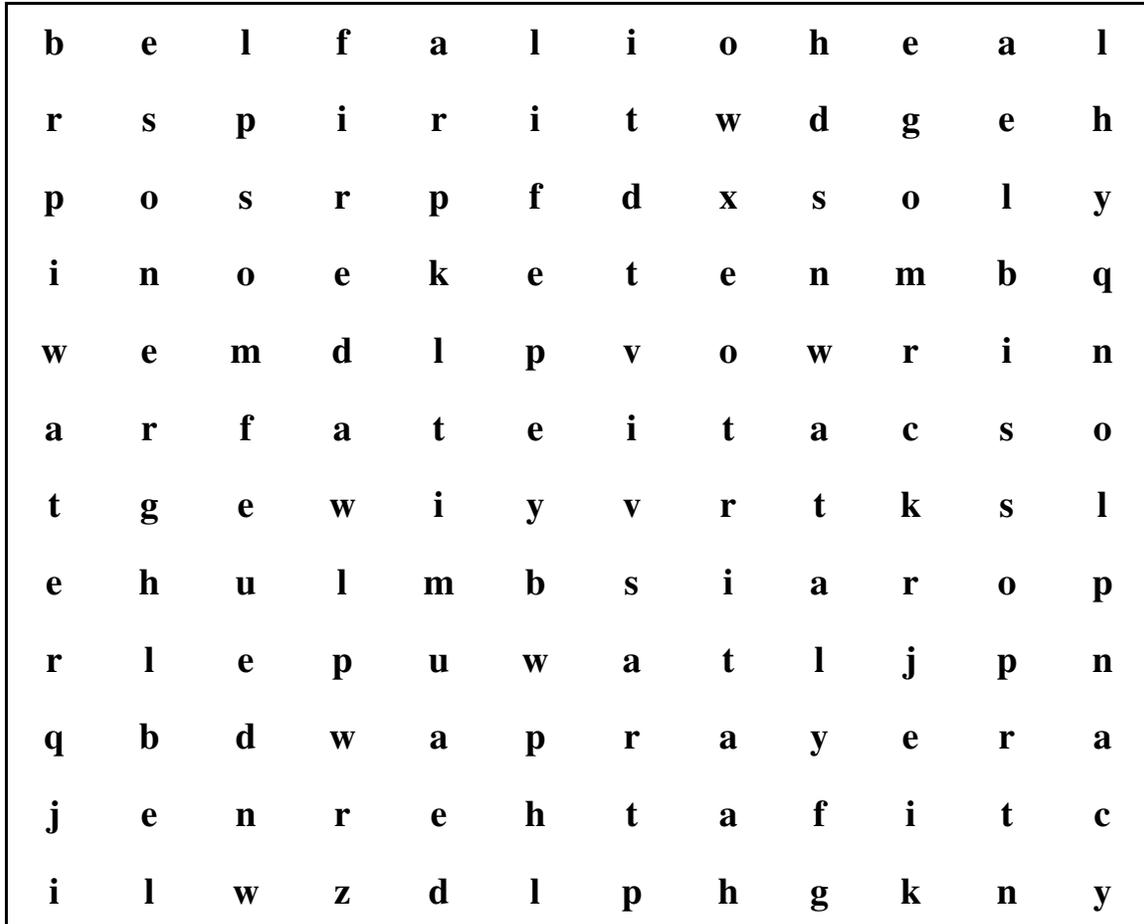


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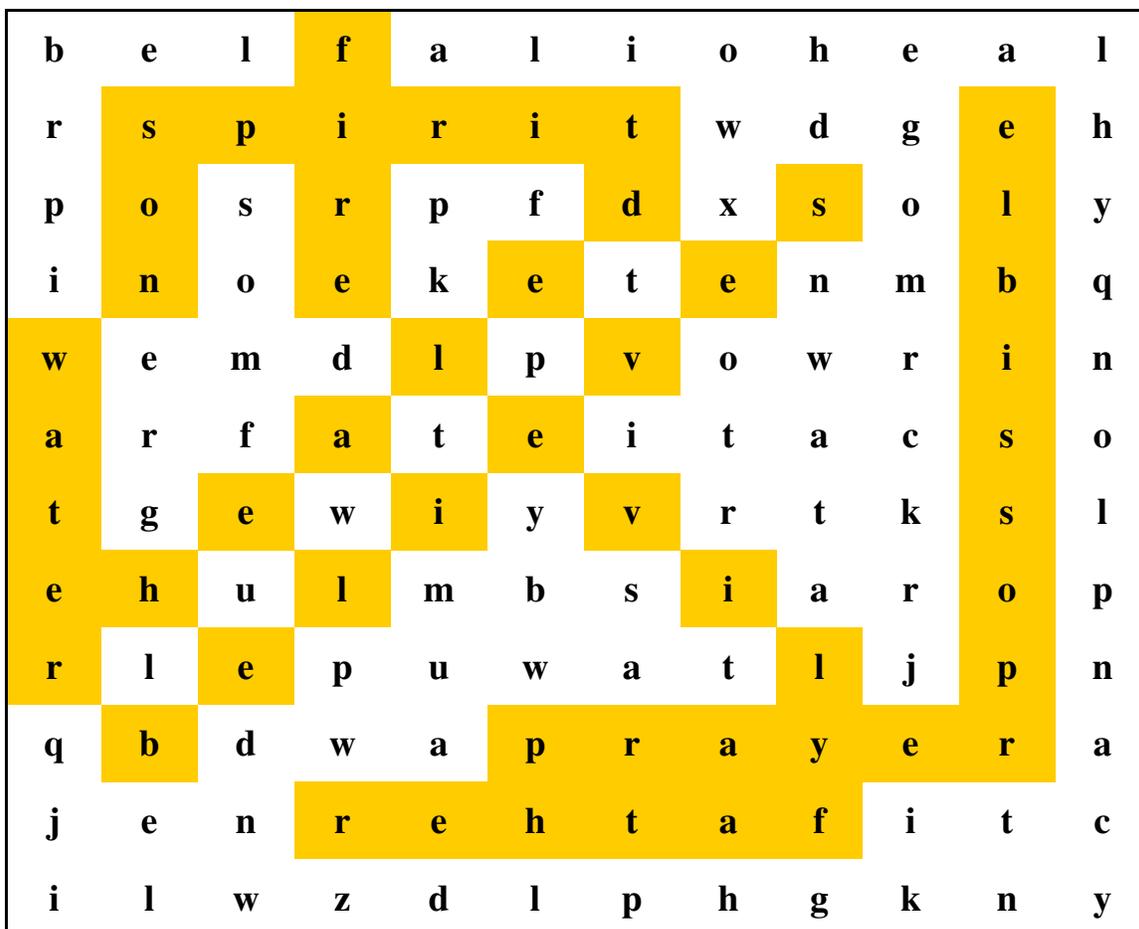
Word Search

Jesus Heals a Boy with an Evil Spirit



spirit	father	son
evil	fire	water
possible	believes	prayer
healed		

Word Search



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evil	fire	water
possible	believes	prayer
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Prayer

