

# Jesus Heals

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Mark 1:29-39**


Church Season  
**Epiphany 5**

Lesson Focus  
**Jesus cares and hears our prayers.**



Tear here for easy use!

### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Play Time</b> Kids explore story elements of Jesus Heals.	Coloring Pages 	Container of colored water, assorted measuring utensils (plastic syringes, eye droppers, medication cups, measuring spoons, etc.), towels, Bible time costumes (robes, sandals, scarves, belts, fabric, costume jewelry, etc.), baskets, pillows, play dough with glitter added, rolling pins or dowels, star-shaped cookie cutters, markers or crayons
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids view and discuss different kinds of thermometers as a way to enter the story.	Leaflet	Different types of thermometers (glass, digital, ear, etc.), doll
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids copy the leader's words and actions during the prayer.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Jesus Heals Storytelling</b> Kids respond to words in the story with corresponding actions.	Spark Story Bibles	None
<b>Simon Peter's House</b> Kids trace letters and add stickers to the picture as they review the story.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Markers or crayons

# Lesson At-A-Glance

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Small and Tall</b> Kids learn a rhyme and circle people in a picture.	Leaflets	Markers or crayons
<b>Jesus Hears</b> Kids decorate and use a collection of cards displaying different ways to pray.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Small envelopes, glue sticks, kid-safe scissors, markers or crayons
<b>Epiphany Star</b> Kids learn a song and play a game about Epiphany.	Leaflet	Paper star

*Tear here for easy use!*

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids review the day and say good-bye with a rhyme.	Leaflet	None
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids have the opportunity to speak their own words during the prayer.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Play Time

Before kids arrive, set the water, measuring utensils, and a towel where they can be used. Place the Bible time costumes, baskets, and pillows in an open area of the room. Put the play dough, rolling pins, and cookie cutters on a surface where kids can use them.

As kids arrive, invite them to explore the different activities. **Have you ever had to take medicine? How do you measure liquids? What happened when someone was sick or hurt in Bible times? Use the play dough to make some stars.** Provide copies of this lesson's Coloring Page for kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

When all of the kids have had a chance to play, invite them to help put away the supplies and join you in an open area for Circle Time. Have kids help a friend as a way to transition.

**Find a friend and show you care.**

**Work together, then come over here.**

### Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



### Supplies

Container of colored water  
Assorted measuring utensils  
(plastic syringes, eye  
droppers, medication cups,  
measuring spoons, etc.)  
Towels  
Bible time costumes (robes,  
sandals, scarves, belts,  
fabric, costume jewelry,  
etc.)  
Baskets  
Pillows  
Play dough with glitter added  
Rolling pins or dowels  
Star-shaped cookie cutters  
Markers or crayons

## Circle Time

Welcome kids enthusiastically! **Hello, everyone. I'm glad to see you! Let's say and play our rhyme to see who's here!** Repeat the following rhyme using each of the kids' names.

**[Name]'s here!**

**[Name]'s here!**

**Clap your hands and give a cheer!**

**[Name] is in God's house today!**

**Hooray!** (clap and cheer)

Hold up a leaflet and point to the green color and star icon on the front. **We are in the church season of Epiphany. We use stars during Epiphany to remind us that a star showed the wise men where baby Jesus was. During Epiphany, we also remember to show others who Jesus is. Raise your hand if you made a star with play dough today.** Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions.

**What do you think it would be like to be sick in Bible times? Someone is sick in our Bible story today. Who practiced measuring liquids? Do you think there was medicine in Bible times?**

### Spark Resources

Leaflet

### Supplies

Different types of  
thermometers (glass,  
digital, ear, etc.)  
Doll

Tear here for easy use!

Show kids the thermometers. **Have any of you ever had a fever? How can people tell if you have a fever?** Demonstrate how the different types of thermometers might be used on the doll. **How do people take care of you when you have a fever? Someone is sick with a fever in our Bible story. Let's find out what happens.**

## Prayer Time

Invite kids to stand and copy your words and actions.

**Dear God,**

**Help me to listen** (point to ears)

**And learn** (point to head)

**That you care for me.** (hug self)

**Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

## Open the Bible (15 minutes)

### Jesus Heals Storytelling

Gather kids in an open area of the room. **It's time to hear a story from God's word, the Bible. Jesus visits Peter's house in this story and someone is sick. Let's read what happens.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Hand out Spark Story Bibles to kids and help them find Jesus Heals on pages 256-257. Encourage everyone to follow along as you read the story through the first time.

Supplies

None

**We're going to read the story again. This time, please help with some actions.**

Encourage kids to respond with the corresponding actions every time one of the words below is read.

- **Jesus ...** (hold hands high)
- **Teaching ...** (point to each other)
- **Healing /Heal/Healer/Healed ...** (rub arms)
- **Sick ...** (make sad face with tongue out)
- **Simon Peter ...** (pat head)

**Let's talk about the story.** Point to the picture on page 257. **What was wrong with Simon Peter's mother-in-law?** (*She had a fever.*) **What did Jesus do for her?** (*healed her*) **Why do you think Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law?** Allow kids time to respond. **Jesus knew Simon Peter was sad and that Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick. Jesus cared about Simon Peter and his mother-in-law. So Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law. Do you think that Jesus still heals people? Jesus cares and hears our prayers.**

## Simon Peter's House

Gather kids at a space where they can work. Hand out a leaflet to each kid. Place the rest of the supplies where everyone can access them. Direct kids' attention to the front of the leaflet. **Where have you seen this picture before?** (*in our story*) **Whose house is it?** (*Simon Peter's*) **What is wrong with Simon Peter's mother-in-law?** (*She has a fever, she's sick.*) **How did Simon Peter feel?** (*upset, sad*)

**Who came to Simon Peter's house?** (*Jesus*) Invite kids to trace the word, *JESUS*, on their leaflets. Then read the words together. **What did Jesus do for Simon Peter's mother-in-law?** (*held her hand and healed her*) Give kids a hand sticker to add to their pictures. **Then how did Simon Peter and his friend feel?** (*happy, excited, surprised*) Give kids the happy face stickers to add to their pictures. **Jesus heals many people. Healing people is a way Jesus shows God's love. Jesus cares and hears our prayers!**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

Markers or crayons

Tear here for easy use!

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

### Small and Tall

Direct kids' attention to Small and Tall on the back of the leaflet. **Who do you see in this picture?** Accept all answers. **Are all of these people the same?** (*no*) **Who does Jesus care about?** (*everyone*) **Who can pray when someone is sick?** (*everyone*) **Whose prayers does Jesus hear?** (*everyone's*) Encourage kids to describe and circle each person in the picture. **Let's learn a rhyme about different people.** Invite kids to stand and repeat the following rhyme.

**When I was a baby, I was very, very small.** (curl into a small ball)  
**Now I've grown. I'm not small at all.** (stand up straight and pat head)  
**Someday I'll be a grownup and stand very tall.** (stand on tiptoes, stretch arms high)  
**Small, (crouch) tall.** (stretch)  
**Small, (crouch) tall.** (stretch)  
**Jesus cares for all!** (stretch arms wide)

Have kids return to their seats. **Jesus cares for more people than the ones in this picture. Who are they?** (*me and people I love*) **Draw yourself and someone you love in the picture because Jesus cares for and listens to all of you, too. Jesus cares and hears our prayers.**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Markers or crayons

## Jesus Hears

Direct kids' attention to Jesus Hears on the back of the leaflet. Point to the pictures of kids at the bottom of the leaflet. **What are these kids doing?** (*praying*) **Whose prayer will Jesus listen to?** (*all of them*) **There are many different ways to pray. Jesus listens to your prayer no matter how you pray. Jesus listens because he loves and cares about you. Jesus cares and hears our prayers.**

**We're going to make a fun collection of prayer cards you can use when you pray.**

1. Help kids cut apart the prayer cards along the cut lines.
2. Encourage kids to decorate the back of each card in a fun way. **How would you like to decorate each card? With polka dots? With stripes? Like a rainbow?**
3. Have each kid glue a small envelope to her or his leaflet.
4. Give kids a rectangle sticker to stick on their envelopes. **This sticker says, "Jesus hears our prayers."**
5. Direct kids to put their decorated cards in the envelope.

**Now that your prayer card collection is ready, let's practice using it.** Encourage kids to pick a card from their envelope and say a quick prayer according to the posture on the card. **There are many ways to pray: holding hands around a table, sitting with hands folded, standing with hands raised, and kneeling are some of them. No matter how we pray, Jesus cares and hears our prayers!**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

Small envelopes, one per kid  
Glue sticks  
Kid-safe scissors  
Markers or crayons

*Tear here for easy use!*

## Epiphany Star

Gather kids in an open area of the room. Hold up a leaflet, pointing to the green color and star icon on the front. **What church season are we in?** (*Epiphany*) **We use stars during the season of Epiphany to remind us to tell people everywhere, near home and far away, about Jesus. We're going to learn a song and play a game about the season of Epiphany.**

1. Teach kids the following song to the tune, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."  
**Twinkle, twinkle, Epiphany star.  
Shine on people near and far.  
Tell the people everywhere,  
Jesus cares and hears our prayers.  
Twinkle, twinkle, Epiphany star.  
Shine on people near and far.**
2. Invite one kid to hide a star somewhere in the room while the group sings the song again.
3. Have kids look for the star.
4. The kid who finds the star becomes the next person to hide it and the game continues.

### Spark Resources

Leaflet

### Supplies

Paper star

5. Play until everyone has had a chance to hide the star.

**During Epiphany, we remember to tell everyone about Jesus. Jesus cares and hears our prayers!**

## Send (5 minutes)

Tear here for easy use!

### Good-bye Time

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Gather kids in a seated circle on the floor. **Jesus visited Simon Peter's home. What happened to Simon Peter's mother-in-law? (*She was sick, she had a fever.*) What did Jesus do? (*healed her*) Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law because Jesus cared about her. Jesus cares about and heals us, too. Jesus cares and hears our prayers. When you take your leaflet home, have your family read the Faith on the Go! idea on the back. There's a fun way to pray for others during the week.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflet

Supplies  
None

**Before we go, let's say good-bye with our rhyme.** Repeat the rhyme until all of the kids have been named. Give each kid a hug or high-five following the rhyme.

**Good-bye, [Name].  
Our great friend.  
God will be with you  
Until we meet again!**

### Prayer Time

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**I will stop in the middle of our prayer for a short quiet time. You can pray anything you want to during that time, either out loud or quietly to yourself.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets  
Family Pages



**Dear God,  
Thank you for sending Jesus to care and hear our prayers.  
This is what I want to pray right now. (pause)  
Thank you for always listening to me.  
Amen.**

Supplies  
None

Be sure to send leaflets and Family Pages home with kids.