

Jesus Heals

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 1:29-39

Church Season
Epiphany 5

Lesson Focus
Look what Jesus can do!



Tear here for easy use!

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Time Kids show each other something special that they can do and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Markers, pencils
Circle Time Kids gather in a circle to greet each other, hear about the lectionary season, and discuss the different things they did during Arrival Time.	Leaflet	None
Prayer Time Kids use actions as part of a prayer.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Jesus Heals Storytelling Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible, and kids identify things that help us when we are sick or hurt.	Spark Story Bibles	Story cards from page 118, paper bag
Jesus' Healing Hands Kids remember the main points of the story by learning a simple acrostic.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Pencils
Jesus Cares about Me! Kids draw a picture about a time they were sick and a picture of what helped them feel better.	Leaflets	Markers

Lesson At-A-Glance

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Feeling Much Better! Kids search to find missing items in a hidden picture.	Leaflets	Pencils
Medicines Then and Now Kids compare ancient medical remedies with modern ones.	Leaflets	None
Chain of Prayers Kids make a prayer chain, listing sick and hurt relatives and friends on it.	None	Paper, scissors, markers, stapler

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids select what they will do at home this week, say the lesson focus statement, and gather to say good-bye.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
Prayer Time Kids pray, using the prayer chain from Chain of Prayers.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	Prayer chain from Chain of Prayers



Visit 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: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

Set out copies of the Activity Page for this lesson and pencils on a table.

As kids arrive, greet each one by name. **I want to show you something special that I can do!** Whistle a simple tune. **Who else can whistle?** Let kids try. **Wow! What are some other fun and unusual things that you can do?** Invite kids to show the class. Have some simple ideas ready for them to try: wink, snap their fingers, wiggle their ears, blow into their hands to make a train-whistle sound, touch the tip of their tongue to their nose.

Invite kids to do the Activity Page.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Markers

Pencils

Circle Time

Invite the kids to stand in a circle facing out. Hold each other's hands up high. One at a time, turn 180 degrees to the left, crossing your arms so that you are facing into the circle, your right arm over your left. Each person says, **"My name is [name] and I'm in God's family!"** Invite the next kid to your left to turn in to the circle in the same manner. Go around the circle until everyone is facing in. If you do this each week, make sure the kids stand in a different order so that no one is last every week.

Gather kids to sit in a circle, in a small group on the floor, or at tables.

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Hold up the leaflet, and point to the star on the green background. **Who can tell us which church season we are in today?** Let kids respond. **Epiphany! How do we know that?** Point to the star again, and invite kids to answer. **What does the star on our leaflet remind us of?** (*The star that the wise men followed to find baby Jesus.*) **Although Christmas is far behind us, this star reminds us that, in the church, we are still celebrating the season of Epiphany.**

When we came into class a little while ago, we showed each other some different things that we could do. Which one seemed easiest? Pause for responses. **Which one seemed hardest?** Let kids respond. **What are some other unusual things that you can do?** Allow kids to show you or tell you about a few of their other special talents. **In our lesson today, we're going to learn about something amazing that Jesus could do. What was it? Let's pray, then we'll open our Spark Story Bibles and find out more.**

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Prayer Time

Listen carefully to the prayer I pray. Wiggle, whistle, and wink when you hear those words in the prayer.

Dear God,

Thank you for helping us to do all sorts of things—

Like wiggle (pause), and whistle (pause), and wink (pause).

Thank you for giving us special talents that

We can use to praise you and thank you for your love!

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Jesus Heals Storytelling

Make a copy of the story cards on page 118. Cut the cards apart and place in a paper bag.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

In today's Bible story, Jesus Heals, the mother-in-law of one of Jesus' disciples was very sick. Then Jesus came on the scene and did something spectacular to help her. What did Jesus do? Let's read about it to learn more.

Supplies

Story cards from page 118

Paper bag

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find Jesus Heals on pages 256–257. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read, or ask for a volunteer to read out loud.

Bring out the bag with the story cards inside. **What do you think is inside of my bag?** Affirm responses. **I'll give you a clue. It has something to do with our Bible story today.** Pause for more responses. **I have six things in my bag. Each one can help us when we are sick. Who wants to choose one out of the bag?** Pick a volunteer to remove a story card. **How can this help us when we are sick?** Give kids a chance to respond. Continue until you have talked about all six cards. Some ideas are:

Medicine: Medicine can help to fight infections and viruses, and help to lower a fever.

Thermometer: A thermometer is a tool that can show us whether or not we have a fever.

Chicken soup: Chicken soup is easy on our tummies when we are sick. It also has good things in it that help us get better more quickly when we have a cold.

Teddy bear: Hugging a teddy bear can make us feel better when we are sick or hurting.

Ginger ale or soda: When our tummy is upset, it can make it feel better.

Bandage: When we get a cut or skin our knee, a bandage can help to keep the wound clean and heal faster.

Our cards have pictures of a thermometer, a medicine bottle, a can of chicken soup, a bottle of soda, a bandage, and a teddy bear. What do all of these things have in common? Let kids respond. **We use them when we're sick or hurt, and they help us!**

In today's story, a woman had a problem. What was it? (*She was very sick.*) **How did Jesus solve her problem?** (*He healed her.*) **Did Jesus use any of these things** (point to the story cards) **to cure the sick woman?** Let kids respond. **No—he didn't need them! Jesus simply held the woman's hand, and she was healed. Jesus can do things that no ordinary person can do. Why?** Let kids respond. **Because he is God's Son.**

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

1. **The sick woman was the mother-in-law of which disciple?** (*Simon Peter*)
2. **How did Jesus help the woman?** (*He held her hand and healed her.*)
3. **If you were the sick person, what would you have done after being healed by Jesus?** Affirm all responses.

Jesus' Healing Hands

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

Let's look at the Bible story on the front of our leaflets. What happened in today's story? (*Jesus healed a sick woman.*) **Jesus reached out and held the woman's hand, and she was healed.** Give kids the large stickers. **Let's complete the picture by showing Jesus holding the woman's hand.** Give kids time to place their large stickers.

Let's read the story on the front page of our leaflet. Invite kids to take turns reading the different lines.

When Jesus found out that Peter's mother-in-law was sick, he took action! Jesus...

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

**Heard that someone was sick.
Entered the sick woman's room.
Asked how he could help.
Listened carefully.
Saved the woman with a touch of his hands!**

Now look at the first letter in each sentence. Write those letters on the lines at the bottom of the page. Wait while kids do this step. **What word did you spell?** (HEALS) **And that's what Jesus did—and does! Let's retell today's story by remembering what each letter in the word HEALS stands for.** Help kids retell the story without looking at the text. If they have trouble remembering, let them peek. **Great! When you go home today, you'll be able to tell your friends and family the story of Jesus and the sick woman. And, to remember what happened, all you have to do is remind yourself of the word HEALS.**

Let's look at the bottom of the page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible.

Today's Bible story, Jesus Heals, is from the Gospel of Mark. Mark was written so that people everywhere would know that Jesus was God's Son. Mark is the second of four Gospels.

Give kids the three word stickers. **Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where?** (Mark, second, four) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible Memory Verse from this story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

[Jesus] came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. Mark 1:31

Jesus Cares about Me!

Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. **We've been talking today about a sick woman who was healed by Jesus. Those who saw what happened were so amazed that they said to each other, "Look what Jesus can do!" The sick woman was probably the most amazed of all!**

The Bible tells us that the woman in the story had a terrible fever. Has anyone here ever had a fever before? Pause. **How did you feel when you were sick?** Let kids respond. **What other kinds of sicknesses have you had?** Pause for responses. **It's no fun to be sick! Inside the green frame on your leaflet, draw a picture of how you felt when you were sick or hurt.** Give kids time to draw.

Now, thinking back to that time when you were sick, what helped you feel

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Markers

better? Let kids respond. **Inside the blue frame, draw a picture of whatever it was that helped you feel better, whether it was drinking hot tea, visiting the doctor, taking medicine, or something else.** Give kids time to draw their responses.

We can feel very lonely when we're sick—especially when everyone else around us is well. The next time you feel sick, pray to Jesus. He will listen, comfort you, and help you know that whether you're sick or well, you are never alone.

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Feeling Much Better!

Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. The room on this page is messy. It belongs to a little girl just about your age who was sick. Look carefully. Several things are missing from the picture. Who can point out one of them? Wait for kids to respond. **Circle that, and go ahead and circle anything else that you think seems to be missing.** Let kids finish the activity. (*Solution: Teddy bear is missing an eye, pillow is missing from bed, chair is missing a leg, other sock and other shoe are missing, clock is missing the second hand, half of the picture is missing, lamp is missing half of its shade, blue swirls are missing on one of the curtains, octopus is missing some legs.*)

I notice one very big thing that is missing. Does anyone want to guess what that is? Let kids respond. **It's the little girl who was sick in her bed! She feels much better now and is playing outside with her friend. Look out the window, and you will see her!**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Medicines Then and Now

Turn to the back page of your leaflets. What is your favorite cure for a cold? For a cough? Let kids respond. **How about for a fever?** Pause while kids respond again. **In Bible times, people may have used some of the same cures that we do today—like drinking hot tea for a sore throat. But because they didn't have modern medicines, a lot of their cures would have been quite different from ours. Let's look at the leaflet and see how people handled sickness in Jesus' day. Then we'll compare that to what we might do now.** Invite kids to take turns reading the different facts out loud.

When Jesus healed the sick woman, he didn't use any medicines at all. What did he do? (*He held her hand.*) **That kind of healing is beyond anything a doctor—then or now—could do. It was a miracle!**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Chain of Prayers

Do you know anyone who is sick or hurt? Maybe someone has broken a leg and is wearing a cast. Let kids respond. **I'm going to give you a strip of paper, and I'd like you to write the name of a sick or hurt person you know on that strip. We'll staple your strip into a circle and then staple all our strips together to make a prayer chain! We'll use our prayer chain at the end of class and pray for all the people we have named.** Be sure to add a couple of your own strips of prayer concerns to the chain.

Cut several 1 in x 6 in (3 cm x 15 cm) strips of paper for each kid. Have a volunteer pass them out. Give kids time to work. **After you have written a name on one strip, bring it to me so I can put the chain together. Then you can do a second one.** Staple the first strip into a loop. Then thread the next strip through the first one and staple into a loop, making a link of a chain. Continue linking all the strips in this way until the chain is complete. Kids can continue to work until your time runs out.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Paper
Scissors
Markers
Stapler

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for coming to class today. We heard the story Jesus Heals and learned why people in Bible times said, "Look what Jesus can do!" Even today we know that Jesus can heal people in heart, mind, spirit, and body. This week, remember to pray for those who are sick and hurt, and ask Jesus to give them health and comfort.

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet. Kids can fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week we can tell each other what we did to share God's love and remember our Bible story!

It's time for our closing circle. Give kids time to stand with you in a circle facing in. Ask everyone to cross their arms, right over left, and hold hands with the person beside them. Squeeze your right hand, and then invite the kids to squeeze their right hands one at a time. (You will be going clockwise.) Say, **God gives [name each kid as their hand is squeezed] a squeeze and a hug today!** Then shout together, **"Look what Jesus can do!"** Lift your arms up together, turn 180 degrees to the right, and now you will all be holding hands in a circle facing out.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils
Scissors

Prayer Time

Let's use the prayer chain we just made to help us pray! As I pass the chain around, each of you can open one link at the stapled area and read the name written on it to yourself. If you can't read the name, bring your link to me, and I'll tell you what it says. Then, when I say, "Please heal . . ." we will take turns reading the names out loud!

Dear Jesus,

We know that you can do things

That no one else can do.

Please heal . . . (Kids take turns reading names out loud.)

Give them strength, and hope, and peace.

Amen.

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

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

Prayer chain from Chain of Prayers

Tear here for easy use!

Jesus Heals Storytelling Cards

