

Jesus Heals

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 1:29-39

Church Season
Epiphany 5


Lesson Focus
**Jesus is what we're
searching for.**

Bible Memory Verse
**When they found
[Jesus], they said to him,
"Everyone is searching for
you." Mark 1:37**



Tear here for easy use!

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids practice waiting and searching.	Activity Pages 	Pencils, small object
Opening Conversation Kids talk about how they welcome someone to their home.	None	None
Opening Prayer Kids sing <i>Amazing Grace</i> as an opening prayer.	None	Words to <i>Amazing Grace</i> (optional)

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Jesus Heals Story Kids identify the use of senses in the Bible story.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils
The Hide-and-Seek Diaries Kids find a secret message in a book summary.	Leaflets	None
Heading Out, Heading In Kids consider their identities outside of church.	Leaflets	Pencils
Remember It Kids memorize the Bible Memory Verse with a circle game.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Crosses (2 or 3)


Lesson At-A-Glance

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Right Under Our Noses Kids use their senses to think of ways to help people.	Spark Bibles, Leaflets	Pencils
Aid First Kids test their knowledge of first aid.	Leaflets	None
Dance Fever Kids explore the physical joy that comes with healing.	None	Music and player

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids discuss being sent out to find something.	Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids are sent out with a benediction.	Family Pages 	None



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 Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

Before kids arrive, take a small, unique object, and hide it somewhere in your space. Hide it well—you want kids to have to search for it.

Next, gather the kids outside of the meeting space, and arrange them into two groups. Tell the first group that you've hidden a special object in the meeting space, and they have two minutes to find it.

The second group will wait with you outside of the space, and when the two minutes is almost up, they'll help you count down. If the first group finds the object, hide it again and switch the groups. If they can't find it, give the second group a shot.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Pencils

Small object

Opening Conversation

Who was able to try a Faith on the Go! activity this past week? Tell us what you did. Allow some time for sharing.

Spark Resources

None

Who can tell me the Bible Memory Verse from last week? If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it as a group. Guide kids to help them remember parts they don't.

Supplies

None

Today's story has people waiting, and people searching.

What's more fun for you—searching for something, or just waiting? Why?

What about something that you had to wait for that was so exciting you couldn't bear it? Can you think of an example? What about having to search for something valuable that you've lost? How would that make you feel?

Waiting and seeking both have pros and cons. But we should also be ready to welcome something when it comes.

When you're having guests at your home, what things do you do to get ready for them? How did you learn that you're supposed to do those things?

What does the way we ready our homes for someone tell that person?

Would you get your home ready differently for Jesus than you would for someone else? Why or why not?

Tear here for easy use!

Opening Prayer

Explain that, for your opening prayer, you're going to sing (or recite) the first verse to a song that is familiar to a lot of people. Ask kids to pay close attention to the pairings in this verse—"I once was *lost*, but now I'm *found* /was *blind* but now I see." These ideas fit today's story very well.

Sing (or recite) the first verse of *Amazing Grace* once or twice together.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Words to *Amazing Grace*
(optional)

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

Jesus Heals Story

Have kids find Mark 1:29-39 on page 1101 in the Spark Bible.

As you read the story, have kids follow along in their own Bibles. Tell them that, as you read the story, they should be on the lookout for any instance in which someone might use one of his or her senses to learn or experience something. For example, in verse 30, someone might use the sense of touch to find out that Simon's mother-in-law has a fever, and then Jesus might have used his sense of hearing when told the news.

Whenever one of the kids notices a "sense-situation" like this, have him or her raise a hand and share it with the group. Then, the kids write in the margins of their Bibles the sense used in and draw a symbol for each sense that they want to include. If it's touch, they can draw a hand, an ear for hearing, and so forth. They may also put Spark Spot stickers at key points in the story.

Be very open to any ideas the kids might have, but if they're having trouble coming up with ideas, suggest some of these:

In verse 31, Jesus lifts Simon's mother-in-law up—Touch

Simon's mother-in-law serves the group—Taste

In verse 32, there is a sunset—Sight

If you read between the lines, you should have no trouble coming up with a lot of different "sense-situations"!

Direct kids to Look it Up! on the third page of the leaflet. Help kids find 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 on page 1268 in the Spark Bible. This related text deals with Paul's (and, implicitly, Jesus') willingness to go beyond using senses, and actually become like the people they wanted to serve.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

Tear here for easy use!

The Hide-and-Seek Diaries

In one of the gospels, there's a story about another time that Jesus' family and friends were looking for him. As a boy, Jesus got separated from his family on a trip and stayed behind in the Temple—but how long was he there? There are two ways you can find out the answer.

Give kids these two options: They can either use the tools in their Spark Bibles and their inherent biblical literacy skills to find the actual story, or decipher the coded answer from the book cover summary in The Hide-and-Seek Diaries on the second page of the leaflet.

Kids may want to race to see who can get to this information faster, but encourage them to work together, as well, as a way to avoid any unhealthy competition.

Again, the answer to this puzzle (3 DAYS) can be found in either the story itself (Luke 2:41-52 on pages 1131-1132 in the Spark Bible), or by writing down the first letter of each paragraph within the book summary. Once someone from the group discovers the answer, reveal the solution (and the code key), and then ask,

Was one method a better way to solve this puzzle? Why? Which method used your intelligence more? *(neither)* **Which one required you to look closely and differently at something to solve it?** *(both)*

When we're confronted with a problem, is it better for us to use God's advice from the Bible, or God's advice that comes through the mouth of a friend? *(If both of them are rooted in God's wisdom and love, then there's no real difference.)*

Sometimes, there's simply more than one way to solve a problem. For example, in today's story, Jesus works in big crowds but also takes time to be all by himself. Jesus worships in the synagogue but also ministers outside of the church walls.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Tear here for easy use!

Heading Out, Heading In

Still thinking about the previous activity, ask,

How do you think Jesus' parents felt about him being missing? In today's story, how did Jesus' friends feel when they couldn't find him?

How is it that, when something or someone important is missing, it seems more important to us?

Can you imagine what it must have been like for a little boy to stay inside a church for three days?

Ask a volunteer to read Heading Out, Heading In on the second page of the leaflet. Encourage kids to get creative as they think of ways to handle living inside their church for one week. Together, brainstorm ideas of where to get food (a kitchen, a vending machine, food shelf items) and a code of conduct that would keep everyone safe.

Have each kid write out her or his survival plan in their leaflet. Then say,

Even though the boy Jesus stayed in the Temple for three days, the adult Jesus from today's story knew that the real work had to be done outside of its walls. That's why he leaves the synagogue to start healing and teaching. Isn't it funny that we're always talking about "finding Jesus," when Jesus is heading out to find us?

Remember It

Ask kids to look up Mark 1:37 on page 1101 in the Spark Bible. They can also look at the last page of the leaflet. Have kids sit in a circle facing away from one volunteer who stands in the middle of the circle. As the volunteer closes his or her eyes, hand out crosses to two or three of the kids in the circle. Have the volunteer open his or her eyes, walk up to one of the kids in the circle, tap that kid on the shoulder, and say, "Jesus?" If the kid tapped is not holding the cross, he or she says nothing and changes places with the kid in the middle of the circle. If the kid tapped is holding the cross, he or she stands and says, "When they found Jesus, they said to him. . ."; and the rest of the group says, "everyone is searching for you." Play until the whole group can recite the verse from memory.

Once the verse is memorized, invite kids to put I Memorized It stickers in their Bibles.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Leaflets

Supplies

Crosses (2 or 3)

Tear here for easy use!

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

Right Under Our Noses

Let's use those senses one more time. Our senses are all receptors that God gives our bodies so we can take in information to process.

Have kids find and complete Right Under Our Noses on the third page of the leaflet. It will ask them to imagine ways in which their senses can tell them about other people who are in need. Jesus didn't use superpowers to find out that Simon's mother-in-law needed healing—other people told him, and he took the time to listen! He asks us to do the same.

Searching for Jesus isn't a bad idea. After all, like his friends said, everyone is looking for Jesus, and that's still true today. But sometimes God's goodness is so big that what we need is right in front of us. The kingdom is waiting right outside the doors of a synagogue. Friends in need are all around us. All we need to do is keep our eyes open!

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Aid First

One way that we're called to help and heal others is by knowing what to do when someone is sick or hurt. Take the little quiz in Aid First on the last page of the leaflet to see how much you know about responding in times of illness or pain.

Encourage kids to share how they responded in each situation. After the discussion, point out that any of the responses given is a good idea.

Jesus spent (and spends) a lot of time healing people—probably because people needed a lot of healing, both then and now!

When you think about your faith, do you think it's connected to your physical health, too? Why or why not?

If Jesus only came to save people from hell, why do you think he spent so much time healing people's earthly bodies from illnesses?

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Tear here for easy use!

Dance Fever

This activity can be used if you have extra time, or if you have a group that really likes to get up and exert physical energy. The idea is simple: kids are given four measures of music to dance to. They have to do a different dance move for each of the four measures (four counts each: for example, a box step for the first measure, the cabbage patch for the second, etc.), but they're not allowed to talk to each other, so they'll have to find some other way to get everyone doing the same four moves.

Keep dancing until everyone moves in unison. If you have some kids in the group who might not be interested in busting a move, use encouragement rather than embarrassment to get them involved. If you have to pause the music to build up their confidence, that's okay!

Once you're finished, ask,

What are some other ways we communicate joy without speaking? How does Simon's mother-in-law respond to the gift that Jesus gives her?

Can you think of (and share about) a time when you were happy beyond words? Had you found something that you thought was missing?

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Music and player

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Focus today's lesson by asking,

What's something bad that leaves in today's story? (*a demon, an illness*) **What's something good that leaves?** (*Jesus leaves the synagogue, and leaves the group to be by himself. His entourage leaves to go on to neighboring towns.*)

Do you think Jesus ever really left his friends today? Why? Do you think he really left the synagogue, where everyone gathered to worship?

What are some of the words that you've heard used in church when the service is over? (*maybe "Go in peace to serve the Lord," or something similar*) **Why do we hear words like this every time we worship?**

What's the difference between being sent out of worship as opposed to being released from worship?

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Feel free to continue this discussion with the kids if they're interested—help them to learn that our identities as followers of Jesus don't only exist inside of the church walls. Like Jesus, we're sent out to proclaim a message of love and healing (verse 38).

Invite kids to find Faith on the Go! on the last page of the leaflet. Encourage them to complete the assignment and report back next week.

Closing Prayer

Leave kids with a benediction, similar to one that they might hear in church. You can use the following words, or come up with something of your own. You may also choose to raise the palms of your hands toward the kids as you read this, as a reminder that Jesus healed through his hands as a part of his earthly ministry.

Go from here in search of Jesus, remembering that he has already come to find you.

Go from here knowing that you've been set free through Jesus' healing, and that means your heart is tied to God's.

Go from here as your own, private person, who is a part of this community.

Amen!

Be sure to send a leaflet and a Family Page home with each kid.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!