

Jesus Heals

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 1:29-39

Church Season
Epiphany 5

Lesson Focus
Jesus dared to care.

Bible Memory Verse
**He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."
Mark 1:38**



Tear here for easy use!

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids choose whether they'd visit sick friends.	Activity Pages 	Pencils, sticky notes
Opening Conversation Kids review previous week, build relationships, and learn the new Bible Memory Verse (BMV).	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	None
Opening Prayer Kids pray for those who are sick.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Jesus Heals Story Kids come to Jesus for healing and search for Jesus in the dark.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	None
Bottled Up Kids sort through garbage.	Leaflets	Garbage can with sortable garbage, tarp
Rap It Like You Mean It Kids connect the story to their life through rap.	Spark Bibles, Leaflets	Pencils, percussion instruments (optional)

Lesson At-A-Glance

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Fun Facts Kids work to find a virus to cure.	Leaflets	None
Knock, Knock. Who's There? Kids create a revolving door of caring characters.	Leaflets	Colored pencils, transparent tape, scissors
Knock, Knock. Who Cares? Kids consider how people care for others.	None	Doors from Knock, Knock. Who's There?

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids review the BMV and look at the Faith on the Go! options.	Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids thank God for being with them as they dare to care.	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.

As kids come in, ask them to write the name of a disease on a sticky note and put it up on the wall, with the challenge of no two being the same.

Examples of communicable diseases: cough, cold, flu, strep throat, chicken pox, West Nile Virus, HIV, AIDS.

Examples of noncommunicable diseases: asthma, heart conditions, Alzheimer's, cancer.

Once everyone has put a disease on the wall, talk to the group. **I'm going to point to one of these diseases. If you would definitely visit a friend with this disease, go to that end of the room. Indicate one end of the room. If you would definitely not visit that friend, go to the other end of the room. If you're not sure, stand in the middle.**

Point to various diseases and see where kids go. Change the person suffering the disease from friend to grandparent, relative, or church member, and see if the responses are different.

It's hard to say sometimes how we should care for people with different illnesses. Thankfully we have teachers and parents that help us make those decisions, so we can make wise and caring choices.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Pencils

Sticky notes

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.

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

As you talk about disease and illness in this lesson, keep in mind that kids may have a direct and possibly painful association with sickness. Remember kids in the congregation or local schools that are suffering from long-term illness or any relatives of the kids that are struggling with an illness or have died as a result of one.

How many of you have been sick before? Show of hands. **Being sick is no fun! Tell me what it feels like to be sick.** Give kids opportunity to share about a time that they were sick and who cared for them. This is also a good time for kids to share

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

None

any stories they have of loved ones who have had major illnesses such as cancer. How did the kid and his or her family care for that person?

Dealing with sickness can be scary. And risky. And tough. Sometimes it's just as hard to visit someone who is sick as it is to be sick! Today we're going to learn about how Jesus healed people and cast out demons. Jesus dared to care. And he didn't just wait for people to come to him. He went out to find people that needed healing. Let's read a verse about it.

Look up Mark 1:38 on page 1101 in the Spark Bible. Have kids read it to themselves, then quiz them with three questions. **Where did Jesus want to go?** (*to neighboring towns*) **What was he going to do there?** (*proclaim the message*) **Why was Jesus going to neighboring towns to proclaim the message?** (*It's what he came out to do.*)

Jesus had places to go, things to do, and a reason to do it! Now I'll read the Bible Memory Verse and you fill in the blanks. Read as follows: **He answered, Let us go on to the _____, so that I may _____; for that is what _____.**

Read it a few times. As kids grow more confident, drop out more words until all you have to say is, "He answered," and they can say the rest of the verse themselves. Encourage kids to put I Memorized It stickers in their Bibles.

Excellent work! We've got things to do as well, so let's start with an opening prayer and dive into our lesson.

Opening Prayer

Use the opening prayer as a time to pray for those who are sick. Open the prayer and leave space for kids to insert the names of people that need healing.

Dear Jesus,

You are a healer. Today we lift up people that need your healing. Pause for kids to share. Give plenty of time. **Be with all of these people and those we hold silently in our hearts. Our trust is in you. Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Jesus Heals Story

Tear here for easy use!

We're going to read the story in two parts today. The first section is Mark 1:29-34. Help kids find this section of scripture on page 1101. **Jesus and a handful of disciples go to Simon and Andrew's house in the city of Capernaum. While they are there, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, and soon every sick person in town was at their door wanting to be healed. As I read, we're going pretend that we are coming to Jesus for healing.** Choose one kid to be Jesus. Remember: it can be a kid of either gender. and direct the others to make a line in front of Jesus. They come to Jesus imitating some sort of sickness: holding their sides, limping, walking blindly. Jesus touches their hands, and they are healed! With a small group, kids can get back in line and do it all again. When kids are lined up and ready, begin reading. After you read, discuss what happened.

What would it be like to be healed instantly? What do you think it was like for Jesus to have all these people wishing to be healed? What do you think it would be like to be able to heal people with a touch?

Now I'll read the second half of today's story, verses 35-39. This time Jesus is going off to pray before the sun comes up, when it's still dark outside. Choose a new kid to be Jesus. The other kids close their eyes and wander slowly in the "dark" searching for Jesus. If they come within an arms length of Jesus, Jesus tags them, and they can open their eyes. Help Jesus tag more of the disciples as they come close. All of this is done in silence as you read the story. Ask the kids to close their eyes, and Jesus can find a spot to pray as you begin the story. After you read discuss the story.

Why do you think Jesus went to pray so early in the morning? Why did Jesus go to other places rather than stay in one place? What does this teach us about Jesus? *(There are lots of correct answers, such as: Jesus comes to us and seeks us out. Jesus goes where he needs to go, even when we think he should go where we want him to go.)*

Encourage kids to select a Spark Bible Sticker or two to put in appropriate places in the story. Discuss the I Wonder statements on the first page of the leaflet.

Direct kids to Look It Up! on the second page of the leaflet. Help them find James 2:19 on page 1355 in the Spark Bible. **Do demons believe in God? (yes) How do they react?** *(They shudder.)*

Jesus made some pretty daring moves in this story and when we hear what Jesus did, it makes us try daring things, too!

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Bottled Up

When you've got an idea inside you that's just waiting to get out, we say it's "bottled up" inside you. Sometimes we need encouragement from friends, parents, or stories about Jesus to share our daring ideas. Let's read about a kid who let his ideas about caring for God's creation out of the bottle.

Ask for a few volunteers to read Bottled Up on the first page of the leaflet.

How do you think Juan's teacher reacted? Do you think you'd be brave enough to stand up to your teacher that way?

Get out the garbage can. Dump it out on a tarp talk about what you find. **Why did this get thrown away? How could we make less garbage? Could any of this be recycled?**

We're learning today about Jesus healing physical sickness, but Jesus also heals our spiritual and emotional sickness. Sometimes it feels like we've got garbage in our own lives—hurt feelings or mean things that have happened to us. The good news is that Jesus cares for our entire beings! Physically, spiritually, and emotionally, Jesus knows us and dares to care about us.

Sort the recycling from the garbage, and put the garbage back where it belongs.

As we put this garbage back, let's remember that God cares for us and is with us even when we're dealing with the garbage in our lives!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Garbage can with sortable

garbage

Tarp

Tear here for easy use!

Rap It Like You Mean It

Read together the directions for Rap It Like You Mean It on the second page of the leaflet.

We're going to write a rap together. The first verse of the rap is to remind us of what Jesus did in the story. Read through the story again to choose one part to rap about. The second verse is to share one way Jesus' example of caring affects how we dare to care for others in our lives. It can be about any situation where being kind and caring might not be the easy thing to do, but you know it's the right thing to do!

Encourage kids to work in pairs. When each pair has at least one verse, practice putting all the verses together and rapping them. Sit in a circle and use percussion instruments, beat-box sounds, or a simple clapping and stomping pattern to speak the lines rhythmically. Encourage everyone to join together on the line, "Be like Jesus, dare to care!"

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Percussion instruments

(optional)

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Fun Facts

Let's find the Fun Facts on the third page of the leaflet. Ask kids to each read one of the Fun Facts. Explain what a virus is: a type of germ that can be transferred to someone else. It's why washing hands is so important!

Outside of medicine, we sometimes talk about viruses as bad things that get passed on. Your teacher might say that bad grammar is a virus sweeping the nation. Or perhaps your grandma would say rude behavior is like a virus that too many kids have caught.

Try playing this virus game. One person is the cure. Everyone else is a carrier. Carriers line up shoulder to shoulder along one end of the room. One of them has a leaflet behind their back. The carriers will try to get a leaflet across the room by passing it behind their backs to one another as they walk forward in a line. The cure starts with his or her back turned to the carriers. At the start of the game, he or she turns around and will try and guess who has the leaflet by saying, "FREEZE!" and then pointing to the kid they guess has the leaflet. If the cure guesses correctly, they switch places with the carrier of the leaflet. If the guess is incorrect, play resumes. Play until a carrier successfully carries a virus across the room.

Sadly, all kinds of viruses will always be with us. The good news is that Jesus is more powerful than viruses and is always with us, giving us hope and courage to dare to care.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Knock, Knock. Who's There?

Start with a knock-knock joke. **Knock, knock.** (Who's there?) **Zeke.** (Zeke who?) **Zeke and you shall find!** Encourage uproarious laughter.

Open your leaflet and "zeke" out Knock, Knock. Who's There? on the third page.

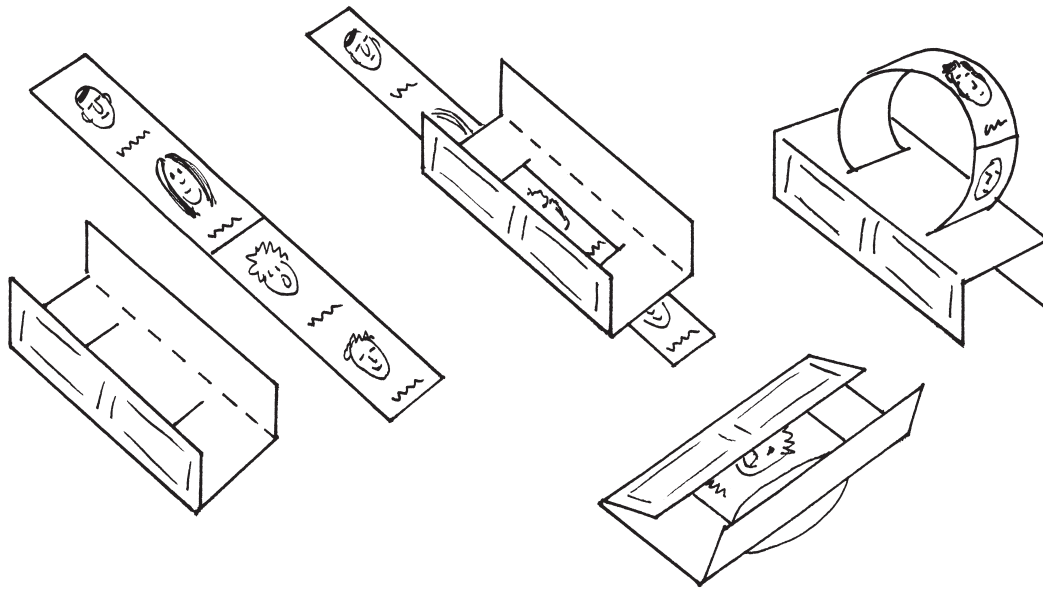
Read through the directions with the kids. In addition to drawing faces, they can also include props that indicate whom the person is. If their friend loves to dance, include ballet shoes. If the helper is a firefighter, include a fire ax or hose. If your knock-knock joke inspired kids to share their own jokes, they could share them as they work.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Colored pencils
Transparent tape
Scissors

Tear here for easy use!

Once the images are drawn, overlap and tape the two strips together to make one long strip:



Tear here for easy use!

Weave that strip through the slits in the door so that one person shows at a time.

Now turn it over and tape the ends of the strips together to form a loop.

Kids can now line up an image and open the doors to reveal who is knocking at their door.

Once all the kids have made their revolving doors, ask them to share who's at their door with this activity.

**Jesus had hundreds of people knocking at his door wanting to be cared for.
We're going to get a feel for what it would be like to be Jesus.**

Kids take turns lining up one person behind their doors. They say knock-knock, and the group responds, Who's there? The kid then opens their paper door and says who it is. Now it's up to the group to figure out how they would react if this person came to their door and share one way they could show this person they care.

Knock, Knock. Who Cares?

This game reminds us that social status, age, or income are not qualifications when it comes to caring.

Pair up kids facing each other. The kids should have their doors from the previous activity and they should be closed. Together the group says, Knock, knock, who cares? And both kids open their doors.

If these two people were paired up in real life, who would be helping whom?

Try to make a case both ways. Encourage kids to think creatively and make an argument for their person being better at caring. Play a few times with kids switching partners.

There's no indication in the Bible that Jesus had money or a permanent home. He may fit our definition of someone in need or a stranger. He may also be a helper, friend, and you could even say celebrity. Jesus pushed beyond labels that people put on him and dared to care no matter what. We get to do the same thing. We don't have to be popular, grown up, or rich to care. We get to care because God cares for us, and that's the only qualification we need!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Doors from Knock, Knock. Who's There?

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Sickness, viruses, demon possession, we talked about some pretty yucky stuff today. What was the saddest part of this lesson for you? Give kids a chance to share. **Now think about what Jesus did in today's story. How do Jesus' actions give you hope? What's the best or most hopeful thing you were reminded of today?** *(offer hope knowing that Jesus is stronger than viruses or disease, he is always with us, and can heal us inside and out)*

Jesus dared to care for so many people, and he didn't just stay in one place!

Remember our memory verse? Try saying Mark 1:38 together.

Jesus kept going to other people, too! He didn't just wait for them to come to him. In the same way, we get to go out into the world and show the world we dare to care just like Jesus! Sometimes Jesus heals us by working through other people like doctors, teachers, pastors, friends, and family.

Let's look at ways we can dare to care this week. Check out the Faith on the Go! section, and choose ways you can share the good news that Jesus cares.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Closing Prayer

Let's pray that God would prepare us to be daring and caring in this world in everything we do. When I get to the end of the prayer, we'll all say together, "To be like Jesus, to dare to care!"

**Dear Jesus, You care for us inside and out.
You love us no matter our worries and doubt.
You heal us, and fill us, and now we prepare
To be like Jesus, to dare to care!
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!