

Jesus' Second Miracle

John 4

Jesus: Heals

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
-John 14:6

Summer Sunday Schedule:

8:55-9:05 - Welcome/arrival
9:10-9:30 - Project Station (classroom)
9:35-9:55 - Game Station (LG1)
10-10:20 - Story Station (LG2)
10:20-10:45 - Back to classroom; snack and transition to 2nd service

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Take time to prepare your heart and mind by spending time in the Word reading John 4:43-54. Note your observations about Jesus' character and what truths you see so you can share them with the kids.

This passage reveals that faith often involves believing in God's provision even when we don't see immediate results. The official's willingness to return home, trusting Jesus at His word, illustrates the definition of faith given in Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen." The official didn't have to immediately see his son healed to believe Jesus' words of life.

We want our kids to trust Jesus, especially in moments when they cannot see Him at work. Whether His answers to our prayers come quickly or seem delayed, we want them to trust in the power and goodness of our Savior who is always working for the good of those who love Him.



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



LESSON OVERVIEW

None

Ask the class: *Have you ever seen something happen that seemed impossible? what was it? How did you react?* (Allow responses)

Summarize John 4:43-54. and then discuss the following questions in table groups or together as a class:

Why was Jesus able to heal the official's son? Remind kids that Jesus' miracles point to His authority as God's Son. Because Jesus is God, He has the power to heal physical needs, but more importantly, to save us from our sin.

Does Jesus always heal us from physical sickness? Explain that Jesus has the power to heal, but that does not mean He promises to always immediately heal our physical needs or illnesses. Share that physical pain is the result of living in a world afflicted by sin. But remind kids that Jesus offers a greater hope: salvation from sin and life with Him forever! Even though we will have pain and struggles in this world, those who choose to follow Jesus can trust that all hurt and sickness will be gone in the new heaven and new earth.

What does it mean to be dead in sin? Share that God's Word tells us the punishment for sin is death. We have all sinned and deserve death. But because of God's love for us, He sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life, die in our place, and rise again. When a person believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior, they are promised life forever with Him.



ACTIVITY:

Alphabet Bandages

- 11x17 body outlines
- Bandage sheets
- Pens

Pass out an 11x17 outline of a body and a sheet of “bandages” (address labels) to groups of 4 children.

The outlines will have each letter of the alphabet in different spots.

Challenge the groups to come up with words from A-Z that describe Jesus’ character and write them on their band aids. Come up with a few examples together as a class and write them on the board. For example:

A - All - powerful

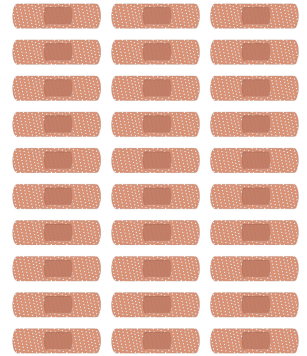
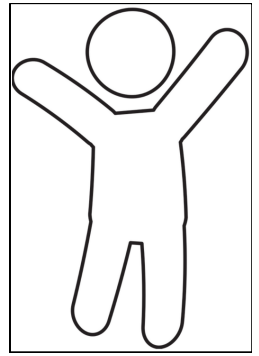
J - Just

M - Merciful

X - eXcellent

After they write their words on their bandaids, have them place the bandages over each correct letter on their body outline. See how many they can get on their own and then come back together as a group to brainstorm any that they missed.

SAY: Bandages are useful because they help us when we get hurt! But Jesus came to heal our pain in a way no bandage ever could. We can bring him our sin, hurt and pain and trust in His goodness and love to heal more than our bodies - to heal our hearts



MEMORY VERSE GAME:

Map It Out

- Key Passage Poster
- Painter’s Tape
- Toy Cars
- Markers
- Index cards - “Eternal Life”

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 14:6 together.

Give each table group painter’s tape and toy cars. Have them map out a road of tape from one end to the other. Challenge them to make sure they have 4 turns along their road. At the other end of the table, have them place an index card that says “Eternal Life”.

Ask them what ways people may say can get you to heaven or to God. (Answers may include being good, giving to the church, being a part of a Christian family, etc.)

Talk about what Jesus said in John 14:6. Then talk about the only way the Bible says we can have eternal life - through Jesus. Have them write the whole verse along their tape. Allow them time to move their toy cars along their roads reminding themselves the only way to Heaven & God is through Jesus.