

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:

10:45-10:55 - Welcome/arrival
11:00 - 11:20 - Project Station (classroom)
11:25-11:45 - Game Station (LG1)
11:50-12:10 - Story Station (LG2)
12:15 - Back to room for dismissal

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:

Growing our Faith

- Cupcake liners
- Scissors
- Leaves
- Glue sticks
- Markers

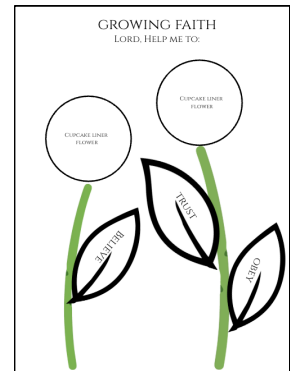
The official had faith that Jesus would heal his son, even though he couldn't see it happen. He trusted Jesus without seeing the end result.

What does faith look like? How do we grow our faith?
Faith is when we:

- **Believe** in God and that He sent His Son Jesus to save us from our sins.
- **Trust** in Him and that He will take care of us and help us in our everyday life.
- **Obey** His commands that are in the Bible.

Talk about everyday examples of when they can live out their faith. How do they trust? How do they obey?

SAY: People are saved the moment they place their faith in Jesus, but demonstrating or living out faith takes time and practice. Remember that as you grow closer to Jesus, the more your faith will grow.



Prayer 101

Prayer Stations

- 2 blank poster papers
- Markers
- Bandaid sheets
- Bin of legos/blocks
- Cross poster paper
- Jar of gray rocks
- Jar of clear stones

Place a large sheet of paper on each table to make different stations. Explain the following stations and have the children divide into groups and rotate through each table, spending a few minutes at each. (It might be helpful to just set a timer for 3-4 minutes on your phone!)

Set expectations! - Prayer stations are a quiet time to be talking to God, not to each other! (Consider playing quiet background music on your phone)

- **Graffiti Station** (blank poster paper and markers) - Have the children use markers to write/illustrate prayers, praises, thanks, concerns.
- **Hurt Station** (bandaids, markers and blank poster paper) - Have the children write the names of people who are hurting (physically or in some other way) on the Band-aids, then stick them to the poster board and pray for them.
- **Blessings Tower** - (bin of legos/blocks) - Have the children pray and thank God for their blessings. For each thing they are thankful for, have them stack a block and see how many blessings they have.
- **At the Cross** (cross poster paper, jar of gray rocks, jar of clear stones) - Have the children take a black rock, which represents their sin, hold it, pray, and confess their sins to God, then look at the cross and thank Jesus for his forgiveness. Then have them place the black stone on the cross and take a clear pebble, to show that when they believe and repent, they have been made clean and forgiven of their sins.