

18



JESUS AND THE BLIND MAN

The Promised One Revealed

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture John 9: 1 - 41

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Jesus healed the blind so that people would see that he was the Promised One that the prophets wrote about, the one who was sent by God to do the works of God.
- The blind man in this story saw who Jesus really was, believed and worshipped him.
- Jesus wants us to see “spiritually” – to believe that he is the Promised One, the Forever King.

Memory Verse Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12 - NIV)

ACNA

**Catechism
Connection**

The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

Q 303 How did Christ cause life to flourish? ...Jesus sought the well being of all who came to him, he made the blind to see and cured the sick

Q 341 How does Jesus heal you? ...Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus mends my soul from the effects of sin

Q 28 What is in the Old Testament? ...The Old Testament points to Christ, revealing God's intention to redeem and reconcile the world through Christ

Q 227 How should you "mark" passages of Scripture? ...I should note connections between passages of Scripture in the Old and New Testaments in order to grasp the full meaning of God's Word.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- Pool with a sign saying: "Pool of Siloam"
- Sunglasses and cane for blind man
- Brown putty to represent mud
- 2 scrolls with a scripture on each:
"The Lord opens the eyes of the blind" (Psalm 146:8)
"Behold my servant...a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind," (Isaiah 42:1a, 6b)
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes:

- Jesus
- Blind Man holding cane, wearing sunglasses
- 2 Disciples

Memory Verse:

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster & Kingdom News handout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster and Kingdom News Handout

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

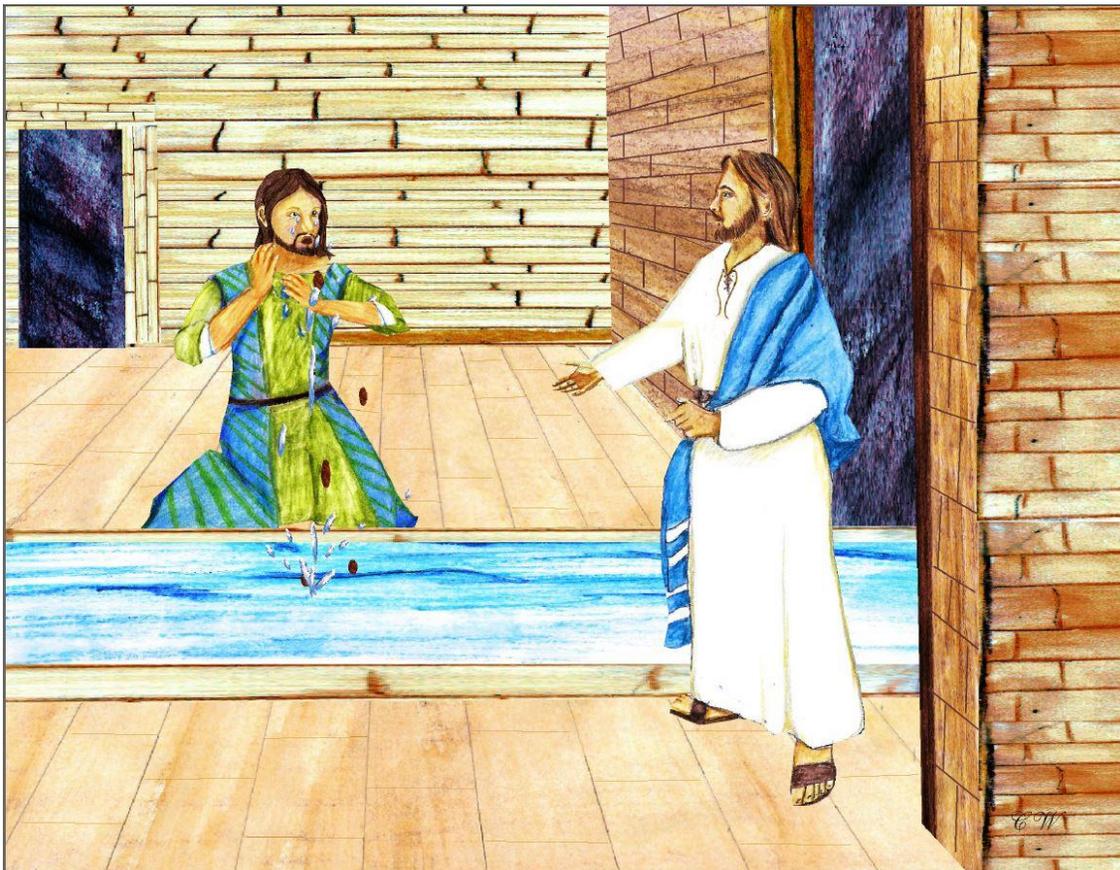
In our picture today, what do you see? (Blind man beside the Pool of Siloam)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder why Jesus is with this man at the pool.

I wonder what the man is doing.

Let's find out more in our story...



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the Gospel of John, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and all the words in the Bible are true.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster.*

STORY:

TEACHER: Last week, we heard about Jesus talking to Nicodemus about being born again. It was sad, but Nicodemus could not understand what Jesus was saying. He just couldn't "see" what Jesus meant and so he walked away. Today we are going to learn about another man that Jesus met. But this man ended up "seeing" and understanding who Jesus really was and so he worshipped him.

Jesus was with his disciples and saw a man who had been blind all his life. Yes, this man was blind since he was a baby. Can you imagine what it is like not to see?

ACTION: *Blind man standing with a cane, wearing sunglasses.*

TEACHER: Let's close our eyes for a moment.

Can you imagine how hard it would be to go to school, eat your lunch, or not see the stars at night? You wouldn't know what the colour red looked like, nor would you be able to see a person smile.

What do you think this blind man would want more than anything? (*Children's response: to see*).

That's right....More than anything, this man wanted to be healed from being blind, so that he could see.

When Jesus and his disciples walked by the man who was blind, the disciples asked Jesus a very unusual question.

ACTION: *Jesus and disciples walk by the blind man.*

#1 DISCIPLE: Why was this man born blind? Who disobeyed God? Was it the man or his parents?

TEACHER: The disciples thought that this man was blind because someone had sinned.

But Jesus told the disciples....

JESUS: This man is not blind because he or his parents disobeyed God. This man was born blind for a different reason.

Watch what I am going to do. By my actions you will know that God sent me to do his work.

TEACHER: Jesus walked over to the blind man. He bent over and spat on the ground and made some mud. Then Jesus put the mud on the blind man's eyes.

ACTION: *Jesus puts the putty onto the blind man's eyeglasses.*

JESUS (speaking to the man that was blind): I want you to go to the pool of Siloam and wash your eyes.

ACTION: *The blind man goes to the pool and washes his eyes.*

TEACHER: What do you think happened?

ACTION: *The blind man throws off his glasses and starts jumping up and down, saying: "I can see. I can see!!!"*

#1 DISCIPLE SAYS TO JESUS: This is exactly what the Scriptures tell us. Look at this,

#1 DISCIPLE OPENS HIS SCROLL AND READS: "The Lord opens the eyes of the blind" (Psalm 146.8)

#2 DISCIPLE OPENS HIS SCROLL AND READS: "Behold my servant,... a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind," (Isaiah 42: 1a, 6b)

TEACHER: Yes – the disciples now understood that Jesus was fulfilling the Scriptures that the Forever King (Jesus) would open the eyes of the blind.

Imagine how happy this man was that he could see!! At the end of this story, the blind man who could now see, believed that Jesus was the Promised One and he stopped to worship Jesus. Now he could see with his eyes AND he could also see "spiritually" because he believed and recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah. By this miracle, God was showing everyone that Jesus had been sent to do God's work.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He is obedient to his Father, he had the power to heal, he is worthy of worship, he taught his disciples)
- **What is Jesus doing in this story?** (Jesus is teaching spiritual truths to his disciples. He proclaimed that he was the one that the prophets wrote about. He was glorifying God, his Father by fulfilling the prophecies, showing God's compassion, power and kindness. Jesus healed this blind man. He is doing the works of God for all to see)
- **What kind of blindness did the man have?** (physical, couldn't see with his eyes)
- **What kind of blindness did some of the Pharisees have?** (spiritual, they did not see God's love)
- **Can Jesus heal spiritual blindness too?** (Yes, of course! People can ask Jesus to be their light and "open the eyes of their heart." He can heal our soul, our feelings and our mind from the effects of sin)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time)

Jesus was always doing the work that God the Father sent him to do. He performed many miracles and acts of love.

Jesus still heals us today, and when we are sick we can pray for our healing, that we will get better (physical healing). We can thank Jesus for giving us our parents, doctors and nurses who look after us when we are sick.

Jesus can heal our hurt feelings (emotional healing). We can pray for Jesus to heal our hurt feelings and we can forgive those who have hurt us. The Holy Spirit brings this healing and help to us because Jesus wants to make us well.

Jesus can also open our spiritual eyes (spiritual healing), so we can see and understand that he is the Promised One, our Forever King, who came to save us from our sin.

Lead a prayer with the children.

5 | Related Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



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