

Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

Luke 13:10-17

1

September
Week 1



Teacher Background

What Happens: One Sabbath (God's special day), Jesus is teaching in the synagogue when a woman who can't stand up straight comes to him for healing. Jesus heals her, and the religious leaders get mad at Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. Jesus says that helping others on the Sabbath is the right thing to do. Jesus does what's right—no matter what.

Why It Matters: This lesson is interesting because it seems like Jesus is doing the wrong thing. He's going against the rules! Help your kids see that doing what's right is a matter of the heart—not a matter of following all the rules perfectly.

Think About: When have you felt confident you did the right thing? How did others react?

Pray for kids to be able to combat peer pressure. Pray that kids will go to Jesus and pray to do the right thing even if it's not what people around them say is right.



Point

Jesus does what's right—no matter what.



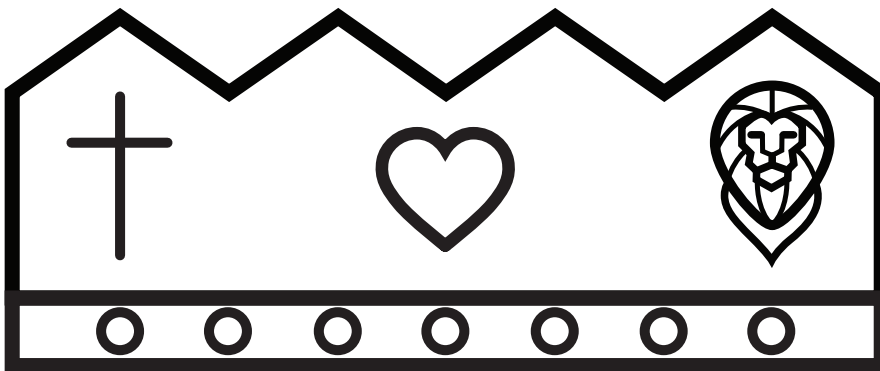
Key Verse

"We love each other because he loved us first."

1 John 4:19

QUICK TIP

Make your class a place where kids are encouraged to share opinions and thoughts. Listen. Ask follow-up questions. And make it clear the goal is to live out a friendship with Jesus, not just intellectually master the rules.



This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER
CHECK IN Connect about the week.	The importance of friendships at church.
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Use chenille wires to act out the Bible story.	Doing what's right means showing God's love.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Learn to make a ball fall straight into a cup every time.	Jesus does what's right— <i>every time</i> .
PLAY A GAME Play a card game with too many made-up rules.	Ways to sort out the most important rules.
PRAY TOGETHER Pray hunched over and then stand up straight.	We need Jesus' help to do what's right.

EASY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- chenille wires (pipe cleaners)
- ping-pong balls (1 per person)
- 9-ounce plastic cups (1 per person)
- index cards (1 per person)
- paper
- tape
- playing cards (1 deck)
- whiteboard or poster board
- dry-erase markers or markers



CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have kids show their goofiest faces to everyone around them.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” in a funny voice.

ASK: What’s something you’re excited about that’s coming up soon? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share! For groups of more than six, have kids share in pairs so everyone has a turn to talk.



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we’ll learn about a time Jesus healed a woman because it was the right thing to do.

That’s a unique thing about Jesus. **➡ Jesus always does what’s right—no matter what.** It’s nice to be able to trust that something will always happen—or that it’ll happen the same way every time.

ASK: Tell about something you can trust to always happen. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: Today we’ll dig into the Bible to find out what happened when Jesus did the right thing even when other people were unhappy with him for doing it. One way God talks to us is through the Bible. It’s his special book.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible
- chenille wires (pipe cleaners)



CELEBRATE SMALL

A wonderful benefit of having fewer kids is it allows time and space for get-to-know-you conversations. Allow kids time to answer the question about what they like to do on Saturdays. Invite everyone to share, and highlight things kids have in common with each other and with you.

DISCUSS

SAY: Today’s Bible story happened on a Saturday.

ASK: What do you like to do on Saturdays?

Have kids turn to a partner to share. Then ask a few kids to share with everyone.

SAY: Today we’ll talk about a miracle Jesus did on a special day, called the Sabbath. In Jesus’ time—and still today—Jewish people observed the Sabbath from Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset. The Sabbath is a day to rest and spend time with God. And we’ll see that some people thought healing someone wasn’t resting!

ACT IT OUT



Open your Bible to Luke 13, and show kids the words.

SAY: I’ll need your help telling this story.

Give each child a chenille wire, and have them bend it into a person. This can be as simple as an upside-down V or a more complicated person shape.

SAY: The person you made will be the woman who needed healing. Let’s find out what was hurting her.

✝ Read Luke 13:10-11. Explain that the synagogue was a place of worship—a little like our church.

SAY: The woman was bent over at the waist—she couldn't stand up straight! Show that with your figure. Allow time.

✝ Read Luke 13:12-13. Have kids straighten their figures back out.

SAY: Now, that could be the end of the story...but it's not. Because remember, this happened on the Sabbath. And there were people at the synagogue who didn't like Jesus.

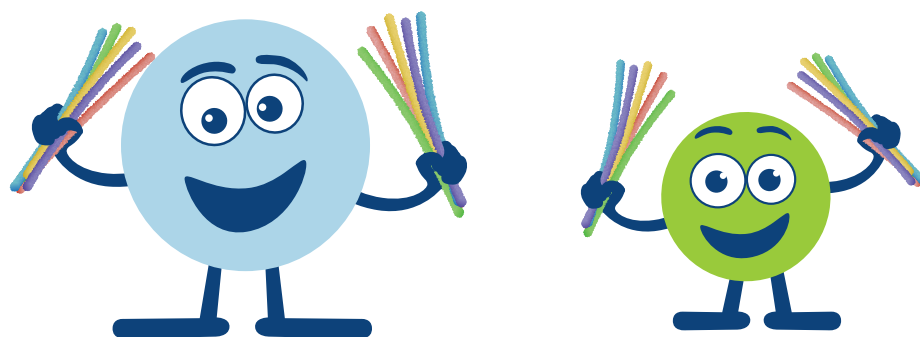
So they said that by healing someone, Jesus had done work on the Sabbath—a big no-no! They were trying to get Jesus in trouble.

➡ **Jesus does what's right—no matter what.** Even if it meant he'd get in trouble. So let's see what he said.

✝ Read Luke 13:15-16.

SAY: ➡ **Jesus does what's right—no matter what.** He called the religious leaders "hypocrites" because that means they don't live out what they say—or do what they tell others to do. They talked about God's love, but they weren't *showing* it!

But Jesus knew the right thing was to free this woman from being in pain! Helping people isn't work—it's showing God's love. And that's what ➡ **Jesus does—no matter what!** Have kids make their chenille wires into hearts.



**SUPPLIES**

- ping-pong balls (1 per person)
- 9-ounce plastic cups (1 per person)
- index cards (1 per person)
- paper
- tape

EASY PREP

- Cut sheets of paper into quarters—enough to have 1 quarter for each person.

**CELEBRATE SMALL**

In a larger group, most kids would only get to observe this object lesson. It's way more fun to actively do it! Each kid in your smaller group will get to engage and make lasting discoveries.

**MAKE BALLS FALL INTO CUPS**

SAY: This Bible story we just heard is only one of *many* examples that show us ➡ **Jesus does what's right every time—no matter what.** Let's see what it's like to know that the same thing will happen every time.

- Invite everyone to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Give each person one ping-pong ball, one plastic cup, one index card, one quarter-sheet of paper, and two or three pieces of tape.
- Show everyone how to roll the quarter-sheet of paper the short way into a tube about 1 inch in diameter and tape it closed.
- Then demonstrate placing the index card over the top of the cup, standing the paper tube on end in the middle of the index card, and placing the ping-pong ball on top of the tube.

SAY: Your goal is to get the ping-pong ball into the cup without touching the ball. You can talk with each other and experiment to figure out how to do that. When you're able to do it, raise your hand.

After about two minutes—or once everyone's hand is raised—demonstrate how to pull out the index card in a swift, horizontal movement and make the ball drop into the cup.

SAY: Now I have a challenge for you. Try making the ping-pong ball drop into the cup the way I showed you. Keep going until I tell you to stop. Your goal is to see how many times you can get the ball into the cup before I tell you to stop.

Let everyone play as long as time allows.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How many of you were able to get the ball into the cup *every* time?

ASK: How did you feel when that happened?

ASK: How does it help you to know that ➡ **Jesus does the right thing every time—no matter what?**

SAY: Once you knew how to get the balls into the cups, the balls fell right in for most of you every time. In the same way, ➡ **Jesus does the right thing every time—no matter what.** He doesn't just do the right thing when certain people are watching or when others think it's the right thing to do. He does it every time.



MAKE UP RULES FOR A GAME

SAY: When Jesus healed the woman on the Sabbath, he was breaking the rules the religious leaders had made up. But for the best reason.

Jesus knew that healing the woman was more important because it was the right thing to do. And ➡ **Jesus does the right thing—no matter what.** Let's play a game to help us think about that.

Gather everyone to sit in a knee-to-knee circle on the floor.

SAY: We're going to play a card game. I have only one rule—you have to get rid of all your cards by the end of the game. You get to make up the rest of the rules.

For example, maybe everyone starts the game with five cards. Or maybe you can only take cards from other players.

ASK: What other rules will we have for our game?

- As kids think of rules, write them on the whiteboard or poster board. Have them come up with as many rules as possible.
- Once you have a list of rules, let kids play the game. If the list of rules makes it impossible for kids to play, have them play according to the rules they think are most important.
- Play for as long as time allows.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: Which rules were the hardest to follow?

ASK: If you couldn't follow all the rules, how did you decide which rules were most important?

SAY: Doing the right thing in this game meant following the rules. But sometimes you couldn't follow all the rules, so you had to decide which rules were most important. A man in the Bible asked Jesus what the most important rules were. Here's what Jesus said.



Read Matthew 22:37-39.

SAY: Jesus knew what's most important in life is loving God and loving others. And those things aren't about rules—they're about God's heart.

➡ **Jesus does the right thing—no matter what** because he shows God's loving and caring heart.

SUPPLIES

- playing cards (1 deck)
- whiteboard or poster board
- dry-erase markers or markers

EASY PREP

- If you're using poster board, hang it on the wall where everyone can see it.

QUICK TIP

If you have a lot of younger kids, it will be hard for them to remember many rules. Limit your list to about three rules, and remind kids of them throughout the game.





PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



QUICK TIP

If it's helpful and you can easily turn on some contemplative music, it's a handy way to keep kids—especially younger kids—focused on individual prayer time. And a great cue to come back together when the music is turned off.



HUNCH OVER

SAY: Let's think about the woman in the Bible story as we talk with Jesus in prayer. She couldn't stand up straight. She had to walk around bent over all the time. Stand up and hunch over like that woman. Pause.

As you stand like that, talk to Jesus about how you need his help doing what's right. Just like the woman needed Jesus' help to stand up straight, we need Jesus' help to do what's right.

Allow time for individual silent prayer.

STAND UP

PRAY: Jesus, thank you that ➡ you always do the right thing—no matter what. Help us do the right thing, too. Even if it doesn't seem right or cool to people around us, help us do the right thing in your eyes. Help us stand up for what's right. Have kids stand up straight. In your name, amen.