

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

John 9:1-41

September
Week 2

2



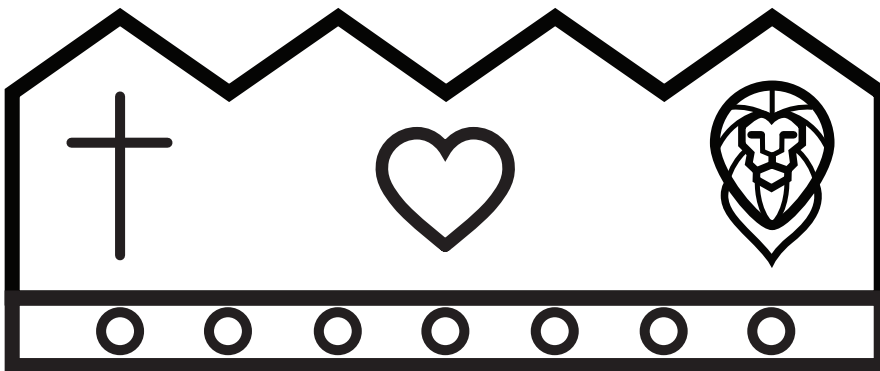
Teacher Background

What Happens: Jesus heals a man who was blind from birth. To heal him, Jesus makes mud with his spit and dirt and rubs it on the blind man's eyes. Some people are amazed, but the religious leaders get mad at Jesus and ask a lot of questions about this healing. Everyone learns that Jesus has the power to heal.

Why It Matters: In this passage, Jesus talks about spiritual blindness. The religious leaders could see physically, but their hearts were blind to who Jesus was. Use this lesson to help kids see that Jesus has the power to heal their bodies and their hearts.

Think About: In what ways does your body need healing? How about your heart?

Pray for kids to see who Jesus is and to be amazed by his power to heal.



Point

Jesus has the power to heal.



Key Verse

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

1 John 4:19

QUICK TIP

Jesus welcomed questions from others and often used them as a launching point for learning. (See Matthew 13:10-17; John 3:1-21.) Let kids ask questions any time they're confused, and use their questions as a launching point for learning. You can help kids see Jesus more clearly!

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 Explore physical and spiritual blindness.	Ways Jesus helps us see.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Make air cannons that display unseen power.	We can see Jesus' healing power at work.
PLAY A GAME Play a drawing guessing game with their eyes closed.	Jesus' healing changes lives.
PRAY TOGETHER Pray with eyes closed in a dark room, then open eyes and see.	What it means to see Jesus today.

EASY SUPPLIES

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ pennies
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ paper
- ☐ paper cups (1 per child)
- ☐ plastic wrap
- ☐ rubber bands
- ☐ clear tape
- ☐ packing peanuts or confetti
- "Drawing Blind" handout** (1 for every 2 kids)
- paper
- pencils



CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have kids give a foot-five (a high-five with a foot) to two friends.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids say “Happy birthday” in sign language.

ASK: Tell one thing that happened this week that made you sad. 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: God created us with five senses: sight, taste, touch, hearing, and smell. But not everyone has or is born with all five senses.

ASK: Which of your senses do you think would be hardest to live without, and why? Share your own quick answer first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: Today we’ll hear about a man who’d been born without the sense of sight. And we’ll learn from the Bible that ➡ **Jesus had the power to heal him.** The Bible is special because it’s full of true stories about what God has done.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible
- pennies
- pencils
- paper

QUICK TIP

Be sure to tell kids they should *not* put the pennies in their mouths—especially if you have preschoolers. Collect all the pennies immediately after the activity and make sure you have all of them. You could also adjust the activity so only older kids handle the pennies.

BEG FOR PENNIES

SAY: Today’s Bible story is about a man who was born blind.



Open the Bible to John 9 and show kids the words. Then read John 9:1.

SAY: Today, someone who’s blind can still get a job. But in Bible times, people who were blind weren’t able to earn any money. They had to beg for money instead. Let’s see what that was like.

Have half of the kids be “Blind Beggars” who will sit along the walls, facing the center of the room. Give the rest of the kids a few pennies each.

SAY: If you’re blind, you’ll have to close your eyes and pretend you’re begging for money. Listen carefully to hear if someone drops a penny for you. Then you’ll use your sense of touch to find the penny. No peeking!

- Have the kids with pennies walk around the room and drop the pennies in front of the Blind Beggars.
- After the Blind Beggars have picked up all the pennies, have kids switch roles.
- Collect the pennies and gather kids back together.

ASK: How did you feel when you were trying to find pennies?

ASK: What would be hard about being blind?

SAY: When people are blind, they're often better at using their other senses. Because the man in the Bible had been blind since birth, he was probably very good at listening for the sound of coins falling and at feeling around for them. But he still wanted to see.

He was about to learn a very important lesson—and meet Jesus!

 Read John 9:4-6.

ASK: What would you think if someone rubbed spitty mud on your eyes?

SAY: Jesus' mud was special because Jesus had made it, and ➡ **Jesus has the power to heal.** After he rubbed the mud on the blind man's eyes, he told the man to go wash in a pool. When the man did that, he came back able to see!

TALK ABOUT IT

SAY: It was really awesome that Jesus healed this man! But not everyone was excited that ➡ **Jesus has the power to heal.** Some people called the Pharisees found out about what happened.

The Pharisees were religious leaders. They didn't like Jesus very much, so they started asking the healed man tricky questions to try to get Jesus in trouble. Here's what he told the Pharisees.

 Read John 9:31-33.

ASK: Do you agree that Jesus' healing power proved that God had sent him? Why or why not?

SAY: Later Jesus talked to the man about spiritual blindness. Spiritual blindness is when we can see with our eyes but can't see, or understand, the truth about God.

 Read John 9:39.

SAY: Jesus was talking about the Pharisees. They thought they knew so much about God, but they were blind to the fact that Jesus is God! Let's think about ways we might be spiritually blind.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Have kids each poke a few small holes in their papers.

SAY: Now hold this paper a few inches in front of your face.

ASK: What can you see? What can't you see?

SAY: Maybe your faith is kind of like that piece of paper. There are things you can see and understand about God, but there are some things that are making it hard for you to believe in his power and trust him. Look through your paper and ask Jesus to show you ways you're spiritually blind.

Allow a minute for silent reflection.

SAY: The awesome news is, ➡ **Jesus has the power to heal spiritual blindness, too.** Just as he healed the man who was physically blind, he can heal our hearts and help us see—and understand—God more!





SUPPLIES

- paper cups (1 per child)
- plastic wrap
- rubber bands
- clear tape
- packing peanuts or confetti

EASY PREP

- Cut a 6x6-inch square of plastic wrap for each child.
- Cut a slit in the center of the bottom of each cup. Then cut a small circle in the bottom of each cup—about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.
- Make a sample air cannon by following the directions in the activity.



MAKE THINGS MOVE WITHOUT TOUCHING THEM

SAY: We've just discovered from an amazing, true Bible story that ➡ **Jesus has the power to heal.** Let's see how much power you have.

- Have kids form mixed-age pairs and sit on the floor.
- Give each pair a handful of packing peanuts or confetti.

SAY: See if you have enough power to make the packing peanuts move *without touching or blowing on them*. Give kids about 10 or 15 seconds to try.

Some of you may have found a way to make the packing peanuts move. Let me show you another way.

- Use your air cannon to move the packing peanuts by tapping on the plastic wrap to release a puff of air.
- Then show kids how to make their own cannons.
- Distribute a piece of plastic wrap and a rubber band to each child.
- Set out tape to share.

SAY: Tightly stretch the plastic wrap over the mouth of the cup and secure it with a rubber band. Then tape the edges of the plastic wrap to the cup so that the plastic wrap stays tight.

- Allow time for kids to finish making their air cannons.
- Walk around and help kids as needed.
- Show kids how to shoot air out of the cannon by tapping on the plastic wrap, which will release air out through the hole.
- Then let kids play with their air cannons to make the packing peanuts or confetti move.
- Kids can also use their air cannons to see what else they can move.
- Let kids play with their air cannons as long as time allows.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How did the air cannons show power?

ASK: What about the air cannons' power is like or unlike Jesus' power?

SAY: The air cannons had enough power to move things without touching them. You couldn't see the power itself, but you saw when it was working. In the same way, we can't see ➡ **Jesus' power to heal.** But we can see when it's at work.



PLAY A VERSION OF Pictionary

SAY: Remember, the blind man Jesus healed had been blind all his life. He'd never been able to see. But after Jesus healed him, he *could* see. Let's play a game to experience what that might've been like.

- Have kids form mixed-age pairs and sit on the floor.
- Give each child a section of the "Drawing Blind" handout, four pieces of paper, and a pencil.
- Make sure the partners in each pair have different sections of the handout, and instruct them not to show each other their lists.

SAY: We're going to play a version of Pictionary. But in this game, you have to draw with your eyes closed.

Take turns in your pairs drawing one of the things listed on your handouts. Once your partner guesses what you're drawing, let him or her take a turn to draw.

Go back and forth until you've each drawn two times.

- Give kids time to draw. When younger kids are drawing, be prepared to read an item from their list and whisper it to them if the photo doesn't help them understand.
- Allow pairs to finish drawing.

SAY: Let's play some more. But now draw with your eyes open!

- Give kids time to draw.
- Play as long as time allows.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How did it feel to draw with your eyes closed? with your eyes open?

ASK: How do you think the blind man's life was different after Jesus healed him?

SAY: All his life, the blind man had to do things without being able to see. But now he *could* see because ➡ **Jesus has the power to heal.** Jesus' healing power made a big difference in the blind man's life. His healing power can make a difference in our lives, too.

SUPPLIES

- "Drawing Blind" handout (1 for every 2 kids) (page 165)
- paper
- pencils

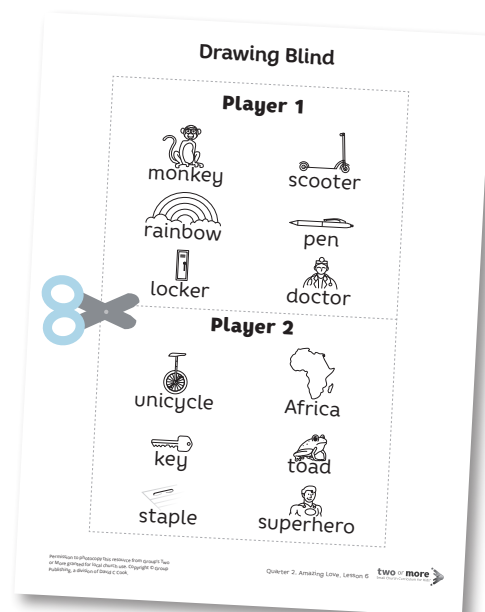
EASY PREP

- Cut apart the 2 lists on the "Drawing Blind" handouts.



CELEBRATE SMALL

This game plays to the strengths of your smaller group of mixed ages. Older kids can help the younger ones, forming friendships and growing in their social skills as they learn about Jesus' healing power.





CLOSE YOUR EYES

Turn off all the lights and darken the room as much as possible. Have kids close their eyes.

SAY: The man in our Bible story couldn't see. But the religious leaders, who could see with their eyes, were blind in their hearts. They needed Jesus to heal their hearts and help them see that ➡ **Jesus has the power to heal.**

ASK: What does it mean to see Jesus?

SAY: Take some time to pray silently in the dark, asking Jesus to open the eyes of your heart to see him better. Ask him to heal your heart so you can know Jesus and understand how special he is. Allow time.

SEE

Turn all the lights on, and have kids open their eyes.

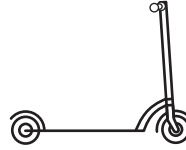
PRAY: Thank you, Jesus, for helping us see you! Thank you that ➡ **you have the power to heal our hearts!** In your name, amen.

Drawing Blind

Player 1



monkey



scooter



rainbow



pen



locker



doctor

Player 2



unicycle



Africa



key



toad



staple



superhero