

MARCH 22, 2020

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1–4; 9:18–26; Mark 5:21–43
(Healing of the Leper, Jairus's Daughter, Sick Woman)

God Is Help

REMEMBER VERSE

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may
receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
Hebrews 4:16

CONNECT//

What Is It?

Children will play a guessing game as they explore different textures.

SUPPLIES

- Small items with different textures (5–10; eraser, tissue, pasta, clay, tape, etc.)
- Paper bag

PREPARE AHEAD

Place the textured items into the paper bag and fold it closed.

RELATE

CONNECT QUESTION: What item in your home comforts you when you're sick? (examples: a soft teddy bear, a fleece blanket, a cozy sweatshirt, etc.)

We use our sense of touch every day. It allows us to use forks and spoons, keeps us from grabbing hot things, and even helps us feel safe and warm when we get a hug from someone who loves us. Today we're going to test our sense of touch.

Invite the children to close their eyes and sit with their palms out and up. Take out one textured object from the bag and go around the circle lightly brushing the object across everyone's palm. Once the object has touched everyone's palm, place the object back in the bag. The children may then open their eyes and try to guess what object brushed their hands.

GATHER//

Storytelling

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1–4; 9:18–26; Mark 5:21–43

Storytelling Technique: Drawings Summarizing the Narrative

God Is Help

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Crayons
- Tape

RELATE

Give a sheet of paper to each child, and assign each child one section of the narrative (either the leper, Jairus and his daughter, or the sick woman). Explain to the kids that, when prompted, they will draw pictures summarizing their sections of the Bible passage. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

One time when Jesus was traveling, He came down a mountain, and a large crowd started following Him. There was a man with a terrible skin disease called leprosy. Invite children to turn to Matthew 8:2 and follow along as you read the verse aloud. This leper stepped out in faith and, in front of the large crowd of people following Jesus, asked Jesus to heal him. Because the leper called to Jesus to heal him, Jesus responded. And Jesus could have waved His hands and healed the leper, but instead Jesus reached out, touched the man, and healed him. This may have come as a surprise to the man because people were not usually touched when they had leprosy for fear that others might catch their disease. Imagine what it must have been like for this leper to be healed by the touch of Jesus! Invite the child in the first group to draw a picture summarizing this portion of the narrative.

Later, a man named Jairus, a leader in the synagogue, came to Jesus because his 12-year-old daughter was dying. Jairus begged Jesus to come and heal his daughter. Jesus agreed to go with Jairus to his home. Invite kids to turn to Mark 5:24 and follow along in this chapter. As Jesus headed toward Jairus's house, "a large crowd followed and pressed around him" (v. 24). In the crowd, there was a woman who had been sick for 12 years. She had gone to doctors, but the doctors hadn't helped her, and she'd only gotten worse and worse. The woman had spent all of her money trying to get better, and when she heard that Jesus was coming, she thought to herself, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed" (v. 28). The woman came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of His clothes. As soon as she touched His clothes, she was healed!

Jesus knew that "power had gone out from him" (v. 30). He stopped and asked who had touched Him. The woman realized that Jesus was looking for her, so she stepped out of the crowd, knelt before Jesus, and told Him what she had done.

This woman called out to Jesus for healing, and He helped her. He healed her sickness and told her she was free from the pain and suffering that went along with being sick. The woman stepped out, and Jesus responded to her call and transformed her life. Invite the next child to draw a picture summarizing this portion of the narrative.

While Jesus was still speaking with this woman, servants came from the house of Jairus and told him that his daughter had died, so there was no reason for Jesus to go to Jairus's home. What do you think Jesus did? Invite answers. Then invite kids to go to verse 36 and follow along as you read it. Jesus ignored what they said and continued to the home of Jairus. There He found a lot of people crying because the girl had died. But Jesus told the people not to cry. He took the girl by the hand and told her to get up. Do you know what happened next? Pause for answers. Mark 5:42 says, "Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around." Invite the next person to draw a picture summarizing this portion of the narrative.

The leper, the sick woman, and Jairus all cried out to Jesus for help, and Jesus responded to their calls. Do you remember how Jesus responded to the three people who needed help? Invite children to respond. Emphasize that Jesus touched them, spoke to them, and took the time to care for them. When we call out to God, He responds and helps us. He may not always respond in the way that we think He will or exactly like we want Him to, but God does respond. God responds in the ways that are best for us because He loves us and cares about every part of our lives.

Discussion Questions

- What did Jesus do when the leper knelt before Him? Matthew 8:2–3
- How did Jesus respond when the sick woman reached out and touched Him? Mark 5:30–34
- Why do you think Jesus stopped to look for the woman after she touched Him?
- What happened at Jairus's house? Mark 5:38–43
- What are some times in your life when you called out for Jesus to help you?

RESPOND//

Hands-On Prayer

Children will use handprints to share prayer requests and ask God for help.

SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Marker
- Tape
- Crayons

SET UP

Use the marker to trace their hand four or five times in various places on the paper. The kids will be writing in the handprints. Above each handprint, write an area in life where kids may need prayer: family, friends, school, health, or another area.

RELATE

Today we saw Jesus respond to three people who needed healing. In each of these situations, Jesus responded when people called to Him. Just as Jesus cared for these people, Jesus cares about everything in our lives; He is always there to help us. What do you need from Jesus right now in your life? Remember, there is nothing too big or too small to share with God.

Invite the children to write their prayer requests in the handprints that represent areas of their lives where they need prayer. Once the children finish responding in this way, spend some time worshipping God together with music.