

Lesson 5

Jesus' Early Preaching and Healing

Theme: Faith—Listening to and obeying Jesus, the Son of God

Works & Words activities related to this lesson }

With or Without Jesus?, *Works & Words, Book 1*, page 10
It's A Miracle, *Works & Words, Book 2*, page 10



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Go for the Bible Facts!

Memory Verse: Write the new Memory Verse on sentence strips and insert them in the pocket chart. The teacher introduces the new Memory Verse by reading it once from the Bible as the students listen. Have the students who can do so find the Memory Verse in their classroom Bibles. Help younger students find it. Read it aloud together from the Bible. Using the strips in the pocket chart, talk briefly about the meaning of the Memory Verse, discussing Who? What? When? and Why?

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. In the classroom Bibles, find Matthew 8:23.
2. Move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting by pointing out the place on the time line.
4. Further establish the setting by showing the area of Galilee on a map.
5. Ideas for telling the story:
 - Using the *Stop, Look, and Listen Lesson Graphics*, tell the story of Jesus and Nicodemus. Discuss what it means to be “born again.”
 - Use the Finger People.
 - Use a water jug to tell the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman.
 - Emphasize that Jesus was telling people about Himself and how they could follow Him. He was also showing by miracles that He was the Son of God. Talk about His preaching and His healing and how they go together. In His preaching, He was

trying to help people understand how to follow God. But in His miracles, He was showing that He had the authority to bring a message from God and to forgive sins.

6. Major points of today's lesson, adjusting more or less for different age groups:
 - Jesus teaches Nicodemus to be born again by being baptized and changing his life.
 - Jesus talked with a Samaritan woman at the well and told her he was God's Son.
 - Jesus told the disciples where to fish, and they caught many fish.
 - Jesus calmed the storm on the sea of Galilee
 - Jesus healed many people who were sick and hurting.
7. Use blue masking tape to make shapes of two "boats" on the floor. Have some children get in each "boat," and act out the story of the nets and the fishes, with those in one boat catching so many fish that they have to get their friends in the other boat to help them.
8. At the appropriate time in the lesson read together Matthew 8:23-27.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Jesus' Early Preaching and Healing

Theme: Faith—Listening to and obeying Jesus, the Son of God

Works & Words activities related to this lesson } *Nicodemus, Works & Words, Book 1, page 11*
Scramble, Works & Words, Book 2, page 11

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Go for the Bible Facts!

Memory Verse: The teacher and students read the Memory Verse aloud together from the pocket chart. The teacher reads it a second time, having students say, “Stop!” when they hear an answer to Who? What? When? and Why? in the verse.

Prayer

Starter

Think about going into a dark room. It is pitch black. The electricity is not working and you can't turn on a light. You try to adjust your eyes, but it's so dark you can't see anything. You don't know what is in the room; you have no idea what you might run into or trip over. All of a sudden you remember you have a book of matches in your pocket. A match doesn't put out a lot of light, but in a completely dark room the small flame makes the darkness disappear and you can see your way around.

Sin can be thought of as darkness taking over the world. People did not follow God's way and this caused many problems. People developed diseases and disabilities. The devil moved into some people's lives through demons or evil spirits. Jesus came as a Light into a world of darkness. John tells us that in Jesus was life, “and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4).

As a Light, Jesus helped a dark world in at least two ways. One, He showed people the way of God. Two, He helped people with sin that caused the darkness. Let's think about Jesus as Light in the world of darkness.

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Story

1. *Objective: Demonstrate that following the path Jesus shows leads us to do right things.*

Tape pathways on the floor. Pathways will lead to people worshipping, people doing good, a Bible, a person smoking, a beer or people drinking alcohol, and someone in jail. Cover the pictures until time to do the activity. Provide flashlights. Turn off the lights. Give each student a flashlight and have him follow one path. After all paths have been followed, discuss the things they found. Talk about how Jesus' giving information and instructions will help us follow a good path. If He is our Light, we don't have to worry or wonder if the way is right.

2. *Objective: To teach how we can help people come to Jesus and how Jesus helps us with our worst problem.*

Using Finger People recreate the scene of friends bringing a paralyzed friend to Jesus from Luke 5:17-26. Use a box for a house that has a top serving as the roof and one side cut away so students can see inside. Prepare the roof by cutting a flap. Have a small piece of light weight cardboard as a pallet on which the paralyzed man lies. Punch small holes in each corner of the pallet. Ahead of time, prepare four lengths of string with a knot tied in one end. At the appropriate time in recreating the story, thread the string through the holes up to the knot to lower the cardboard pallet down through the flap on the top of the box.

Put Jesus in the middle of the house with people crowded all around. Friends bring a paralyzed friend to Jesus for help, but they can't get to Jesus because of all the people crowded around. Someone suggests going up on the roof to let the paralyzed man down into the room. Show how they must haul the man up the outside stairs of the house, remove part of the roof, attach ropes to the pallet, and then let the man down in front of Jesus — hopefully without spilling him out on the crowd below! All this is quite a bit of trouble. Talk to the students about our helping other people come to Jesus. It might mean we have to work at it and go to some trouble, but people need Jesus.

Finish the scene by showing how people below must have squeezed back to make room for the man who was lowered in front of Jesus. Jesus helped him with his worst problem first — He forgave his sins. Jesus was also teaching that He has the authority to forgive sins. Which is easier, to forgive sins or make a paralyzed man walk? From our human point of view, forgiving sins may seem to be easier because you can't see it. Making a paralyzed man walk can be tested. To show He had the power to forgive sins, Jesus told the man to get up and walk. And he did! Show how the crowd parted and let the man through and how he must have walked and jumped and run. He carried his pallet home and thanked and praised God. We should thank God for all He does for us in Jesus.

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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