

Jesus' Miracles

Theme: Jesus as God—Jesus' teaching confirmed by miracles

Works & Words activities related to this lesson

Why Miracles?, *Works & Words, Book 1*, page 18
Mystery Message, *Works & Words, Book 2*, page 18



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 Bibles. 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 and read together John 20:30-31.
 - At the beginning of the teaching segment, talk with the students about what is a miracle and why Jesus worked miracles.
 - A good definition of a miracle for children is: Something that people cannot do, but that God can. Jesus' miracles were not tricks; when He worked miracles, the results were immediate and clear. People can do magic tricks, but only God can do miracles.
 - Jesus worked miracles to show that He was really God's Son and could forgive sins and give eternal life.
 - For reading students, prepare cards with five key terms from John 20:30-31 — Signs, Believe, Jesus = Son of God, Jesus = Christ, Life.
2. Move to the Bible story area.
3. Have children point out appropriate places on the time line and map for today's lesson.

4. Ideas for telling the story:

- Use the *Stop, Look, and Listen Lesson Graphics* showing Jesus walking on water and feeding the 5,000.
- Use Finger People.
- Using a throw rug for a mat, twelve baskets, “water” taped on floor with blue masking tape, let the students act out the three miracles.

5. Major points of today’s lesson, adjusting more or less for different age groups:

- The purpose of Jesus’ miracles and the difference between magic and miracles.
- Use any or all of the following miracles to teach this lesson
 - healing the official’s son, John 4:46-54
 - healing at the pool of Bethesda, John 5:1-9
 - feeding the 5,000, John 6:5-14
 - Jesus walks on water, John 6:16-21
 - Jesus gives sight to the blind, John 9:1-11
- In teaching the miracles to children, remember to help them understand the purpose of Jesus’ might works. For example, in healing the lame man so he could walk, Jesus was showing His authority to tell people how to walk (John 5:14) Another example is that in feeding the 5,000, Jesus was teaching that He is the Bread of Life, the Bread that came from Heaven. (John 6:32-33, 35)
- The miracles in this lesson are all from the Gospel of John, but in teaching this lesson you may want to supplement with miracles from other Gospels.

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

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Jesus' Miracles

Theme: Jesus as God—Jesus' teaching confirmed by miracles

Works & Words activities related to this lesson } *Loaves and Fish, Works & Words, Book 1*, page 19
Loaves and Fish, Works & Words, Book 2, page 19

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 Memory Verse.

Prayer

Starter

Today, people use the word "miracle" in many different ways. Someone may survive a car crash. His friends go look at the wrecked car. It looks like no one could survive the wreck. One of the survivor's friends says, "It's a miracle he's alive." Or a doctor tells a lady she will never walk again, yet after months of therapy and hard work, she takes a few steps. Someone says, "It's a miracle." Sometimes people even call the birth of a baby "a miracle."

Are these events miracles? The answer is "No." At least they are not the kind of miracles Jesus worked when He was in the world. Jesus told a paralyzed man who had to be carried by his friends to get up, the man got up, took his pallet, and walked out where people could see him. Now that's a miracle! The healing was not little by little. People didn't wonder if he really was healed. At Jesus' word, the man immediately got up and people were amazed.

It is great that a man survives a car wreck. It is wonderful that after therapy a woman takes a few steps. The birth of a baby is amazing. But these are not like Jesus' miracles. His miracles occurred immediately and completely, and what He did cannot be explained by any natural law. A miracle is a work that can only be done by the power of God.

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Story

1. *Objective: To impress students with Jesus' power.*

Reenact the miracle of catching fish from Luke 5:1-11. Provide a toy fishing net and many paper fish. Using blue masking tape, outline the shape of a boat on the floor. Put chairs in the boat for seats. Have the disciples cast their net into the sea several times, but catch nothing. Morning comes and the fishermen are washing their nets when Jesus comes to the lake. He uses their boat to push out a little way from the shore to teach. He tells the fishermen to cast their nets again. When they cast this time, put many fish into the net. The men needed help hauling in so many fish! Jesus explained that they would start catching men with His message.

2. *Objective: Show that people will only believe extraordinary things if we offer proof.*

Have each student tell something about himself or someone else that he feels is extraordinary. Next, ask him to offer proof. Have the class vote on whether the proof is convincing. For example, one might claim to be a fantastic football player. But how much does he play and what are his statistics? As the teacher, make sure you participate by telling something about yourself or someone else. Talk about how by miracles Jesus offered proof that He was God's Son and could forgive sins.

3. *Objective: Teach how Jesus' healing a man of leprosy helps us understand how Jesus can heal the sickness of sin.*

Put white dot stickers, all over a student to show that he or she has leprosy. Reenact the scene in Luke 5:12-15. Dr. Luke gives us an extra medical detail; the man was "full of leprosy," likely meaning he was experiencing the last stages of the disease. You can understand why, when he saw Jesus, the leper "fell on his face and implored Him." Jesus said "Be cleansed," and he was! Have the students remove the dots. Though Jesus instructed the man not to tell anyone, he found it difficult to keep quiet. Something great happened that changed his life. How can you be quiet about that?! So verse 15 is not surprising — the news spread, crowds gathered to hear and be healed by Jesus.

It is suggested that God took one disease out of many to demonstrate the evil of sin and its effect on humanity: "Sin separates us from God and one another. So does leprosy. Sin slowly rots away human life. So does leprosy. Sin is at first not easy to diagnose; it works silently and secretly. So does leprosy. Sin disfigures and distorts. So does leprosy. Sin paralyzes and removes feeling and sensitivity. So does leprosy. Sin ultimately causes death. So does leprosy. It would be difficult looking at the whole range of human diseases to find a single one which more graphically describes human sinfulness than leprosy" (Michael Harper, *The Healings of Jesus*, InterVarsity Press, p. 63).

Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

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