Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' fame was increasing. His ministry had begun with the calling of His disciples. Now Jesus traveled with them in the region of Galilee, teaching and performing miracles. The people recognized that Jesus wasn't like other teachers; He taught with authority. He had even demonstrated His power over unclean spirits by healing a man in the synagogue. News about Jesus was spreading. The subject of conversation around Galilee was changing. Who was this Jesus?

Jesus was in Capernaum when He went into the house of Simon Peter and Andrew, two of His disciples. Peter's mother-in-law also lived in the house, but she was ill. A fever had confined her to bed. Jesus' disciples told Jesus about the woman's condition, and Jesus went to her side. Touching the woman's hand, Jesus healed her. She immediately got up and began to serve Jesus and the others in the house. Serving Jesus and living for Him is how we can show we are thankful to Him.

People in the area heard about the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, and they came to Jesus to be healed too. That evening, people came to Jesus afflicted by illness or unclean spirits, and Jesus healed them.

The Gospel of Matthew says that in doing this, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "He Himself took our weaknesses and carried our diseases" (Isa. 53:5). Isaiah described the promised Messiah as a suffering servant who would suffer—not for His sins, but for our sins. He would die the death we deserve to free us from sin and death.

Illness is an effect of man's sinful rebellion against God. God never intended for people to be crippled by the numerous physical ailments in this world. Jesus offered physical healings to the crowd, and He can heal us in this life or in the life to come. Jesus' healings brought a glimpse into the kingdom of God, the world in which Jesus makes all things new—the way God intended—when He comes again. (See Rev. 21:4-5.)

Older Kids BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

Big Picture Question: How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We

can serve Jesus and live for Him.

Kev Passage: John 20:30-31

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus' miracles demonstrated His divine

authority.

Small Group Opening

Welcome time

Activity page (5 minutes)

Session starter (10 minutes)

Large Group Leader

Countdown

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

Timeline map (2 minutes)

Big picture question (1 minute)

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Key passage (5 minutes)

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

Sing (3 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes)

Small Group Leader

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

THE BIBLE STORY

Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law

Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

Jesus was at Capernaum (kuh PUHR nay uhm) in Galilee (GAL ih lee). It was the Sabbath day, and Jesus had been teaching people in the synagogue about God. While He was in the synagogue, He had commanded an evil spirit to leave a man. And the spirit had obeyed Jesus' command!

People all over the region were talking about Jesus. They were telling others about the things Jesus taught, the way He taught with authority, and about the miraculous ways He had helped people. No one had ever met anyone like Him before.

After Jesus left the synagogue, He went right away to the home of Peter and his brother Andrew. Peter lived there with his wife and his wife's mother. Peter's mother-in-law was lying in bed. She was sick—suffering from a high fever. The people in the house told Jesus about her, so Jesus went to see her.

Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left her right away. Jesus helped Peter's mother-in-law stand up. She didn't feel just a little better; she was completely better! She wasn't sick anymore because Jesus had healed her! Right away, the woman began to serve Jesus and the others there.

That evening, people brought to Jesus their friends and family members, anyone who needed help. So many people came; it looked as if the whole town was standing outside the door, waiting to see Jesus. These people were sick; some of them had evil spirits. The people had heard about Jesus and how He had healed people and drove out evil spirits. They hoped Jesus would help them too.

Jesus did help the people who came to Him. He spoke a word to make the evil spirits go away. He put His hands on the people who were sick, and He healed them. Jesus did these things so that the words of Isaiah the prophet would come true. In the Old Testament, Isaiah had written about Jesus: "He Himself took our weaknesses and carried our diseases."

Christ Connection: The prophet Isaiah wrote that the promised Messiah would bear our sickness and carry our pain. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He healed people. Sickness exists because the world is broken by sin. One day, when Jesus returns, there will be no more sickness because Jesus dealt with sin on the cross.

Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

Big Picture Question: How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We

can serve Jesus and live for Him.

Key Passage: John 20:30-31

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus' miracles demonstrated His divine

authority.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

Encourage kids to think about a time someone they know was sick. Did they visit that person? Did they do anything for that person?

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to work individually or in pairs to complete the activity page "Danke! Thanks!" Kids will try to match each language with its translation of the English phrase thank you. Use the pronunciation guide to help kids pronounce each word.

After a couple of minutes, ask the kids to share their answers. Gently correct any misinterpretations. (*Swahili:* asante; *French:* merci; *German:* danke; *Hawaiian:* mahalo; *Italian,* grazie; *Japanese:* arigato; *Spanish:* gracias)

Say •We can say thank you when someone does something kind for us. In today's Bible story, Jesus helped a woman, and the woman showed she was thankful.

- "Danke! Thanks!" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils



- index cards
- marker

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: Who's who?

Write the following family roles on separate index cards: husband, wife, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son, daughter. Distribute them to eight volunteers. Instruct the volunteers to stand before the group and hold up their cards. Name the husband Aaron and the wife Maya.

Read the following descriptions and challenge the class to identify how that family member is related to Aaron.

- The woman Aaron married (Aaron's wife, Maya)
- The grandson of Aaron's mother (Aaron's son)
- The father of Aaron's wife (Aaron's father-in-law)
- The mother of Aaron's wife (Aaron's mother-in-law)
- **Say** •Today we are going to hear from the Bible about a time Jesus helped His disciple's mother-in-law.

Option 2: Problem/solution pairs

Print and cut apart the problem/solution cards. Distribute the cards to kids. If your group is large, copy the blank cards to prepare more sets.

Explain that half of the kids' cards explain a problem while the other half of the cards offer a solution. Challenge kids to match the problems and solutions. When kids make a match, that pair should sit down.

When all the kids are seated, call on each pair to share its problem and solution. Invite kids to suggest other possible solutions for the problem. Applaud kids for their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Say •In today's Bible story, someone was sick and needed help. Only one person could heal her. We'll find out who soon.

Transition to large group

- "Problem/Solution Cards" (enhanced CD)
- scissors

Large Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

Big Picture Question: How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We

can serve Jesus and live for Him.

Key Passage: John 20:30-31

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus' miracles demonstrated His divine

authority.

Countdown

countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

- leader attire
- football

[Large Group Leader enters carrying a football and wearing football cleats and eye black or anti-glare face strips. Leader holds football as if ready to throw it.]

Leader • Go long! Go long! [Pause and look disappointed when no one moves to catch the ball.] Well, that's OK. We probably shouldn't play football indoors anyway. I'm glad you're here! I'm [your name] and—as you might have noticed—another week, another sport. I'm trying football this week. Practice is tomorrow. I can't decide what position I want to play. I think I want to be a quarterback or a kicker. What do you think?

Well, it's time to get started. Are you ready for today's Bible story? I wonder what we will learn about today. We better look at the timeline map.

Timeline map (2 minutes)

•Timeline Map Use the timeline map to point out and review the previous

Bible stories, "Jesus Healed an Official's Son" and "Jesus Drove Out Evil Spirits." Invite kids to share any details they remember about the Bible stories.

Leader • Jesus performed many miracles while He was on earth. What happened when Jesus performed miracles? Jesus' miracles helped people believe in Him. The official and everyone in his household believed in Jesus when the sick boy was healed. Then Jesus commanded an evil spirit to go away, and the evil spirit obeyed Him. What did the evil spirit know about Jesus? Jesus is the Holy One of God.

Today, we're going to hear about another miracle Jesus did. Today's Bible story is called "Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law."

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • Wow. All these people Jesus healed must have been very thankful. That leads me to our big picture question. Our big picture question is, *How can we show we are thankful to Jesus?* Sometimes when I'm thankful to someone, I send a thank-you card. Let's listen to the Bible story to find out how we can thank Jesus.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Open your Bible to Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; or Luke 4:38-39. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law."
- **Leader** Peter and his brother Andrew lived in a house in Capernaum (kuh PUHR nay uhm). Peter's wife lived there too, and his mother-in-law—his wife's mother—lived with them. Jesus came to the house, and the people there told Jesus that Peter's mother-in-law was sick. She
- "Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law"
 video
- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster
- Big Picture Question
 Slide or Poster

had a high fever and was lying in bed.

Do you think the people in the house knew Jesus could heal Peter's mother-in-law? They had probably heard stories of Jesus healing other people. So Jesus went to see Peter's mother-in-law. He went to her bedside and touched her hand. Guess what! Her fever left right away. It wasn't that she had less of a fever; she had no fever at all! Jesus healed her completely! That is a miracle!

Jesus helped Peter's mother-in-law stand up, and she began to serve Jesus and the other people in the house. The woman was so thankful. You know, I think that is our big picture question. How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We can serve Jesus and live for Him.

That's what Peter's mother-in-law did. Say the big picture question and answer with me. How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We can serve Jesus and live for Him.

You can probably imagine that word spread quickly about what Jesus had done. That evening, lots of people came to the house to see Jesus. They brought their friends and family members who were sick or hurting, and Jesus healed them too.

Did you know that hundreds of years before Jesus was born on earth, the prophet Isaiah wrote that Jesus would do these things? In the Old Testament, Isaiah wrote that Jesus would take our sickness and carry our pain.

Jesus healed people physically, but He also died on the cross to heal people spiritually. You see, everyone sins. Think about sin like a sickness. Because God is holy, He cannot be around sin. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sins. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin, and we can live with God forever in heaven. That's good news.

• Bible

 Key Passage Slide or Poster

• "Written" song

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Using Scripture and the guide provided, explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Tell kids how they can respond, and provide counselors to speak with each kid individually. Guide counselors to use open-ended questions to allow kids to determine the direction of the conversation.

Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Leader • I love reading about Jesus' miracles. Each of these stories is in the Bible for a reason. Do you remember what that reason is? Can anyone say our key passage from memory?

Invite any kids who know John 20:30-31 to recite it aloud. Then lead kids to find John 20:30-31 in their Bibles. Lead the class to read the verses aloud together.

Leader • These verses tell us why the apostle John wrote about Jesus' miracles in his Gospel. And these aren't even all of the miraculous signs Jesus performed! But the Book of John contains these stories so that we can read them and believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. And when we believe that, we have eternal life. Let's sing our key passage song together.

Sing "Written."

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

 "Unit 26 Session 3" discussion starter video **Leader** • Has someone ever done something nice for you? Did you do or say anything to thank that person? Let's watch this video.

Show the "Unit 26 Session 3" video.

Leader • How do you think you should react when another

person helps you? Should you complain? What are some ways you can show you are thankful? How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We can serve Jesus and live for Him.

Sing (3 minutes)

 "This Is Amazing Grace" song **Leader** • One way we can show Jesus that we are thankful to Him is by praising Him. Let's sing together. Choose one or two volunteers to lead kids in singing "This

Prayer (2 minutes)

Is Amazing Grace."

Leader • That was wonderful. Thanks, everyone. I'm so glad you could come. Will you be back next week? I can't wait to hear another story about Jesus' miracles. Before you go to your small groups, I'm going to pray.

Close the group in prayer. Thank God for sending Jesus to earth to rescue people from sins. Thank Him for Jesus' miracles which help people believe that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. Ask Him to heal those who are sick or hurting, and ask Him to help us trust that Jesus will return one day and take away sin and sickness forever.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

Big Picture Question: How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We

can serve Jesus and live for Him.

Key Passage: John 20:30-31

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus' miracles demonstrated His divine

authority.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- · Key Passage Poster
- poster board
- sticky notes
- marker

Write the key passage on a piece of poster board, drawing blanks for several of the words. Write the missing words on separate sticky notes and hide them around the room.

Show the key passage poster and lead kids to recite the verse once or twice. Then cover the poster and display the poster board with blanks. Challenge kids to search around the room for the missing words. When kids find the missing words, they should stick them to the poster board in the appropriate spaces. Applaud kids for their work and allow kids to take turns saying the passage from memory.

Say •Nice work! The Book of John contains these stories about Jesus' miracles so that we will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
 Small Group Visu
- Small Group Visual Pack

Review the timeline in the small group visual pack. Retell or review the Bible story in your own words or use the bolded text of the Bible story script. Point out that today's Bible story is found in three of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Ask kids to describe what the Gospels are about. (*Jesus' life, death, and resurrection*)

Invite kids to spread out around the room and lie on their backs. Explain that you will ask a question about the Bible story. If a kid knows the answer, she should stand up. Call on someone who is standing to answer the review question. If she is correct, instruct her to remain standing. Direct the remaining kids to lie back down. Then ask another question.

- 1. Which disciple's house did Jesus go to? (*Peter's house*; *Matt.* 8:14; *Mark* 1:29; *Luke* 4:38)
- 2. Which of Peter's relatives was lying in bed? (Peter's mother-in-law; Matt. 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38)
- 3. What was wrong with Peter's mother-in-law? (She was sick and had a fever; Matt. 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38)
- 4. What did Jesus do to heal Peter's mother-in-law? (He touched her hand; Matt. 8:15; Mark 1:31)
- 5. What did Peter's mother-in-law do after Jesus healed her? (*She got up and began to serve Him; Matt.* 8:15; Mark 1:31; Luke 4:39)
- 6. Who came to Jesus to be healed? (people who were sick or who had evil spirits, Matt. 8:16)
- 7. What did Jesus do to help the people who came to Him? (He drove out the evil spirits and healed those who were sick, Matt. 8:16)
- 8. What Scripture did Jesus fulfill? (the words of the prophet Isaiah, Matt. 8:17)
- 9. How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We can serve Jesus and live for Him.

If you choose to review with boys and girls how to become a Christian, explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- God rules. God created and is in charge of everything. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:16-17)
- We sinned. Since Adam and Eve, everyone has

chosen to disobey God. (Rom. 3:23; 6:23)

- **God provided.** God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9)
- **Jesus gives.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again so we can be welcomed into God's family. (Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18)
- We respond. Believe that Jesus alone saves you. Repent. Tell God that your faith is in Jesus. (Rom. 10:9-10,13)



- paper
- markers
- stickers or other decorating supplies (optional)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Get-well-soon cards

Provide paper and markers for kids to make get-well-soon cards for kids or adults who are sick. You may choose to provide stickers or other decorating supplies for kids to use.

Invite kids to write encouraging messages in the cards and suggest they write Isaiah's words from Matthew 8:17.

Arrange to mail or deliver the cards to people in your church or community who are sick.

- Say Sometimes people who are sick can feel discouraged. We can let them know that we are praying for them. We can show them the love of Jesus by serving them. How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We can serve Jesus and live for Him. Let's pray.
 - Lord, You have the power to heal people who are sick or hurting. We pray that You would. But even if You don't, please help us to trust that You are good. We know that one day Jesus will come back and take away sin and suffering forever. Come, Lord Jesus. We love You. Amen.

- fruit slices
- pretzel sticks
- candy-coated chocolate pieces
- paper cups
- sticky notes
- pencils
- Allergy Alert
 (enhanced CD)

Option 2: Silly supper service

Guide kids to sit around a table. Give each kid a sticky note and pencil. Instruct each kid to write his name on the sticky note. Read the following menu options. Each kid should choose an option and write it on his sticky note. Do not reveal to kids what each option represents.

- 1. Harvest helpings
- 2. Briny branches
- 3. Tasteful tidbits

Choose three kids to be servers. Servers will collect and sort the sticky notes. Prepare the snacks to be served in paper cups. Allow the servers to give each kid the snack he ordered. ("Harvest helpings" are fruit slices, "briny branches" are pretzel sticks, and "tasteful tidbits" are candy-coated chocolate pieces)

Be aware of any food allergies kids may have. If you wish, serve the other snacks as well if kids are not happy with the selections they made.

- **Say** •Were you surprised at the snack you were served? Let's thank our servers for bringing us these tasty snacks. [Lead kids to clap or say thank you.]
 - How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We can serve Jesus and live for Him.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Say • Write in your journal about a time you were thankful. How did you show it? List some ways you can show thanks to Jesus.

Invite kids to share prayer requests. Close the group in prayer, or allow a couple volunteers to close the group in prayer. As time allows, lead kids to complete the activity page "Jesus Healed Crossword."

- pencils
- iournals
- Bibles
- Journal Page,1 per kid
- "Jesus Healed Crossword" activity page, 1 per kid

Jesus Performed Miracles

Key Passage: John 20:30-31

Session 1: Jesus Healed an Official's Son *John 4:46-54*

Session 2: Jesus Drove Out Evil Spirits *Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37*

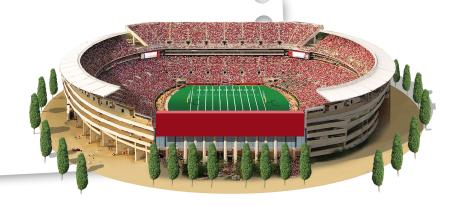
Session 3: Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law *Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39*

Session 4: Jesus Cleansed a Leper *Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16*

Session 5: Four Friends Helped *Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26*

Session 6: Jesus Healed a Man's Hand

Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11



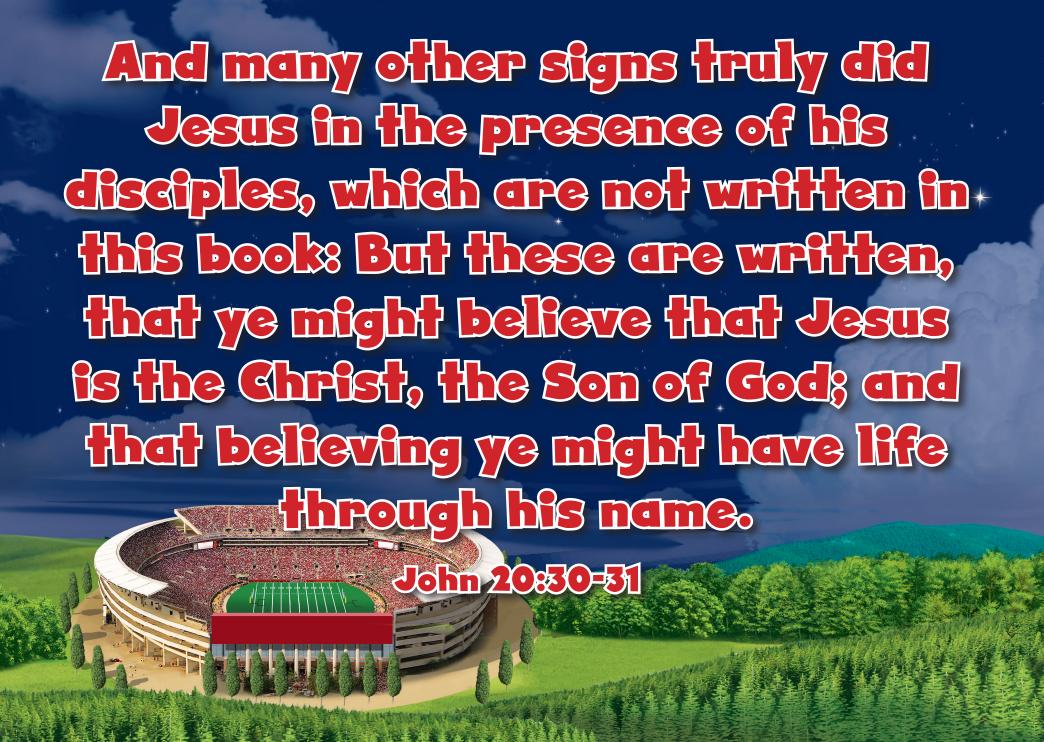


And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of like disciples, which are not written In this books but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life In His name. John 20:30-31



Jesus performed many of her signs In the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life fin his name. John 20:30-31







Jesus performed many of her signs In the presence of life disciples that are not written in this book. * But these are written so that you may believe Jesus is the Messich, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name.





Now Jesus did many ofher signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this books but * these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.













How can we show we are thankful to Jesus?

We can serve Jesus and live for Him.





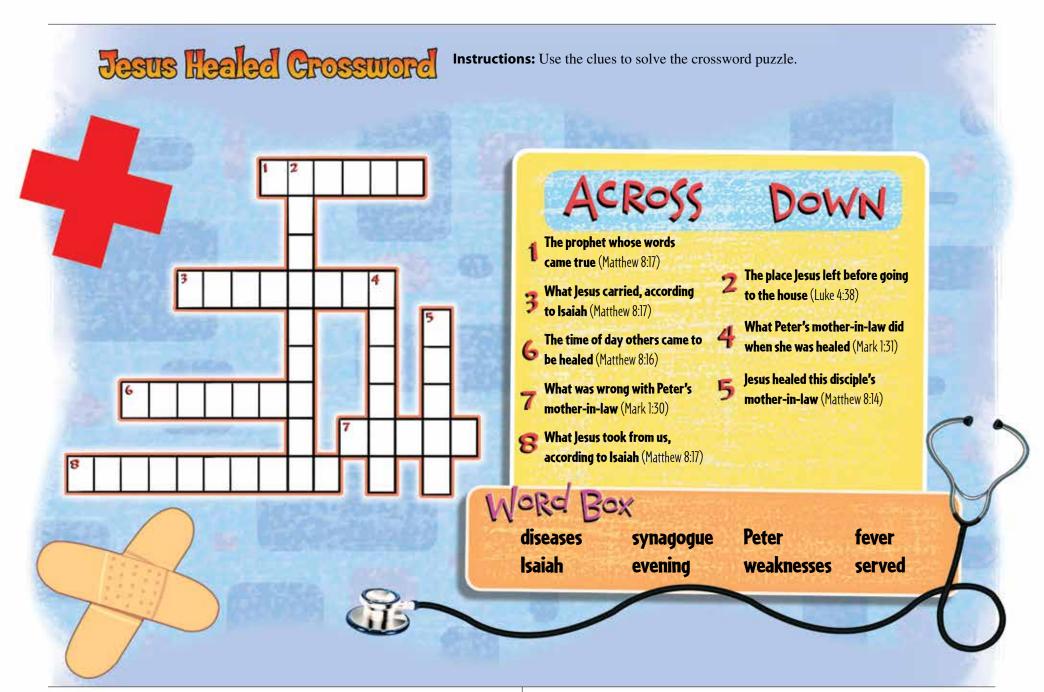














Instructions: Print and cut apart. Give each kid one card. Distribute both the problem and solution card for each pair. If your group is large, use the blank cards to create more sets.

I can show you how to do this math problem.

There's room for you at my lunch table.

I'll go with you to the

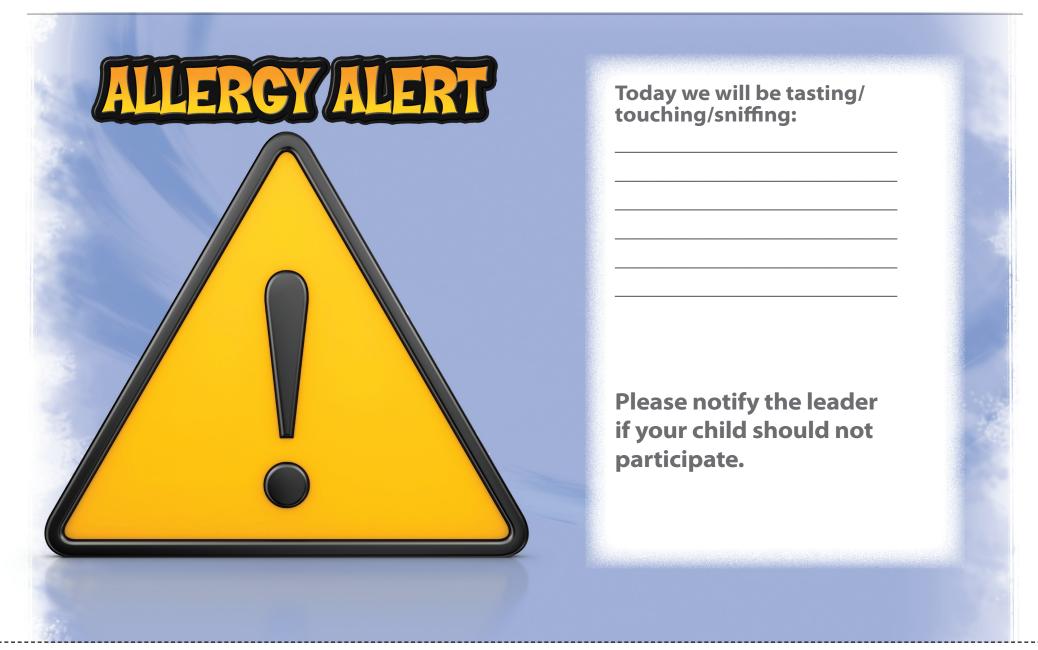
I can pray with you.

I don't know how to do this

I'm lonely.

I fell on the playground and cut my knee.

GOSPEL PROJECT Jesus Performed Miracles



Instructions: Print this poster. You may laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information. Display the poster where parents and kids can see it before class.



The CGOSPELL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel – noun. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13