

# 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?

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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.)

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# Preschool 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 thank Jesus for His help? We can love Jesus and obey Him.

**Key Passage:** John 20:30-31

**Unit Christ Connection:** Jesus' miracles demonstrated His divine authority.

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## Small Group Opening

(15–20 minutes)

## Large Group Bible Study

(10–15 minutes)

## Small Group Activities

(20–25 minutes)

## Snack and Transition

(20 minutes)

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# The BIBLE STORY

## **Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law**

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

**Jesus was in the city of Capernaum** (kuh PUHR nay uhm) in the land of Galilee (GAL ih lee). **It was the Sabbath day, the day when God's people rested and worshiped God.**

**On that day, Jesus taught people in the synagogue about God.** The things Jesus taught and did made everyone talk about Him. No one had ever seen anyone like Jesus before.

**Jesus left the synagogue and went right away to the home of His friends, Peter and Andrew.** Peter and Andrew were brothers. **Peter's mother-in-law also lived at the house. But** something was wrong with Peter's mother-in-law. **She was sick and lying in bed. She had a high fever. The people in the house told Jesus about her, and Jesus went to see her.**

**Jesus touched the woman's hand, and her fever went away! Jesus helped Peter's mother-in-law get out of bed and stand up.** She didn't feel just a little better; she was completely better! She was not sick anymore because Jesus had healed her!

**Right away, Peter's mother-in-law began to serve Jesus and the other people in the house.**

**That evening, people brought to Jesus their friends and family members who needed help. So many people came; it looked as if the whole town was standing outside the door!** Everyone wanted to see Jesus!

**Some of the people were sick or hurt.** They did not want to be sick or hurt anymore. **They had heard that Jesus helped other sick and hurting people, and they wanted Jesus to help them too!**

**Jesus did help the people who came to Him. He put His hands on the people who were sick or hurt, and He healed them.** Jesus did these things, just like the prophet Isaiah said in the Old Testament. Isaiah had said, "He Himself took our weaknesses and carried our diseases." And that is exactly what Jesus did.

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*Christ Connection: Peter's mother-in-law showed she was thankful to Jesus by serving Him. When God created the world, He did not make sickness. Sickness came when sin entered the world, but Jesus came to take away sin. We can thank Jesus for saving us from sin. We can love Jesus and obey Him.*



# 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 thank Jesus for His help? We can love Jesus and obey Him.

**Key Passage:** John 20:30-31

**Unit Christ Connection:** Jesus' miracles demonstrated His divine authority.

- "This Is Amazing Grace" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys

## Welcome and Session Starter (15–20 minutes)

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys, such as puzzles and blocks.



- "Love and Obey Jesus" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or crayons

## Activity Page: Love and Obey Jesus

Talk about what it means to love someone. Ask preschoolers how they show love to their parents, siblings, or friends.

Lead kids to examine the pictures on the activity page. Kids should circle the pictures that show ways to love and obey Jesus. Invite kids to place an X over pictures that do not show love to Jesus.

**Say** • Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. We can thank Jesus for His love and His help by loving Jesus and doing what is right.

## Sort items they love or do not love

Before the activity begins, prepare a basket with the love game cards—pictures of items that preschoolers might like or not like. Place a hula hoop on the ground in the middle of the classroom or tape a large square on the floor.

- "Love Game Cards"
- basket
- hula hoop
- masking tape (optional)

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Instruct each child, one at a time, to take a picture out of the basket. As a child pulls a picture out of a basket, she has two choices. If the child likes the picture, invite her to place the picture in the circle. If the child does not like the picture, she will place it outside of the circle.

**Say** • We put a lot of things in the circle that we love, but can anyone tell me which of these is the best to love? [Guide kids to select the picture of Jesus.] That's right! ***We can love Jesus and obey Him.*** Jesus loves us, and God sent Him to earth to take care of His people.

### **Do the “Hokey Pokey”**

Help the children form a circle. An adult helper will stand in the middle. Sing and do the actions to “The Hokey Pokey,” using the following lyrics:

“You put your \*right hand in,  
You put your right hand out,  
You put your right hand in,  
And you shake it all about,

Chorus: “We can love Jesus  
and obey Him all the time,  
That's what it's all about!”

\*Substitute *left hand, right foot, left foot, head, whole body* in subsequent rounds.

**Say** • Good job! We can love Jesus and obey Him with our whole body.

### **Transition to Bible study**

Ring the bell, show the countdown video, flip the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for children to copy to gain attention. Then proceed to the Bible study area.

• countdown video  
(optional)

# Large Group BIBLE STUDY

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

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

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## Large Group Bible Study (10–15 minutes)

### Introduce the Bible story

- Allergy Alert
- apple slices
- tray
- Bible
- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- "Written" song

Tip: Peel the apples for younger preschoolers.

Introduce the Bible story by holding up a tray of apple slices. Walk around the room and allow each child to take one slice. The children should wait to eat their apple slice until everyone has received one and the leader has prayed.

Pray something like, "Jesus, thank You for helping us every day. Thank You for these apples today and the chance to learn more about You. Give us ears to hear Your story. Amen."

**Say** • Today, the Bible story is about when Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. Just like I served you apples, Peter's mother-in-law got up and served Jesus.

Review the key passage using hand motions you have created or sing "Written" together. Remind kids that this key passage talks about Jesus' miracles. Jesus showed that He is God's Son.

### Watch or tell the Bible story

- "Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law" video
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster

**Say** • Today's Bible story is found in the Book of Matthew, the Book of Mark, and the Book of Luke. [*Point to the books in your Bible.*] Jesus was visiting His friend Peter's

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house. Peter had a wife, and her mother was very sick. Raise your hand if your mommy has ever been sick. In our Bible story, Jesus touched Peter's mother-in-law to make her feel better!

Tell the Bible story with your Bible open or show the Bible story video "Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law."

### **Talk about the Bible story**

Point out the Bible story on the timeline map as you review.

- Timeline Map
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

1. Whose house did Jesus visit? (*Simon Peter's house*)
2. Who was sick? (*Peter's mother-in-law*)
3. How was she sick? (*She had a fever.*)
4. Who made her feel better? (*Jesus*)
5. What did Jesus do to make her feel better? (*Jesus touched her hand.*)

**Say** • Peter's mother-in-law showed she was thankful to Jesus by serving Him. ***How can we thank Jesus for His help? We can love Jesus and obey Him.***

When God created the world, He did not make sickness. Sickness came when sin entered the world, but Jesus came to take away sin. We can thank Jesus for saving us from sin. We can love Jesus and obey Him.

### **Transition to small groups**

Return to small groups. Do activities one of these ways:

- as a group, all at the same time
- in small groups that rotate through each activity
- set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose

# Small Group Activities

**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 thank Jesus for His help? We can love Jesus and obey Him.

**Key Passage:** John 20:30-31

**Unit Christ Connection:** Jesus' miracles demonstrated His divine authority.

Tip: Set up activities that work well for your kids and your budget.



- "Jesus, Love, Obey Signs"
- paper plates, 3
- marker

Tip: Find sign language tutorials on the Internet to practice your signing before class.

- various textured items
- blindfold (optional)
- Allergy Alert

## Small Group Activities (20–25 minutes)

Talk about the big picture question and answer, Christ connection, or details from the Bible story in each activity to reinforce God's big story.

### Practice sign language

Teach the children the sign language for *Jesus*, *love*, and *obey* using the printable provided. Also, print these three words on separate paper plates. As you say the big picture answer together, first use sign language for these words. Then hold up the paper plates for the three words.

**Say** • When Jesus came to earth, He loved and took care of people. In the Bible story, we saw how Jesus served Peter's mother-in-law by taking away her sickness.

Isn't it great that Jesus made her feel better? Jesus can help you and me too; we just have to ask Him. ***How can we thank Jesus for His help? We can love and obey Him.***  
[Sign Jesus, love, and obey again.]

### Explore a sensory table

Set up a station with different objects for children to touch. (Suggested items: seashells, rocks, sand, fruit-flavored gelatin, and so forth.) Take volunteers to the table one at a

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time. Blindfold the volunteer or ask him to close his eyes. Place an item in the volunteer's hand. Let him feel it for a few seconds.

Ask him to identify the item by how it feels. Is it rough or smooth, hot or cold, soft or hard? What does he think the item is?

**Say** • Jesus only had to touch Peter's mother-in-law to make her feel better. Jesus helped her, and He can help us too. Jesus can take care of us and be our friend. ***How can we thank Jesus for His help? We can love Jesus and obey Him.***

### **Play out a restaurant**

- file folders
- clipboards
- pencils or crayons
- toy dishes and play food

Arrange the preschoolers into two groups. One group will be the customers at the restaurant, and the second group will be the servers at the restaurant. Use file folders as menus and use clipboards to take the orders.

Instruct the customers to sit in groups of two or three. Guide one server to go to each group to take their orders. After a little while, switch the roles and continue playing.

**Say** • Peter's mother-in-law served Jesus after He healed her. Jesus helped her in a special way, and He deserves to be served. ***How can we thank Jesus for His help? We can love and obey Him.***

### **Freeze tag**

Select one or more children to be *It* by walking around and tagging or touching the other children. Once *It* tags someone, that person must freeze in place.

To unfreeze someone, a kid who is not frozen must tag the frozen player. Remind the kids that Jesus touched Peter's mother-in-law to heal her.

**Say** • Jesus is so powerful that He only needed to touch Peter's mother-in-law to make her feel better again.

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Peter's mother-in-law immediately got up and served Jesus and His friends. ***How can we thank Jesus for His Help? We can love and obey Him.***

### **Draw a picture**

- paper
- art supplies

Provide a piece of paper and something to draw with (crayon, marker, pen or pencil) to each of the kids.

Encourage the kids to think about if Jesus had come to their house and made someone feel better, like He did for Peter's mother-in-law. Ask: "What type of food would you serve Jesus?"

Invite each child to draw a picture of what she would serve Jesus. Allow kids to show their pictures to their friends and tell why they would serve Jesus that particular food.

**Say** • Peter's mother-in-law was so thankful for Jesus healing her that she immediately got up to serve Him. She did not wait to thank Him later; she thanked Him right away.

Jesus helps us too. ***How can we thank Jesus for His help? We can love and obey Him.***

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## **Snack and Transition (20 minutes)**

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities time and gather for snack time. Take a restroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack. Remind children during snack time to say please and thank you. Thank God for the snack.

If you still have apples left over from the Bible study introduction, consider serving them as a snack. You may also offer cheese slices with the apples as a healthy snack.

### **Transition**

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons

When a child finishes his snack and throws away any trash, he may select a puzzle or book to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring picture. This would also be a great time to encourage him to draw a picture on the journal page of the foods he would serve if Jesus came over for dinner.

Lead the children through a prayer time, asking God to show them that they are not too young to love and obey Jesus. Pray that God will help them do what is right, and ask God to forgive them when they do what is wrong. Thank God for loving us and sending His Son, Jesus, to take away our punishment for the wrong things we do. Thank Jesus for His love.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. If new leaders are arriving, quietly share useful information about kids who are present.



## Jesus Performed Miracles

**Key Passage:** John 20:30-31

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

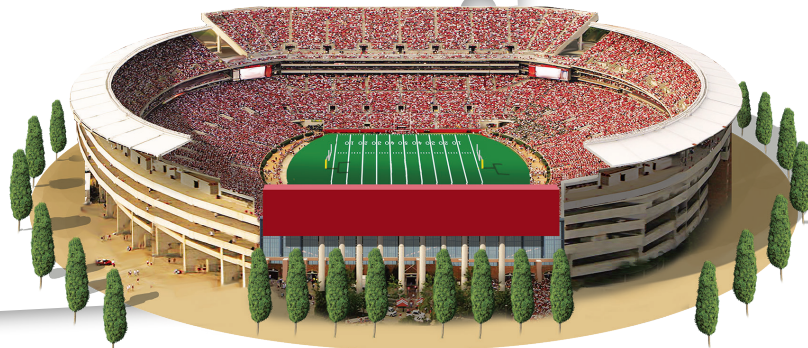
**Session 2:** Jesus Drove Out Evil Spirits  
*Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37*

**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 ... which are not  
written in this book; but  
these are written that you  
may believe that Jesus is the  
Christ, the Son of God.**

**John 20:30-31**



**Jesus performed many  
others signs ... which are not  
recorded in this book. But  
these are written that you  
may believe that Jesus is the  
Messiah, the Son of God.**

**John 20:30-31**



**And many other signs truly  
did Jesus ... which are not  
written in this book: But  
these are written, that ye  
might believe that Jesus is  
the Christ, the Son of God.**

**John 20:30-31**



**Jesus performed many  
other signs ... that are not  
written in this book.  
But these are written so  
that you may believe  
Jesus is the Messiah,  
the Son of God.**

**John 20:30-31**



**Now Jesus did many other signs ... which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**John 20:30-31**







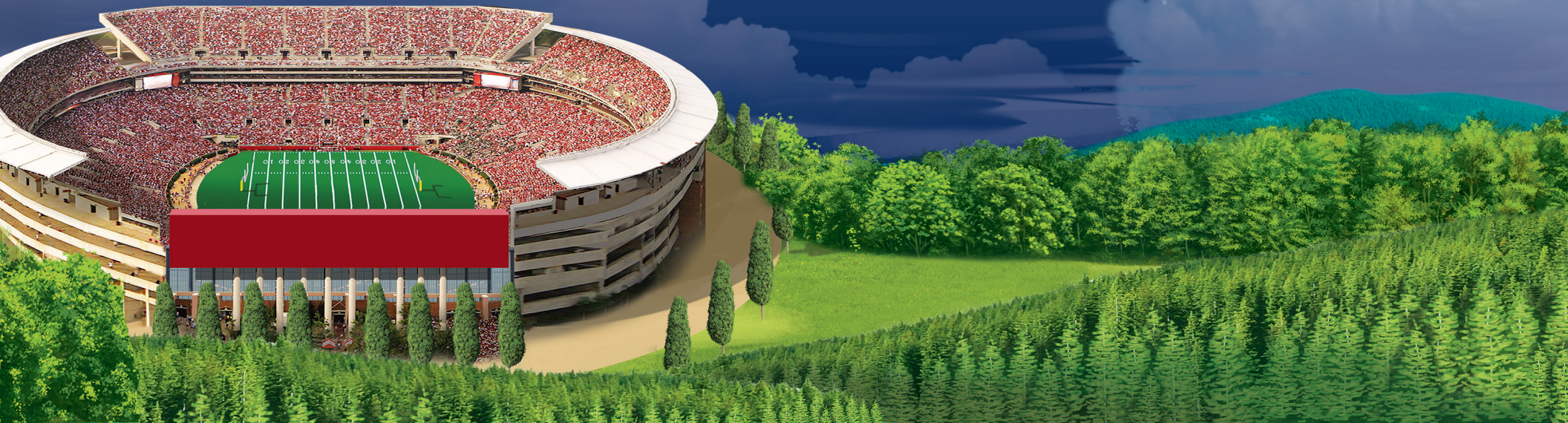
# How can we thank Jesus for His help?





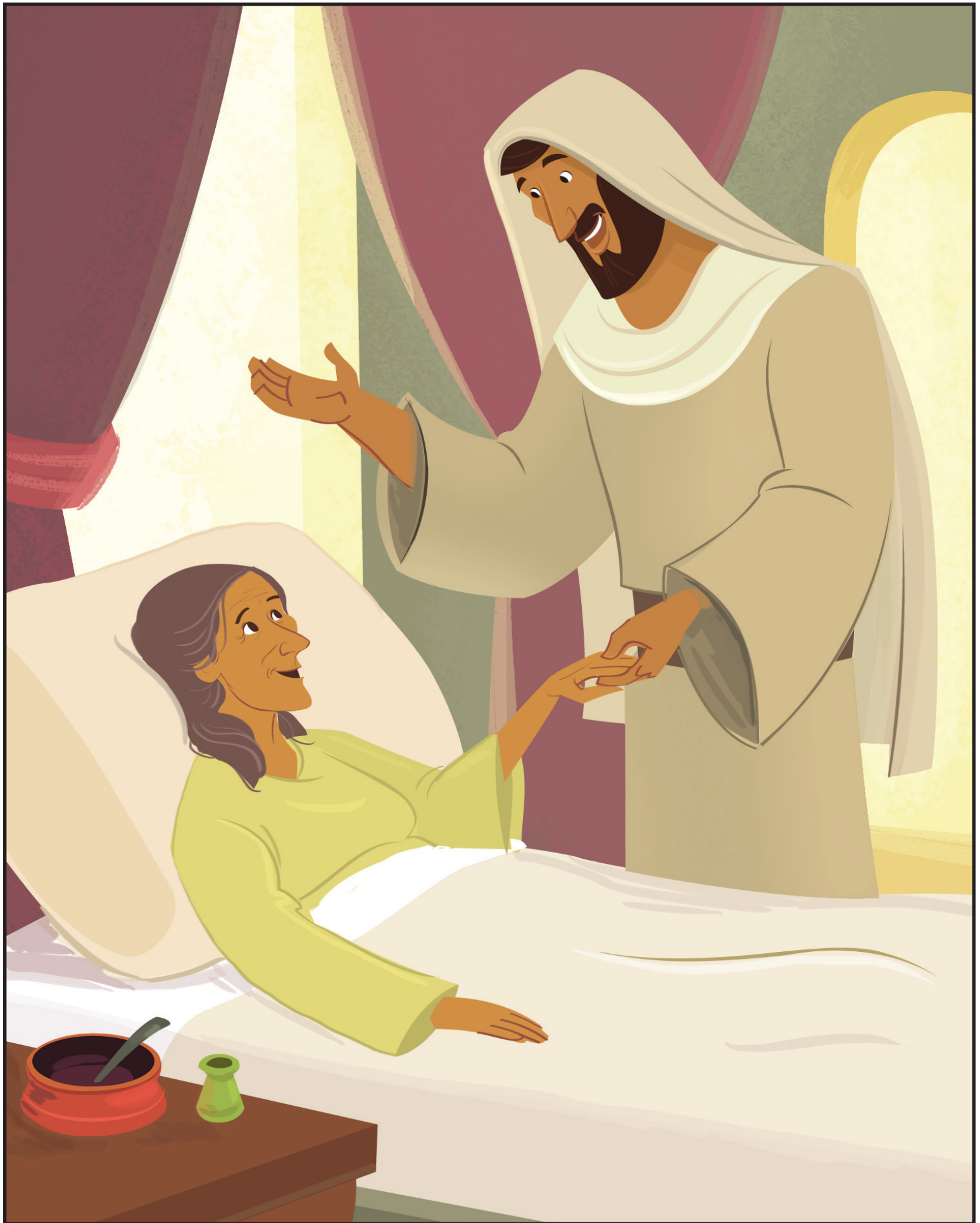
# How can we thank Jesus for His help?

## We can love Jesus and obey Him.





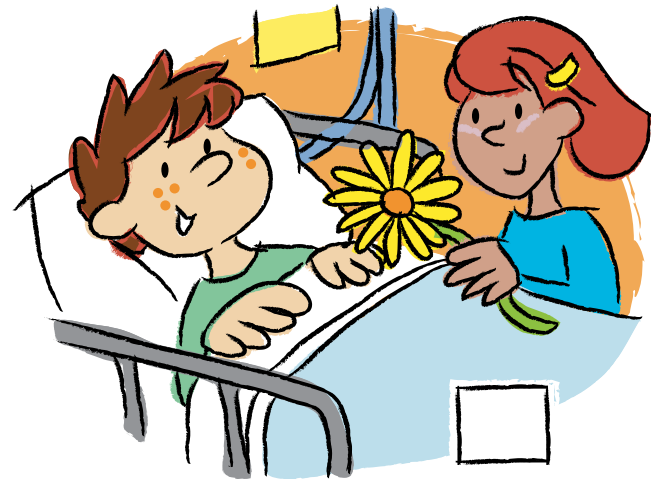
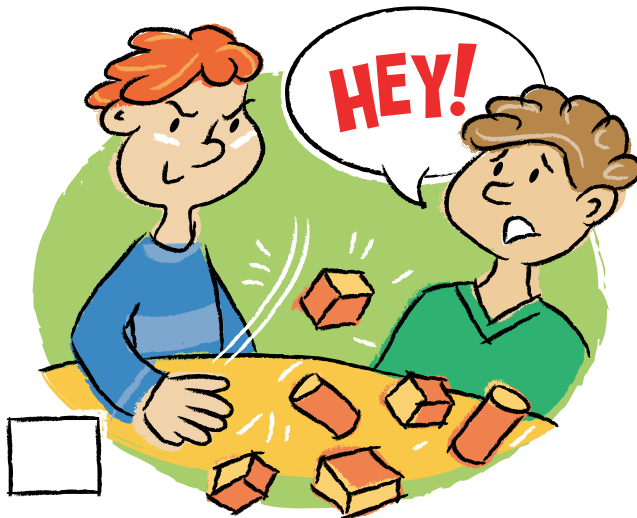






## Love and Obey Jesus

**Instructions:** Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. We can show we are thankful to Jesus by loving Him and obeying Him. Look at the pictures. Circle ways to show Jesus we love Him. Put an X on the picture that does *not* show love to Jesus.





Today your child will be  
**tasting/touching/sniffing**

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Please notify a teacher  
if your child should not  
participate in this activity.



**Instructions:** Print this poster, or laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information when bringing food, animals, things to smell, or nature items that might cause allergic reactions. Display the poster where parents can see it when they arrive with their children.

# the **GOSPEL**

## **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*



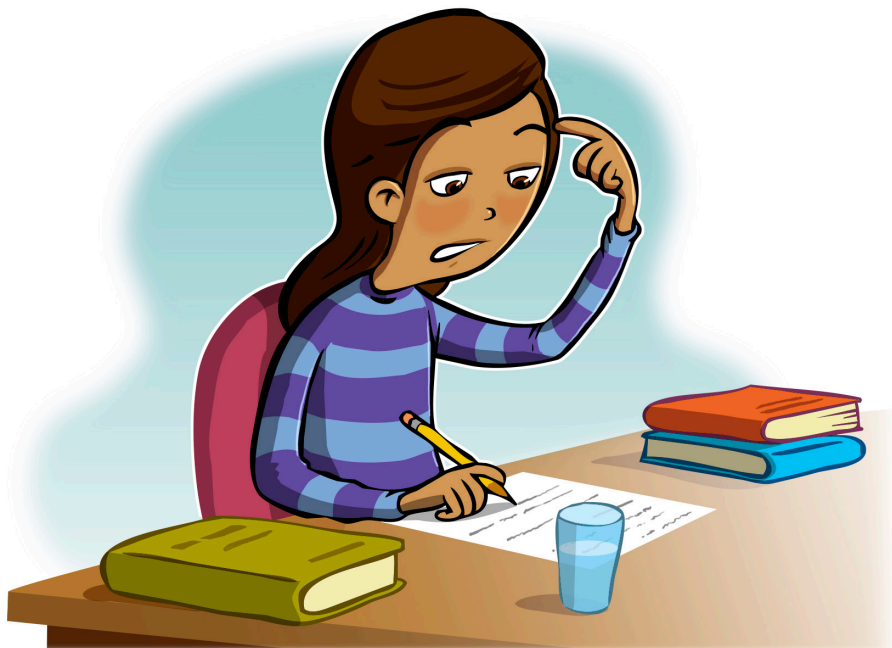
## **WE RESPOND.**

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*



# Love Game Cards

**Instructions:** Instructions: Print the cards onto heavyweight paper and cut them out. Use as directed in the leader guide.





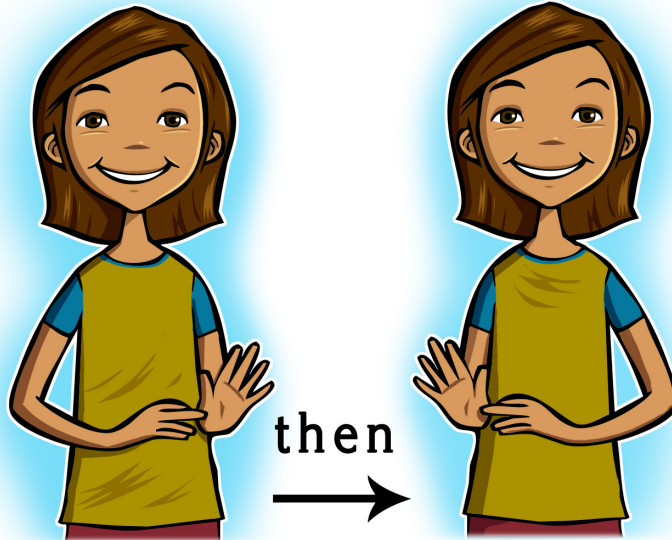




# Jesus, Love, Obey Signs

**Instructions:** Print and use the pictures below to teach kids the hand signs for the words *Jesus*, *love*, and *obey*. Practice signing the big picture question and answer, *How can we thank Jesus for His help? We can love Jesus and obey Him.*

## JESUS



## LOVE



## OBEY



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