Leader BIBLE STUDY

In ancient Israel, living with a skin disease wasn't easy. It was painful and isolating. Leprosy is a disease caused by bacteria, and it affects the skin, nerves, and mucous membranes. The disease can cause deformities in hands and feet and paralysis of some muscles. Leprosy is contagious, and the people of Israel had laws about what to do when a person becomes infected.

First, the person would go to a priest. The priest would examine him, and if the disease was confirmed, the priest would declare the person to be unclean. The law in Leviticus 13:45-46 says that the infected person must tear his clothes and let his hair hang loose. He must cover his mouth and cry out, "Unclean, unclean!" This was a warning for others to stay away from him. The infected person must live alone outside the camp.

When the person's disease was healed, he had to be declared "clean" by the priest. This involved an examination and the sacrifice of animals. The person had to wash his clothes, shave his hair, and take a bath. Then he had to wait outside the camp for a week and wash again. The priest would make an atonement for the person who was cleansed. (See Lev. 14:1-32.)

A man with a serious skin disease approached Jesus and fell down before Him. "If You are willing, You can make me clean," he said. The man's words were more of a truthful declaration than a request. He clearly trusted in Jesus' power to heal people, and he longed to be healed himself.

Jesus reached out and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. Typically, no one touched a leper. Touching an unclean person would make you unclean too. But Jesus didn't become unclean. Instead, the diseased man was immediately healed.

As you teach kids the story of Jesus cleansing a leper, help them consider how sin affects all of us. Like leprosy, its effects are painful. Sin separates us from God. Jesus willingly died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue us from sin and gives us new life.

Older Kids BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus Cleansed a Leper

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16

Big Picture Question: Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to

cleanse us from sin.

Key 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 Cleansed a Leper

Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16

Jesus had been healing people in Galilee and teaching in the synagogue. One morning, Jesus got up early and went up on a mountain to pray. When He came down from the mountain, large crowds of people had gathered together, and they followed Jesus.

Jesus came to a town where a man lived who had leprosy, a serious skin disease. God's people had laws about how to deal with people who had a skin disease. These people were considered "unclean." A person with a skin disease had to live alone, away from everyone else. He had to tear his clothes, cover his mouth, and say, "Unclean! Unclean!" because if he touched anyone else, that person would become unclean too.

When the man with the skin disease saw Jesus, he fell facedown before Him. The man begged Jesus to heal him. "If You are willing, Lord, You can make me clean," he said.

Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. What was Jesus doing? Didn't He know that touching an unclean person could make Him unclean too? But Jesus said, "I am willing. Be made clean."

Instead of the man making Jesus unclean, Jesus' touch made the man clean. The man's skin disease was immediately gone. He was healed!

Jesus ordered the man to keep quiet. "Don't tell anyone what you have seen. Go to the priest and show him that you are no longer unclean, and then make the sacrifice according to the law of Moses."

But the man did not keep quiet like Jesus asked him to do. Right away, he went out and told anyone who would listen that Jesus had healed him. News about Jesus spread throughout the area, and large crowds of people came to Jesus to hear Him teach and to be healed of their sicknesses.

Jesus could no longer walk into a town without being noticed. He often withdrew to deserted places so He could be alone to pray, but even there people found Him, and they came from every direction to see Him.

Christ Connection: Not only did Jesus have the power to make a leper clean, He was willing to make him clean. Like the disease of leprosy, sin deeply affects all people and makes them spiritually dead. Jesus willingly died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us from our sin and give us new life.

Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Jesus Cleansed a Leper

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16

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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. Ask kids to describe how they feel when they are alone. Discuss what kids do when they feel lonely.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to work in small groups to complete the activity page "Get Well Soon." Kids should underline the things a person with a skin disease had to do in ancient Israel. They should circle the things a sick person might do today.

Provide Bibles and guide kids to find and read Leviticus 13:1-3,45-46 if they need help figuring out what to underline. (*Be examined by a priest; tear your clothes; let your hair hang loose; live alone away from others; cover your mouth and cry out, "Unclean, unclean!"*)

Say • People in ancient Israel did some strange things when they were sick. Today we are going to hear a story about a man in ancient Israel who had a skin disease. The man went to Jesus for help. Do you think Jesus helped him?

"Get Well Soon" activity page, 1 per kidpencils

> Older Kids Bible Study Leader Guide Unit 26 • Session 4



- paper
- markers
- tape (optional)

- balloons or paper wads
- masking tape or painter's tape

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: Perfect circle challenge

Give each child a marker and a piece of paper. Challenge each kid to draw a perfect circle. A perfect circle is completely round. Encourage kids to make their best attempts. When kids finish, tape their papers to a focal wall where everyone can see them or spread them out on a table or open area on the floor. Allow kids to decide whose circle is the closest to being perfect.

Say •All of you tried hard, and the circle you chose as the best is pretty good, but it's not perfect. Today's Bible story will remind us of the only One who is perfect.

Option 2: Clean it up

Clear a large area for kids to play an active game. Use tape to mark a large square or circle on the floor. Put a large number of balloons or paper wads inside the circle.

Form two even teams. Instruct one team to stand inside the circle and the other team to stand outside the circle. Explain that at your signal, the kids inside the circle should begin moving the paper wads outside the circle. The kids outside the circle should try to move the paper wads back inside the circle. After a couple of minutes, call teams to stop. See which area is more clear of paper wads.

Now, give new rules. Kids outside the circle may only move the paper wads using their feet. Signal for kids to begin. If kids are able to clear the circle of all the paper wads, call kids to stop.

Say • Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about a man who had a skin disease. He asked Jesus to make Him clean, and that's exactly what Jesus did.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus Cleansed a Leper

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16

Big Picture Question: Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to

cleanse us from sin.

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

basketball

[Large Group Leader enters wearing sweatbands and basketball shoes. Leader dribbles a basketball a couple of times and then picks it up.]

Leader • Hey, everyone! I'm glad you're back! In case you're new here, I'm [your name]. As you can tell, I'm trying out for a basketball team. Baseball didn't work out, bowling was a bust, and football wasn't my thing. But I have a great feeling about basketball. Do any of you know how to play basketball? You will have to give me a few pointers later. For now, let's get ready to hear today's Bible story. Who remembers what Bible stories we've studied so far? Let's check out our timeline map to review where we've been in God's big story.

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," "Jesus

Drove Out Evil Spirits," and "Jesus Healed Peter's Motherin-Law."

Leader • Look at our timeline map. These last few stories have been all about Jesus' miracles. These are so amazing. Who else can heal a sick boy from miles away, or command an evil spirit to go away, or touch a woman's hand and heal her from her fever? Only Jesus can!

Jesus is the Holy One of God, and when He performed miracles, people believed in Him. Today we are going to hear about another miracle. This Bible story is called "Jesus Cleansed a Leper."

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • Hmm ...do you know what a leper is? A *leper* is someone who has leprosy. Now you might be wondering, What's leprosy? Well, leprosy is a serious skin disease. You'll see in the Bible story that this serious skin disease reminds us of sin. That leads me to our big picture question. Our big picture question is, Who can take away our sin? Now, you may think you already know the answer. Listen carefully to the Bible story to see if you are right.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Open your Bible to Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; or • "Jesus Cleansed a Leper" video
- Bibles
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster
- Bia Picture Ouestion Slide or Poster

Luke 5:12-16. Tell the Bible story in your own words or show the Bible story video "Jesus Cleansed a Leper." **Leader** • Jesus traveled a lot during His ministry. One day, He came to a town where a man lived. This man had a serious skin disease called leprosy. Leprosy affected everything about this man's life. He couldn't hang out with his friends or go to the synagogue or hug his parents. He had to live by himself, far away from everyone else.

He was probably very lonely.

God's people had laws about what to do when a person had leprosy. This man had to tear his clothes and cover his mouth. He had to say, "Unclean! Unclean!" to warn others that he was sick. If he got too close to someone else, that person would be called unclean too.

Oh, how I bet that man wished he were better! On that day, he saw Jesus. Surely he heard of the miracles Jesus had done and how Jesus had healed other people. So the man fell down in front of Jesus. What did he say to Jesus? He said, "If You are willing, Lord, You can make me clean." That wasn't even a question! The man was saying what he knew was true. If Jesus wanted to heal the man, He could.

Do you think Jesus said, "Get away from Me! You're unclean!"? No! Of course not. Jesus said, "I am willing. Be made clean." Then Jesus touched the man and the man's skin disease was gone! He was healed!

What a happy day! The healed man probably wanted to go tell everyone he saw that he was all better and that Jesus had healed him. But Jesus told the man to keep quiet and to go to the priest. But the man didn't keep quiet. He told everyone what happened, and news about Jesus spread. Many people came to be healed and to hear Jesus teach.

Now, you've probably never had leprosy, but we are all affected by something that we need to be healed from. Do you know what that is? It's sin. The Bible says that everyone has sinned, or disobeyed God. Sin is like leprosy because it keeps us away from God and it hurts us. The bad news is that we cannot do anything to heal ourselves from sin. But the good news is that there is someone who can!

Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to

cleanse us from sin. That's our big picture question and answer. Say it with me. Who can take away our sin?

Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.

Jesus came into the world to rescue people from sin. He lived a perfect life and took the punishment we deserve for our sin when He died on the cross. Jesus was raised from the dead, and He is alive. When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. We will live with Him forever in heaven.

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. 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** Open your Bibles to John 20:30-31. Does anyone want to say our key passage from memory?
- Invite volunteers to say the key passage aloud.

Leader • Can you tell me who wrote the Gospel of John? (*the apostle John*) John was one of Jesus' followers, and he wrote about many of the miracles Jesus did. He also wrote why these stories are in the Bible. Let's read the key passage together.

Lead boys and girls to read the key passage together. Then invite them to join in singing "Written."

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

Leader • How many of you like helping others? Are there ever times you don't want to help someone else? What if

• Bible

• Key Passage Slide or Poster

• "Written" song

 "Unit 26 Session 4" discussion starter video you needed help and no one wanted to help you? Think about that as we watch this video.

Show the "Unit 26 Session 4" video.

Leader • Would you help a friend if he had a spider on him? Would you want someone to help you if a spider landed on you? I know I would. When Jesus healed the man who had leprosy, He didn't say, "OK, I guess I will help you if I have to." Jesus was willing! He wanted to help the man get better!

We need help because we do anything to get rid of sin on our own. Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin. We can trust Him as Lord and Savior.

Sing (3 minutes)

Leader • I am so glad that Jesus can and wants to take away our sin! That makes me want to sing. Will you praise Him with me?

Lead kids to sing "This Is Amazing Grace."

Prayer (2 minutes)

Leader • Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin. Before you go to your small groups, let's pray.

Lord God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus. We confess that we have sinned. We trust that Jesus took our punishment instead. Please forgive us. Thank You for loving us and rescuing us from our sins. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

• "This Is Amazing Grace" song

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 Cleansed a Leper

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16

Big Picture Question: Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to

cleanse us from sin.

Kev Passage: John 20:30-31

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus' miracles demonstrated His divine

authority.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- · masking tape or painter's tape
- paper plates (optional)
- marker (optional)
- Use tape to mark a large tic-tac-toe grid on the floor. Invite kids to play a game of human tic-tac-toe. Form two teams of five or more kids. If you have fewer than 10 kids, form two teams and give one team five paper plates marked with Xs. Give the other team five paper plates marked with Os.

Choose one player to go first. Challenge the player to recite the key passage from memory. If she is successful, she may stand on or position a game piece on the tic-tactoe board for her team. If she cannot recite the verse, play moves to the other team. Continue giving players a turn to recite the key passage. The first team to position three of its players or game pieces in a row wins. If the game ends in a draw, clear the gameboard and play again.

Say • Why are Jesus' miracles written in the Bible for us to read? These are written so that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Review the timeline in the small group visual pack. Form three groups of kids and assign each group one of paper the following passages: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45;

- · Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- pens

Luke 5:12-16. Instruct the kids in each group to read the passage together and draw a picture of a scene from the Bible story.

Give kids a few minutes to draw. Then invite them to share their drawings with the other groups. Ask kids the following review questions. If a group knows the answer, a player from that group should raise his hand. Call on a kid with his hand raised to answer. Note that some answers are found in just one or two of the Gospels.

- 1. Where was Jesus coming from when a man approached Him? (*the mountain, Matt. 8:1*)
- 2. What was wrong with the man? (He had a serious skin disease; Matt. 8:2; Mark 1:40; Luke 5:12)
- 3. What did the man ask Jesus to do? (to make him clean; Matt. 8:2; Mark 1:40; Luke 5:12)
- 4. How did Jesus heal the man? (Jesus reached out His hand, touched the man, and said, "I am willing. Be made clean"; Matt. 8:3; Mark 1:41; Luke 5:13)
- 5. Whom did Jesus instruct the man to tell about what happened? (no one; Matt. 8:4; Mark 1:44; Luke 5:14)
- 6. Where did Jesus tell the man to go? (to the priest; Matt. 8:4; Mark 1:44; Luke 5:14)
- 7. What did the man do when he left Jesus? (*He told everyone that Jesus had healed him; Mark 1:45*)
- 8. Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.

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)



round red stickers

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Reverse the curse

Give each kid two round red stickers. Instruct kids to put one sticker on each hand. Form two teams. Guide each team to sit together on the floor. Choose one player from each team to be the "doctor." Remove the doctors' stickers and invite the doctors to stand across the room from their teams. Explain that all the players are affected by a serious rash. The two doctors are the only ones who can heal them.

When you say go, each team must complete a relay. One player from each team will rush to the doctor, and the doctor will gently remove her "rash" (stickers). The healed player must return to her team, take a "sick" player by the hand, and lead him back to the doctor. When the doctor has healed the second player, the first and second player go together and lead another player to the doctor. Kids will continue leading players to the doctor one at a time until everyone on their team has been healed.

Say • We all sin. Sin is like a disease, and it separates us from God. Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.

Option 2: Create the scene

Form four groups of kids. Give each group markers and a piece of poster board. Assign each group a passage from the Bible story:

- A man with leprosy came to Jesus. (Mark 1:40)
- Jesus healed the man with leprosy. (Mark 1:41-42)
- Jesus told the man what to do. (Mark 1:43-44)
- The man told everyone what happened. (Mark 1:45) Guide each group to read its assigned passage in the Bible. Then instruct them to work together to draw the scene on their pieces of poster board.

Allow several minutes for groups to work. Then call on them to present their posters and retell the Bible story in order. Each group may read its assigned passage from the Bible, or kids may tell the story in their own words.

- **Say** The man's disease separated him from everyone else, but Jesus healed him completely.
 - Sin is like a disease that separates all of us from God. Jesus willingly died on the cross. He rose from the dead to save us from sin and give us new life.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Give the following prompts and encourage kids to write their responses on the journal page.

- **Say** •What separates us from God? (*sin*)
 - Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.
- Have you trusted in Jesus to take away your sin? Be available to talk to any kids who have questions about becoming a Christian. 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 "Bible Truth Take Away."

- poster board,4 piecesmarkers
- markerBibles

- pencilsjournals
- Bibles
- Journal Page,1 per kid
- "Bible Truth Take Away" 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



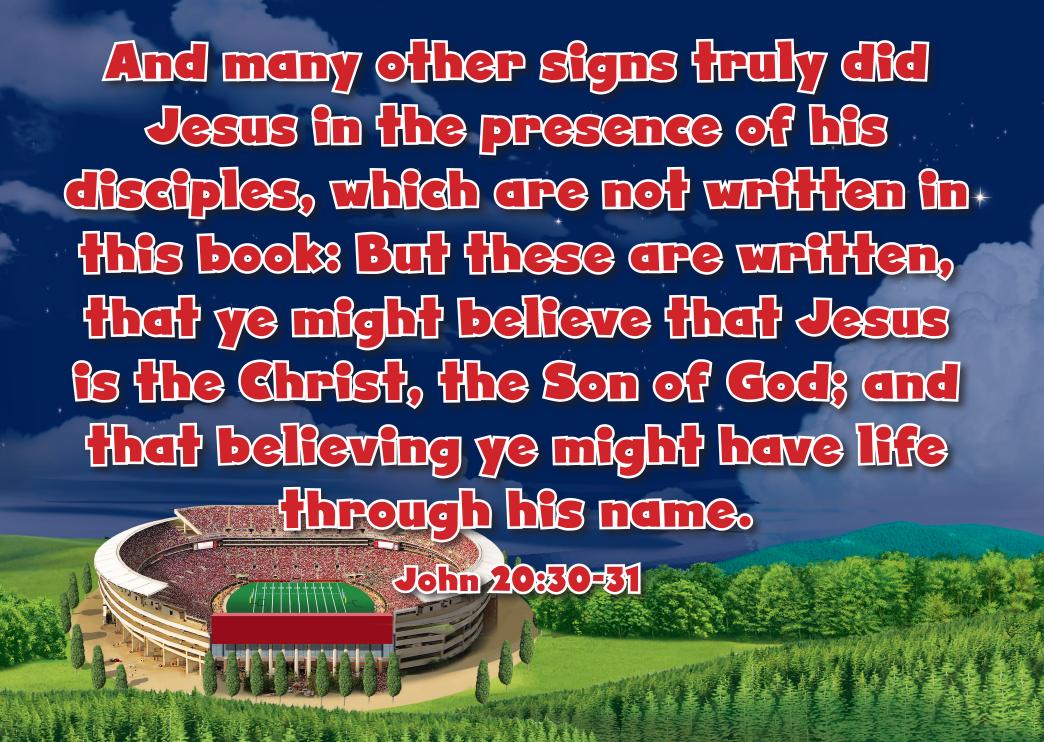


And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of like disciples, which are not written In this books but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life In His name. John 20:30-31



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.













Who can take away our sin?

Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.

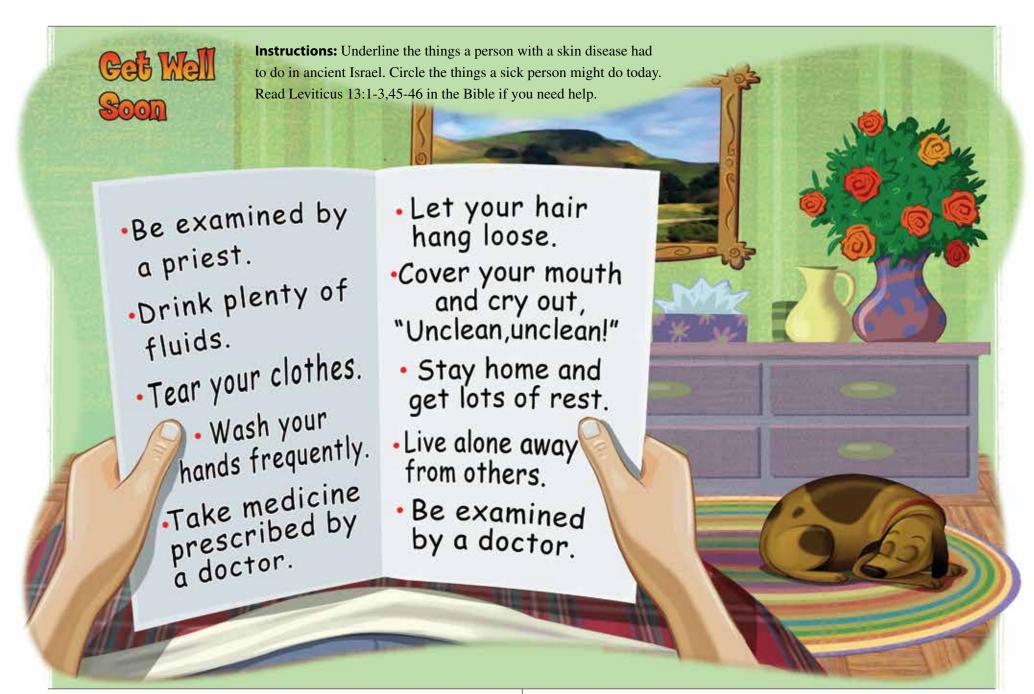




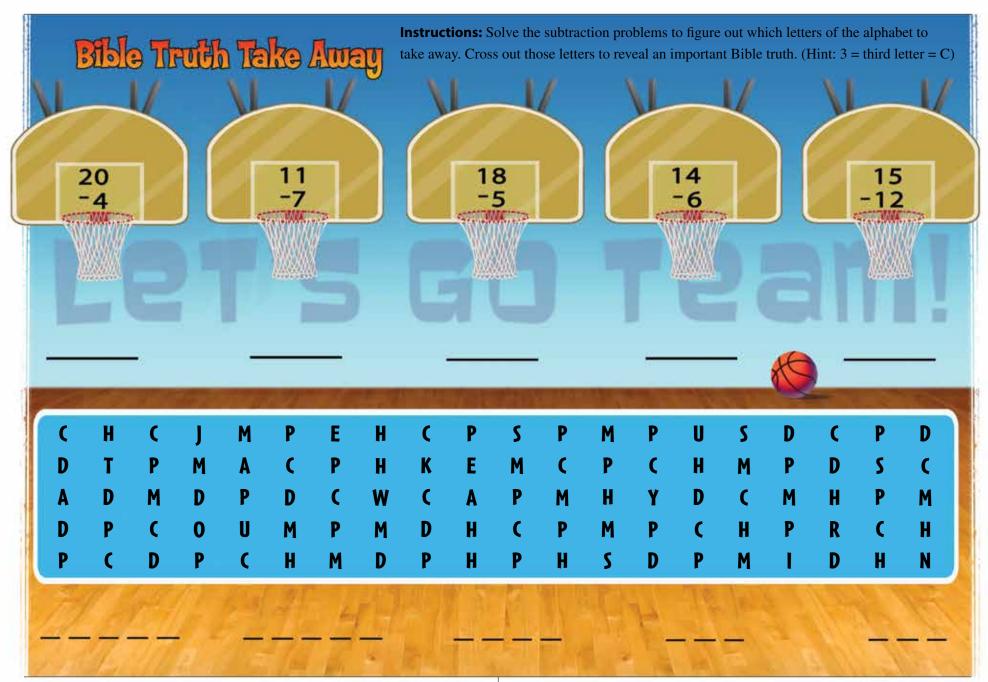




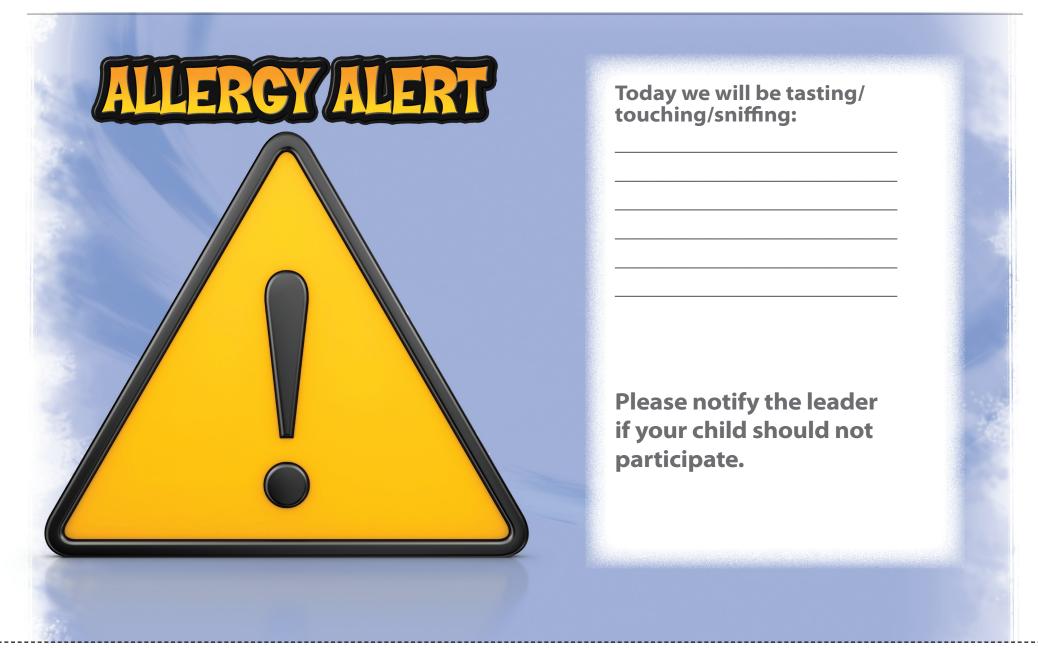












Instructions: Print this poster. You may laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information. Display the poster where parents and kids can see it before class.



the GOSPELL 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