

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.

4 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.

Preschool 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: How did Jesus help the man with leprosy? Jesus touched the man and healed him.

Key Passage: John 20:30-31

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

Small Group Opening

(15–20 minutes)

Large Group Bible Study

(10–15 minutes)

Small Group Activities

(20–25 minutes)

Snack and Transition

(20 minutes)

The BIBLE STORY

Jesus Cleansed a Leper

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

Jesus had been doing great things in the land of Galilee. He healed people who were sick or hurt, and He taught people in the synagogue about God. **One morning, Jesus got up early. He went up on a mountain to pray to God. When Jesus was done praying, He came down from the mountain.** Large crowds of people had come to see Jesus, and they followed Him around.

Jesus traveled to other towns. A man who lived in one of the towns was very sick. He had a serious skin disease called leprosy. The sick man's life was very hard. God's people had laws about what to do when a person had a skin disease. The sick person was "unclean." **He had to live by himself, far away from other people.** He had to tear his clothes, cover his mouth, and say, "Unclean! Unclean!" so no one would get too close. If the sick man touched anyone else, that person would be unclean too.

The man with the skin disease saw Jesus, and he fell facedown in front of Him. The man begged Jesus to heal him and take away his skin disease. "If You are willing, Lord," the man said, "You can make me clean."

Jesus reached out His hand and touched the sick 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 all gone. He was healed!**

Jesus told the man to keep quiet. "Don't tell anyone what you have seen," Jesus said. "Go to the priest and do everything the law says you should do now that you are healed."

But the man did not keep quiet like Jesus asked him to do. He was so happy to be healed! Right away, he went out and told anyone who would listen that Jesus had taken away his skin disease. Before long, people all over the land heard about Jesus and how He could heal people. **Big crowds of people came to Jesus. They wanted to learn from Him,**

and anyone who was sick or hurt wanted Jesus to heal them too.

People recognized Jesus wherever He went. Jesus tried to go away to quiet places where He could pray, but people found Him there. People came from everywhere to see Jesus.

Christ Connection: The man with the skin disease had to stay away from his friends and family. Jesus helped the man. Jesus touched the man and healed him. Sin is like a disease that keeps us away from God, but Jesus will take away our sin if we ask Him.

Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Jesus Cleansed a Leper

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- "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.



- "See and Touch" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or crayons

Activity Page: See and Touch

Invite preschoolers to complete the activity page, assisting them as needed. For younger preschoolers, assign different colored crayons for each texture. Talk about the five senses with preschoolers, focusing on the sense of touch.

Say • In today's Bible story, a man had leprosy. Leprosy is a skin disease. In Bible times, a person with leprosy had to live far away from his family and friends. He could not touch anyone for fear of spreading the disease. If a leper touched anything, the law said that whatever he touched would have to be cleaned, burned, or broken! Today, we will find out how Jesus helped the man with leprosy.

Play "Sick, Sick, Healed"

Gather the kids in a circle in the middle of the room. Make sure there is room for the preschoolers to run around the

outside of the circle. Explain that the class is going to play a game like “Duck, Duck, Goose,” but instead of saying “Duck, Duck, Goose,” the children should say “Sick, Sick, Healed.” Select a volunteer to start the game.

Say • In today’s Bible story, Jesus healed a sick man. This man was so sick with a skin disease that he had to live far away from other people. If he touched another person, that person could become sick like him.

Would you be afraid to touch this man? How would you feel if you couldn’t touch anybody else? Jesus was not afraid to touch this man.

Sad-faced stick puppets

- “Stick Puppet,” 1 page per kid
- scissors
- crayons or markers
- craft sticks
- glue

Before class, print stick puppet patterns onto heavyweight paper and cut them out. One side will be a sad-faced leper, and the other side will be a happy-faced healed man.

Give each child the sad-faced leper to color. Glue a craft stick to the back. Let the puppets dry during large group. The children will color the happy-faced side after large group and finish assembling the puppet then.

Say • The man in today’s Bible story was really sad because of his sickness. He had a skin disease that made spots on his skin that other people could see. He was not allowed to touch anyone or even be close to them. However, when he met Jesus, he begged Jesus to make him clean. What do you think happened after that?

Transition to Bible study

Show the children one of the happy-faced stick puppets. Tell them to listen carefully in large group to hear how the man became happy. Let them know they will get to decorate the happy-faced side after large group and make a double-sided puppet! Line up the class to go to the large group area.

Transition cue: Ring the bell, show the countdown video, flip the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for children to copy to gain attention.

Large Group BIBLE STUDY

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Large Group Bible Study (10–15 minutes)

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- "Written" song
- Bible dictionary for kids (optional)

Review the key passage using any hand motions that you've created to help kids remember it. Practice saying the key passage with the kids a few times, and then sing "Written."

Say • One of Jesus' friends wrote our key passage. His name was John. John said that Jesus did many miracles to show that He is God's Son.

Last week we learned about how Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. Today, our Bible story is about Jesus healing another man who had leprosy. Let me read to you about what *leprosy* is.

Read the definition of *leprosy* from a children's Bible dictionary or define it as "a serious skin disease."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- "Jesus Cleansed a Leper" video
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster

Open your Bible to Matthew 8 and tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided or show the Bible story video "Jesus Cleansed a Leper."

Say • *[Show the sad-faced side of the stick puppet.]* People who had leprosy were very lonely. No one wanted to be around people with leprosy. It isn't fun to be all alone,

is it? No, it is not. A man in our Bible story had leprosy; he had to live far away from people. If someone came close to him, he had to shout “Unclean! Unclean!” so they would know to stay far away.

One day, the man met Jesus. He had heard about Jesus’ healing power. He fell down at Jesus’ feet and asked Jesus for help. Jesus wasn’t afraid of the man like everyone else. Jesus touched the man and made him well.

Talk about the Bible story

Point to the timeline map as you review the Bible story.

- Timeline Map
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

1. How was the man sick in our Bible story? (*He had leprosy, a skin disease.*)
2. Was the sick man clean or unclean? (*unclean*)
3. Was the sick man allowed to touch other people? (*No.*)
4. Who helped the sick man? (*Jesus*)

Say • The man with the skin disease had to stay away from his friends and family. Jesus helped the man. ***How did Jesus help the man with leprosy? Jesus touched the man and healed him.***

Sin is like a disease that keeps us away from God, but Jesus will take away our sin if we ask Him.

Transition to small groups

Invite kids to link arms with a friend and return to small groups. Remind kids that when Jesus touched the man with the skin disease, Jesus did not get sick too. Instead, Jesus healed the man with the skin disease. Jesus is powerful!

Tip: 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

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



- "Stick Puppet," 1 per kid
- crayons or markers
- craft sticks
- glue

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.

Happy-faced stick puppets

Instruct the preschoolers to color the happy-faced side of the puppet from the opening activity. If some of the children need to finish coloring the sad-faced puppet, they may do so at this time. Help the children glue the back of the happy-faced side to the back of the sad-faced side with a craft stick in the middle. They should now have a reversible stick puppet!

Encourage kids to use their stick puppets to retell the Bible story to a friend. What happened to make the sad man happy?

Say • Before the man with a skin disease met Jesus, he was very sad. He was lonely, and he had to live far away from other people. The man begged Jesus to make him clean.

How did Jesus help the man with leprosy? Jesus touched the man and healed him. The man was so happy. He went and told others about Jesus!

- “First Aid Pictures”
- toy medical kit
- 6 to 8 socks
- rubber bands

Play a touch-and-guess game

Print the first aid pictures and gather toy medical supplies to match each picture. Supplies should include a stethoscope, gauze bandages, empty medicine container, play needle, play rubber mallet, play blood pressure wrap, and a large bandage.

Place each item in a sock and use rubber bands to tie closed the top of the socks. Position the pictures of each medical item in random order in the middle of the classroom.

Ask for one volunteer at a time to feel a sock and guess which medical item is inside the sock. Tell her to place the sock on which picture she believes matches the object inside the sock. Once kids match all the socks with a picture, open each sock and show the class what is inside!

Say • Today, when we are sick, our parents or a doctor may use some of these things to help us feel better. Jesus didn’t need any of this stuff to make the man with leprosy feel better. *How did Jesus help the man with leprosy? Jesus touched the man and healed him.*

- “This Is Amazing Grace” song (optional)
- “Written” song (optional)
- praise song of your choice

Play healing tag

Play music in the classroom and allow the preschoolers to walk around the room. Tell them to pretend that they are sick, and you are going to walk around and “heal” them.

As you touch a child’s shoulder, say, “*Jesus touched the man and healed him.*” The “healed” preschooler should sit down right where he was standing. Repeat the game and allow one of the preschoolers to be the “healer.”

Say • The man with leprosy believed in Jesus. The man knew Jesus could heal him and make him clean if Jesus wanted to. *How did Jesus help the man with leprosy? Jesus touched the man and healed him.*

- white copy paper
- crayons

Draw the story

For each child, fold a piece of white copy paper into thirds. Give each preschooler a folded sheet of paper and crayons.

On the left fold, guide them to draw a picture of the man with leprosy and how he felt before seeing Jesus. In the middle, encourage the preschoolers to draw a picture of Jesus touching the man. On the right fold, lead them to draw a picture of the healed man telling others about Jesus!

Say • The man with leprosy was sad before he met Jesus. He had to live far away from his friends and family, but Jesus touched the man healed him.

Even though Jesus asked the man not to tell anyone about what happened to him, the man couldn't keep it to himself! He told a lot of other people about how Jesus helped him. ***How did Jesus help the man with leprosy? Jesus touched the man and healed him.***

Match spots

- "Match Spots"
- game mat or masking tape
- numbered cube

Print two copies of the matching spots pages. Use one set of lepers as game cards. Tape the other set of lepers to the floor or place them inside a game mat.

Preschoolers will take turns rolling a numbered cube. On the game mat, they will use a leper card to cover the leper with the same number of spots as the number they rolled. The preschoolers will continue to roll the cube until they match all the cards to the game mat. Then pause the game to begin another round. For the second round, remove the game cards to represent Jesus healing them.

Say • The sick man in our Bible story today was so happy after Jesus healed him. He went out and told anyone who would listen to him about Jesus! ***How did Jesus help the man with leprosy? Jesus touched the man and healed 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.

Consider serving the kids' favorite "spotted" cookies (chocolate chip, vanilla with sprinkles, oatmeal raisin). Tell the kids that Jesus wanted to heal the leper because Jesus loved him. Jesus wants to heal us from our sins because He loves us too!

Transition

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

When a child finishes her snack and throws away any trash, she 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 her to draw a picture on the journal page. Help her trace her hand, and then ask her to draw spots on her journal page to remind her of the leper Jesus healed.

Lead the children through a prayer time, asking God to show them that Jesus is willing to help us whenever we ask Him for help. 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

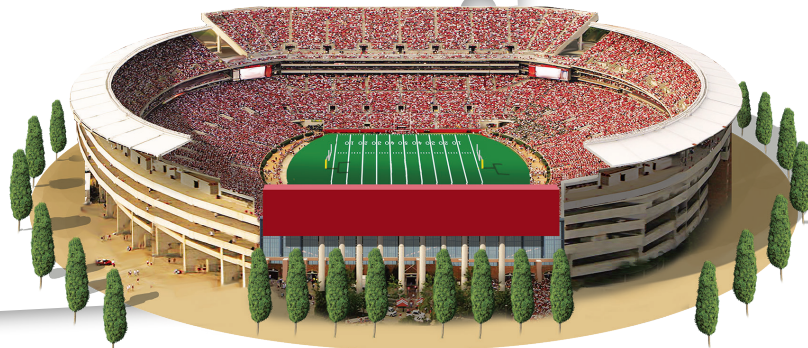
Session 2: Jesus Drove Out Evil Spirits
Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37

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 did Jesus help the man with leprosy?



How did Jesus help the man with leprosy?

Jesus touched the man and healed him.



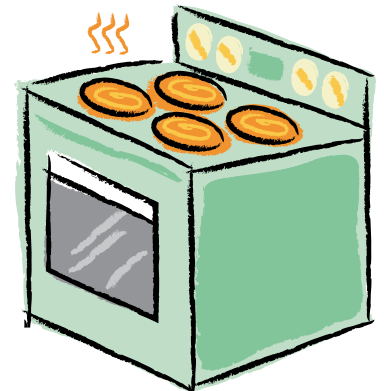
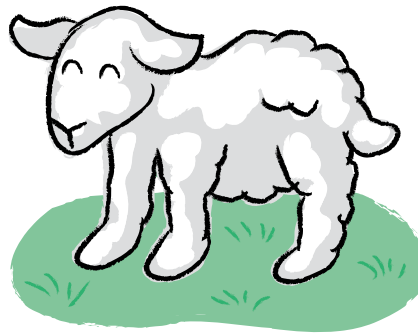
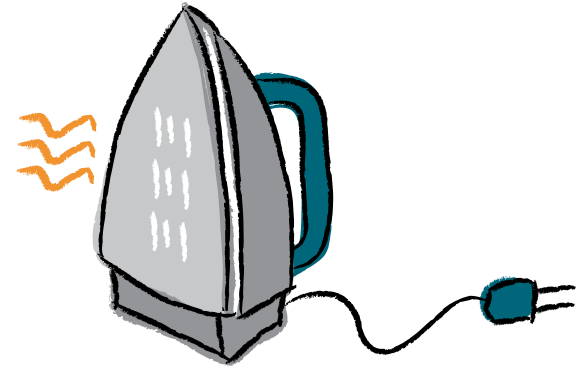
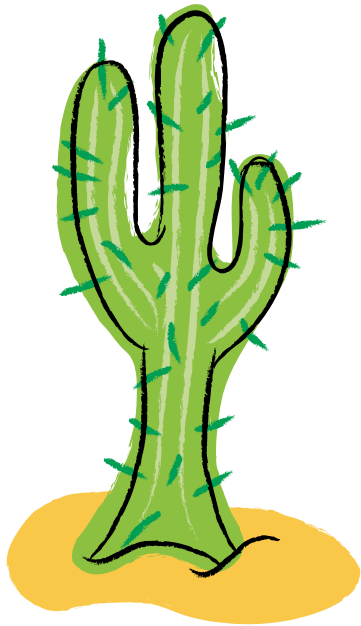
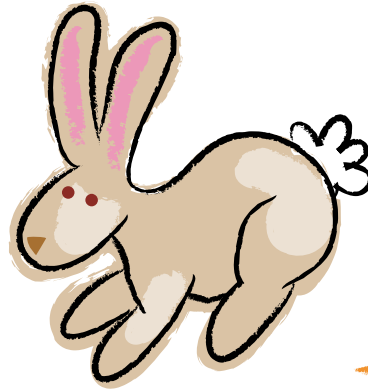
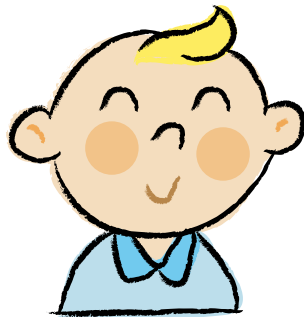
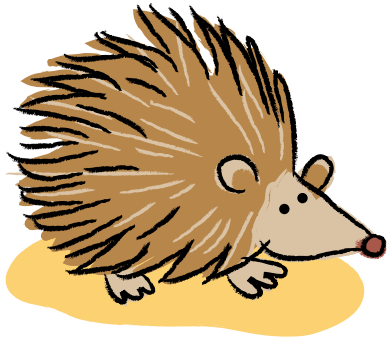




See and Touch

Instructions: Look at the pictures and think about how each item would feel. Circle items that are prickly. Draw a square around items that feel soft. Draw a line under items that are hot. (Younger preschoolers may circle prickly items with a blue crayon, soft items with a yellow crayon, and hot things with a red crayon.)

God gave us hands to touch and feel different items. Jesus touched the man with a skin disease to heal his skin.





Today your child will be
tasting/touching/sniffing

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*

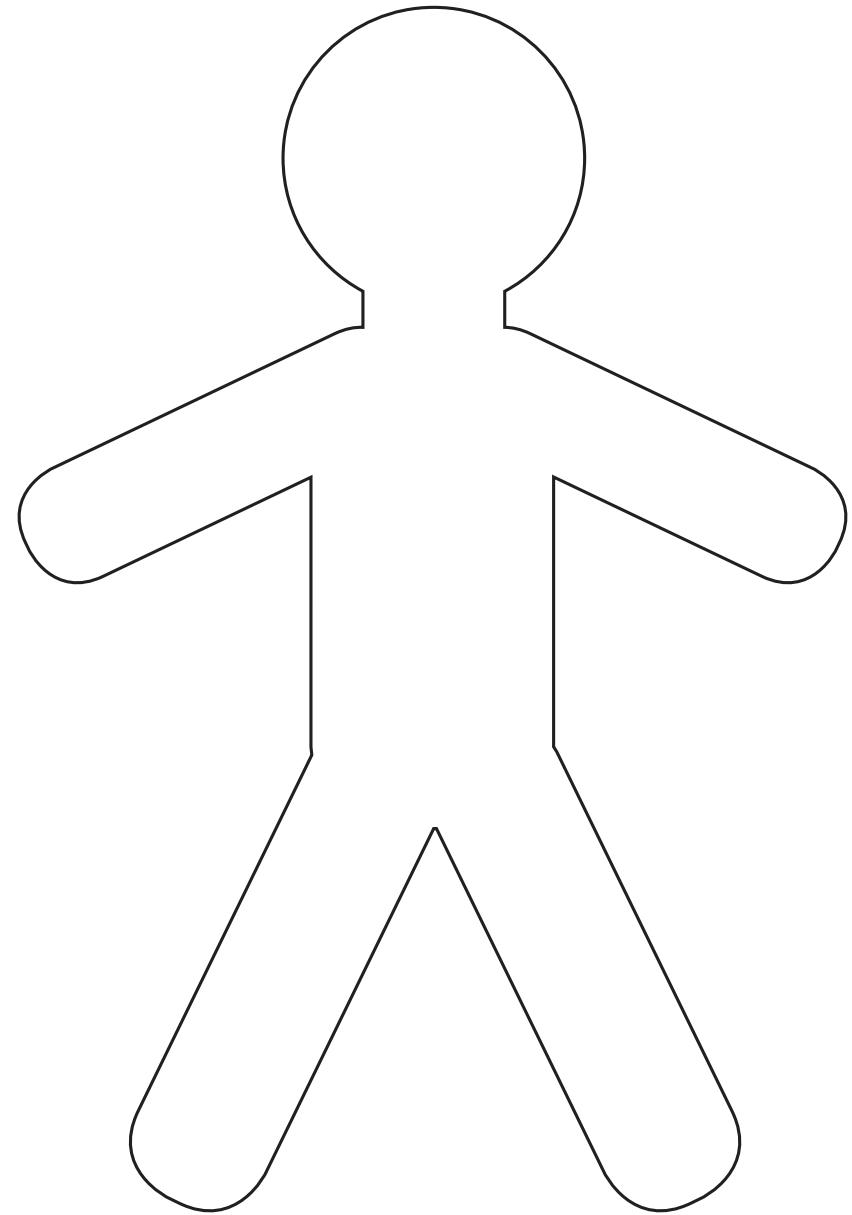
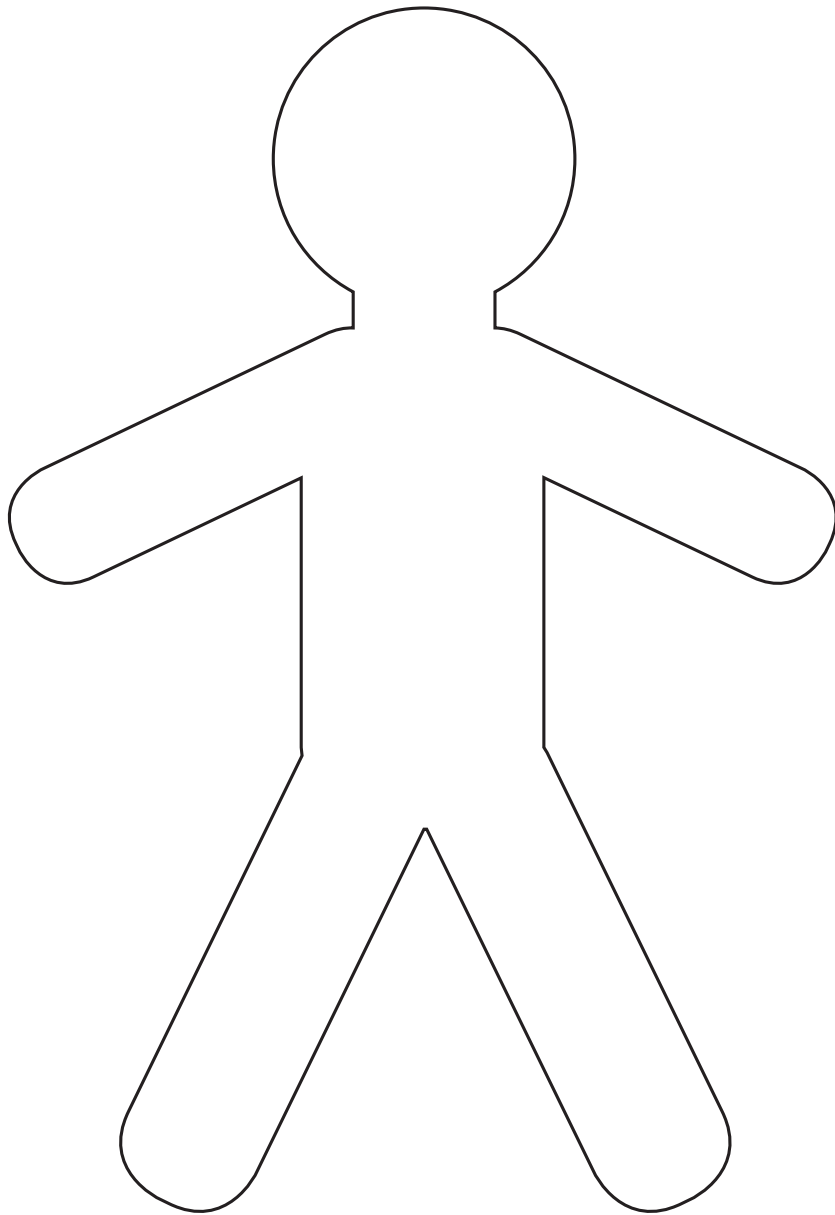


WE RESPOND.

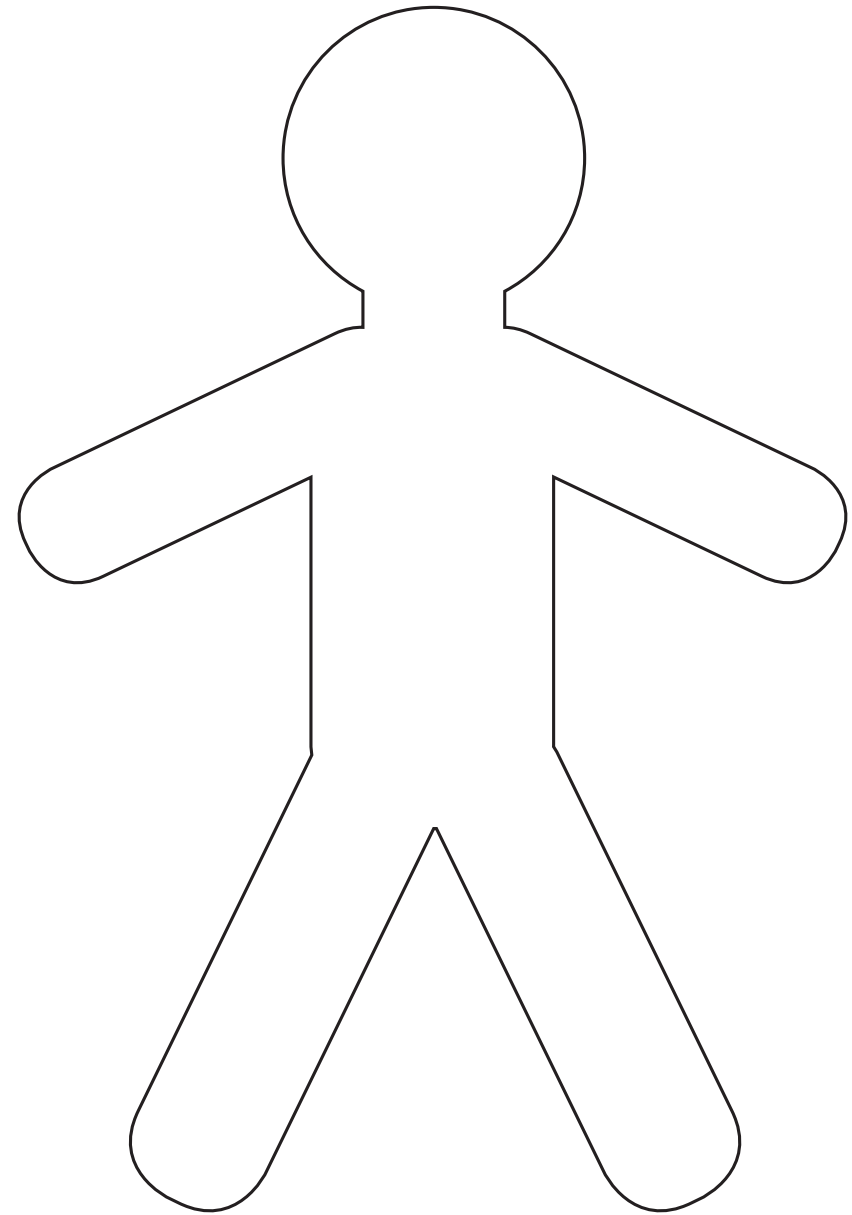
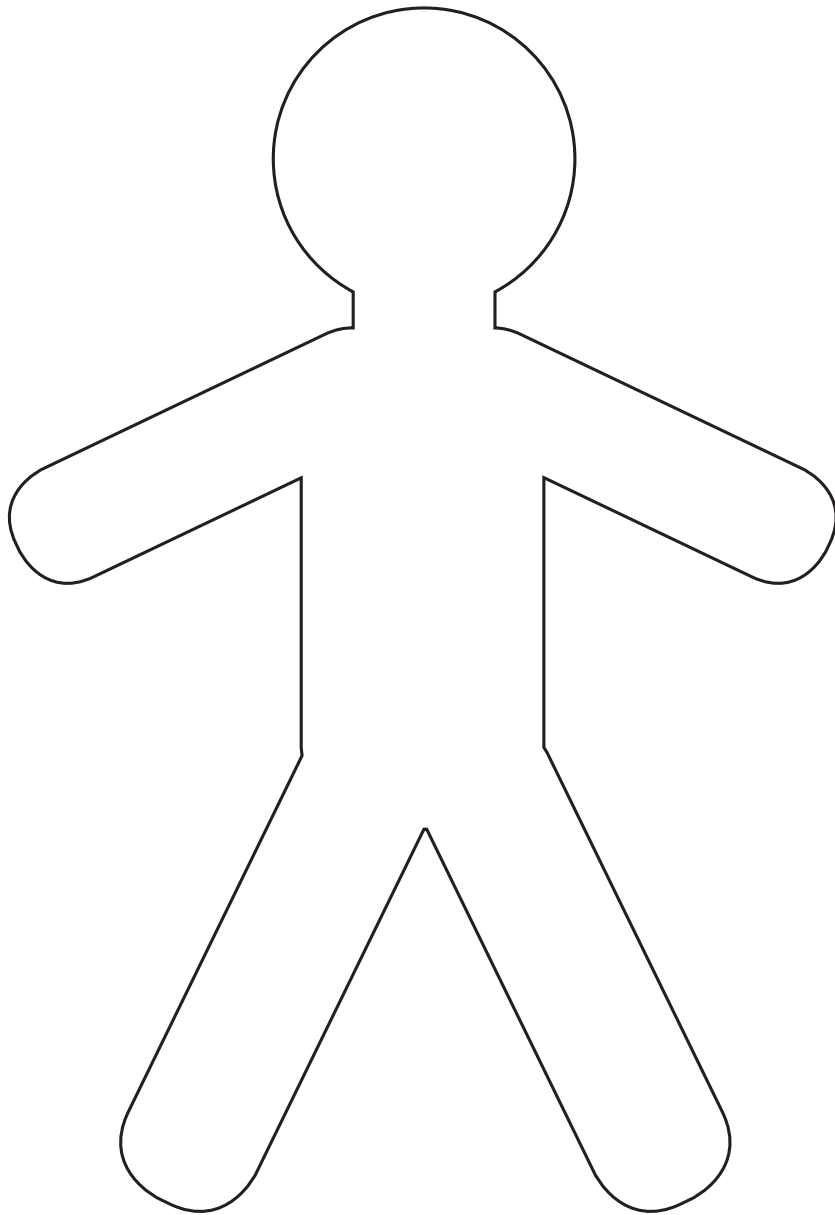
Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*

Stick Puppet

Instructions: Print enough copies of the stick puppet outlines for each kid to have two. Guide kids to cut out the puppets. On one puppet, kids will draw leper's spots. Tape or glue the puppets back to back with a craft stick between them. Tell the Bible story, using the "leper" stick figure. When Jesus heals the leper, turn the puppet over to show Jesus healed the leper.



Stick Puppet



Match Spots

Instructions: Print two copies onto heavyweight paper. Place one set of lepers into a game mat, or tape them to the floor. Kids will use the second set of lepers to match the amount of spots on each figure.



Match Spots

Instructions: Print two copies onto heavyweight paper. Place one set of lepers into a game mat, or tape them to the floor. Kids will use the second set of lepers to match the amount of spots on each figure.



First Aid Pictures

Instructions: Print the first aid pictures onto heavyweight paper and cut them out. Use as directed in the leader guide.

