

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.

Younger 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 (1 minute)

Timeline map (2 minutes)

Big picture question (1 minute)

Sing (5 minutes)

Key passage (4 minutes)

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Discussion starter video (3 minutes)

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

Prayer (4 minutes)

Small Group Leader

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Bible story review (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

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Welcome time

Arriving Activity: Clean a penny

- Allergy Alert
- old pennies
- ketchup, vinegar, lemon juice, water, baking soda, cola
- clear plastic cups
- erasers
- paper towels
- hand sanitizer (after handling money)

Set up a penny cleaning station. Put small amounts of ketchup, vinegar, lemon juice, water, baking soda, and cola in separate clear plastic cups. You can also try other items, like erasers. Give each kid an old, dirty penny as they arrive. Demonstrate that kids can just drop the penny into a cup, take it out, and wipe it with a paper towel. Encourage kids to see who ends up with the shiniest penny.

Say • With a little help, a very dirty penny can be almost like new again. In today's Bible story, a man asked Jesus to cleanse him from a skin disease. We'll find out what happened.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Doctor Find" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

Say • Where do you go when you are sick? What would you do if you didn't have a doctor? When Jesus lived on earth like you and me, people had someone even better than a doctor. We'll find out later why Jesus is better than a doctor.



Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: Are you willing?

In this game, a leader should ask the question “Are you willing ... ?” followed by a command. For example, “Are you willing to act like a chicken?” Each kid who is willing and follows the command moves on to the next round. Do not worry about winners; just play as time allows.

Here are some other commands you could use: Give someone you don’t know well a high five; jump up and down 10 times; snort like a pig; shout “I love Jesus”; and so forth.

Say • In today’s Bible story, a man knew Jesus could heal him if Jesus was willing. What do you think Jesus did? We’ll see if you are correct in just a few minutes.

Option 2: Don’t touch!

• tape

Tape a large square on the floor. Form four groups. Line up each group behind one of the four lines, facing the middle of the square. Explain that each group is going to crawl toward and across the opposite line. The first group to get the entire team across that line is the winner. They must follow only one rule: they may not touch anyone. If two or more players touch, even accidentally, they must go back to their start line and start over. Play again as time allows. If you have just a few kids, form two groups and invite them to play while facing each other. Repeat as time allows.

Say • Today, we will meet someone whom others were not allowed to touch. They were surprised when Jesus did the opposite.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

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Countdown

- countdown video

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

Introduce the session (1 minute)

- volleyball

[Large Group Leader enters with a volleyball.]

Leader • How many of you have ever played volleyball?

Today here at the Wacky Sports Center we are learning about a game similar to volleyball, only you can't use your hands. That's right! You have the court, a net, and a volleyball, but you can't use your hands or arms. People in several nations play this sport, which goes by different names. One of the more common names is *footvolley*. In *footvolley*, you use your head, chest, and feet to get the ball across the net. How many of you think you could do that? I'll give it a try. *[Attempt to footvolley a ball.]*

This game would be a lot easier if I could touch the ball with my hands, but I'm not allowed. That reminds me of a Bible story about a man no one was supposed to touch because he had a skin disease that made him very sick. People stayed away from this man because they didn't want to get sick too. Would you want to touch him? Let's find out what happened when he went to Jesus for help.

Timeline map (2 minutes)

Leader • One way Jesus proved that He is the promised Messiah from the Old Testament was by performing miracles. In many of those miracles, Jesus healed people from sicknesses. ***What happened when Jesus performed miracles? Jesus' miracles helped people believe in Him.*** We learned how Jesus healed a sick boy from far away.

We also learned how Jesus healed a man who had an evil spirit. Even the evil spirit knew Jesus is not just a man. ***What did the evil spirit know about Jesus? Jesus is the Holy One of God.***

Last time, we discovered how Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. She was thankful and immediately began to serve Jesus. We should be thankful to Jesus too. ***How can we show we are thankful to Jesus? We can serve Jesus and live for Him.***

Today, we will talk about a man who had a skin disease that left him sick and alone.

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • What do you do when you get a rash? You clean it, put some lotion on it, and sometimes take some medicine to treat it. The man in today's Bible story had leprosy. Leprosy is much more than a rash. It's an infection that makes people look and feel bad.

Leprosy can be treated with medication today, but this medicine didn't exist when Jesus was on earth. This man needed someone to take away the skin disease. He knew Jesus could heal him. Jesus can heal us from something too: sin. ***Who can take away our sin?*** I just gave you the answer, but let's see how Jesus' healing of our sin and this man's story are similar.

Sing (5 minutes)

- “This Is Amazing Grace” song

Leader • Sin is a lot like a sickness. When we get sick, we often need a doctor to help us because we can’t get better without help. Jesus is our doctor when it comes to sin. When we trust in Jesus, we are healed from sin. God sent Jesus because He loves us even though we don’t deserve His love. Do you remember what God’s undeserved love is called? It’s called *grace*. Let’s praise God for His amazing grace.

Sing together “This Is Amazing Grace.”

Key passage (4 minutes)

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- “Written” song

Leader • Jesus performed several miracles by healing those who were sick. Was the man with leprosy another one? We’ll find out. Let’s look at our key passage. It’s a reminder of why John wrote about these miracles.

Show the slide or poster of the key passage, John 20:30-31. Lead the boys and girls to read the verse. Sing together “Written.”

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- “Jesus Cleansed a Leper” video
- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster

Leader • It’s time for our Bible story. Turn in your Bible to Luke 5:12-16. We’ll find out if Jesus healed the man with leprosy. We’ll also discover the answer to the big picture question, ***Who can take away our sin?***

Show the “Jesus Cleansed a Leper” video or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read only the bolded text.

Leader • Jesus once again proved He has the power to do anything, even cure leprosy. If you had this skin disease during Jesus’ time, you would be forced to leave your home and your family so they wouldn’t get it too. The people called you *unclean*, and no one was allowed to

touch you. That's why the man wanted Jesus to make Him clean. That would mean that the leprosy was gone and he could return to his family.

Jesus told the healed man to go to the priest. The priest would declare that the man was no longer sick and offer a sacrifice for the man so he could go home. Jesus asked the man not to tell anyone what had happened, but the man told everyone what Jesus did for him. People started coming from everywhere to see and meet Jesus. Jesus had to go to other places to be alone with God to pray.

Jesus cleansed the man from leprosy. Jesus cleanses us from sin. ***Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.***

Ask the following review questions:

1. What was wrong with the man who visited Jesus? (*He had a skin disease called leprosy, Luke 5:12*)
2. What did the man want Jesus to do? (*to make him clean, Luke 5:12*)
3. What did Jesus do? (*healed him, Luke 5:13*)
4. What happened after Jesus healed the man? (*People heard about it and large crowds came to Jesus, Luke 5:15*)
5. ***Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.***

Discussion starter video (3 minutes)

• "Unit 26 Session 4"
discussion starter
video

Leader • Jesus was willing to help the sick man. Do you help others too? Watch this video.

Show the "Unit 26 Session 4" video.

Leader • Aiden needed help, but his friends wouldn't help him. What would you do? Do you help others when you can? What are some ways you could help at home or at

school? Aren't you glad that Jesus was willing to help heal us from sin? We are like the man with leprosy. Sin makes us unclean, but God is holy. Jesus lived a holy life and died to take our punishment for sin. He was willing to die so we could be saved.

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

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Prayer (4 minutes)

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Leader • Now let's see who can answer the big picture question. *Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.*

Form groups and give each group a piece of heavyweight paper. Write the word *SIN* in big letters using a pencil. Give each kid a small eraser. See which group can erase "sin" the fastest. As the kids compete, repeat the big picture question and answer several times.

Before transitioning to small groups, make any necessary announcements. Lead the kids in prayer. Pray that God will help the kids see their need to be cleansed from sin.

Dismiss to small groups

- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster
- heavyweight paper
- pencil
- erasers

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

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Key Passage: John 20:30-31

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

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- dry erase board and markers (optional)
- regular or construction paper
- marker

Make sure the key passage, John 20:30-31, is visible for each child, either as the printed poster or written on a dry erase board. Read the verses together.

Say • Are all of Jesus' miracles in the Bible? No! Jesus' disciples saw many more miracles like the healing of the man with leprosy, more miracles than we find in our Bibles. Why did John write about these miracles? Jesus wanted the people to know He is the Messiah, and He wanted them to know that they could be saved by trusting in Him.

Write the key passage in small phrases on regular paper or construction paper. Make three sets. If you have more than 12 kids, make a fourth set. Form three or four groups. Mix up the pages, and give each group a set of the key passage pages.

Each group should lay the pile of papers in front of them. Explain that a leader will say "touch." Then the kids should begin working together to put the key passage in order. Anytime the leader says "don't touch," the kids must immediately stop, dropping any of the pages they are touching. They may resume when given the "touch" command again. Continue until all the groups have put

together the key passage. Encourage the groups to see who can finish first.

Bible story review (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

Encourage the kids to find Luke 5:12-16 in their Bibles.

Help them as needed.

Say • The Book of Luke isn't the only book of the Bible that tells this story. Does anyone want to guess what the other two books are? (*Matthew, Mark*)
These books are part of which division of the Bible? (*Gospels*)

Use the small group visual pack to show kids where today's Bible story is on the timeline. Review the Bible story provided using the bolded text, or summarize the story in your own words. Each time you say "skin disease" or "leprosy," invite the kids to scratch their arms like they have a rash. Each time you say "clean," encourage them to act as if they are washing their arms.

Say • The man knew Jesus could heal him so he could return to his home and family and never be called unclean because of leprosy again. When the man went to see if Jesus was willing to make him clean, Jesus said He was willing. Jesus is also willing to make us clean. Sin is like a sickness that we all have. Jesus is the only One who can take away our sin.

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Say • *Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.*



- soap, 2 bars
- containers of water, 2
- Allergy Alert

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Pass the soap

Form two groups and give each group a container of water and a bar of soap. Invite each group to form a circle.

Note: You may wish to provide water and towels for kids to rinse the soap residue from their hands after they pass the soap to prevent their skin from becoming dry or irritated. Make sure kids do not touch their eyes after handling soap.

Choose a volunteer from each group to hold the soap, and then place the water across the room. The water containers should be an equal distance from each group. When you give the command “clean,” the volunteer should race to the container and drop the soap in it. Then he must pick up the soap and run back to the circle, passing the soap to his right.

Each group should continue passing the soap around the circle until it gets back to the first volunteer. If a player drops the soap, the last person to touch it must yell “unclean” take it to the group’s water container, drop it in, and take it back to the circle. If you would like, invite each kid to each say one word of the key passage or big picture answer before passing the soap. The first group to finish the verses or answer is the winner. If time allows, play again.

Say • Jesus was willing to make the man clean. We need Jesus to make us clean too. We need someone to take away our sin. *Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.*

Option 2: Soap art

- bars of soap, 1 per kid
- ziplock bags
- toothpicks
- Allergy Alert
- Optional items: temporary ink stickers, scissors, kid-friendly magazines, PVA glue, foam brushes

Provide a small bar of soap for each kid in a ziplock bag. Allow the kids to decorate the soap in one of a few ways. Kids can use toothpicks to carve pictures and words into the soap. Kids may also choose to use temporary ink stickers. Follow the instructions for the ink stickers, but put them on the soap instead of the skin. Kids can also cut out pictures from magazines and découpage the soap using white, non-toxic PVA glue. Apply one coat of glue to the soap. Hold a picture onto the soap for several seconds, and then apply a second coat of glue. Allow the glue to dry.

Place the finished soap in the ziplock bag. Regardless of the method of decorating the soap, remind the kids that the design will wash off if they use it. It is designed to be a decorative soap.

Say • Soap cleanses us from dirt. Jesus cleanses us from sin. *Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.*

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

- journals
- Journal Page, 1 per kid
- markers or crayons
- Bible Story Coloring Page

Distribute each child's journal and the journal page provided with this session. Instruct the kids to draw a picture of the man with leprosy after Jesus healed him. Writers can write the key passage.

Say • Who wants to volunteer to say the answer to the big picture question one more time? *Who can take away our sin? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.*

Make sure each child puts this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking Jesus for being willing to cleanse us from sin. Pray for each child by name, asking God to help the kids understand that Jesus wants them to share with Him when they feel bad and when they face difficult issues.

Jesus Performed Miracles

Key Passage: John 20:30-31

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

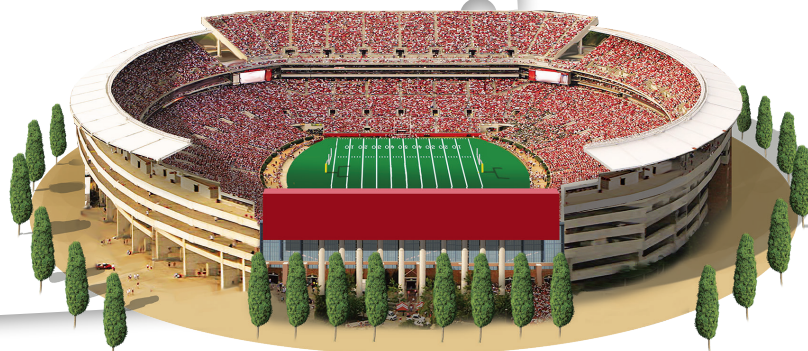
Session 2: Jesus Drove Out Evil Spirits
Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37

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 His disciples, which are not written in this book; 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 other 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
in his name.**

John 20:30-31

**And many other signs truly did
Jesus in the presence of his
disciples, which are not written in
this book: But these are written,
that ye might believe that Jesus
is the Christ, the Son of God; and
that believing ye might have life
through his name.**

John 20:30-31

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

John 20:30-31



Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, 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, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31





Who can take away our sin?



Who can take away our sin?

Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.







Doctor Find

Instructions: Circle the items below that you might find in a doctor's office.





ALLERGY ALERT



Today we will be tasting/
touching/sniffing:

**Please notify the leader
if your child should not
participate.**

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 **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*