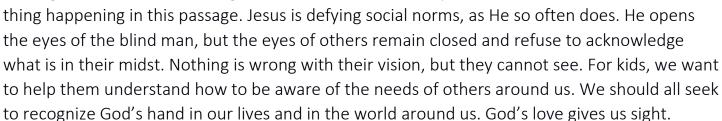
"Jesus Heals a Blind Man"

Home Sunday School Lesson on John 9:1-41

Open Your Eyes! Sunday School Lesson on Jesus Healing a Blind Man (Home Edition)

For this week's Gospel lesson story, we will focus on the importance of keeping our eyes open. The miraculous healing of a man born blind is great, but that is not the only



This "special edition" Sunday school lesson contains adaptations that are geared to doing at home, if circumstances present you with the need to stay away from the larger group church. With a little creativity, you can still guide your child(ren) through a fun and meaningful Bible lesson!

Lesson focus: This lesson looks at the miracle of Jesus healing a man born blind, all with some saliva and special instructions. We see the marvelous miracle that take place, but we also note that we need to "see" what God does in our lives, and what He would have us do in the lives of others.

Passage: John 9:1-41

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade (or whoever you might have at home!)

Materials Needed: Blindfolds; household objects; dirt; paper plates, cups, or bags; markers or crayons; water colors; scissors; glue; chocolate pudding, Oreo cookies (optional for snack).

More Ideas:

- Watch our children's sermon video on John 9:1-41
- Compare another Children's Church Lesson on Jesus Healing the Man Born Blind



Games & Lesson Introduction

If you are in the comfort of your home, or working with a small group, you have the blessing of flexibility with timing and activities. Feel free to kick things off and start conversation with any variety of openers. Additionally, you could sprinkle these throughout your "lesson" time, doing one in the beginning, one during the story, and one at the end. You might even want to extend an activity and do it at a later time in your day!

- What is that item? Let kids put on blindfolds to experience what life might be like without the sense of sight. Guide them around the house, using voice commands only if you need extra challenge. Have blindfolded kids feel, smell, or listen to various items around the house, and see if they can identify what the items are without seeing them.
- Blind drawing: how hard is it to draw without vision? Let kids draw a picture, or play
 Pictionary if multiple students are around. The catch: the person drawing cannot open
 their eyes or look at the paper while they are creating the image! (Use blindfolds for
 extra security.)
- Play "eye doctor": create your own vision testing chart, writing letters or shapes in varying sizes on a large piece of paper. Post the paper, and see how far away kids can walk and still recite the items on the paper. Have them try to describe the letters with one eye or the other closed.
- Eye tricks! There are some great "brain benders" out there, both in image format or in simple activities to try. For example: close one eye. Hold two pencils (one in each hand) far apart from each other, and try to bring them together so that they touch. It's harder than you'd think! Here are some other fun ideas:
 https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/nei-for-kids/cool-eye-tricks
 https://www.livescience.com/14093-optical-illusions-gallery.html
- Make your own "Braille." Learn about how blind people can read by using a special
 alphabet made with bumps and dots that their fingers can interpret. Have students look
 at the alphabet, and use a pencil or a chopstick to poke raised holes in a paper. Try to
 determine the message or words spelled using the Braille.
- Make some mud! Since Jesus healed the man by making mud, why not get a little dirty?
 Go outside and mix some water (or spit, if you want to be extra Biblically accurate!) with



dirt to stir up some mud. Hesitant about the mess? Make a "mud" snack inside by whipping up a batch of chocolate pudding! Pouring the milk "spit" into the dry mix will make a tasty goopy treat. Add extra "dirt" on top with some crushed up Oreo cookies!

After a couple of fun activities, talk about how amazing it is that we are able to see. God made our eyes so special, it's like a miracle. The parts of our eyeball take information to our brain, and the brain "reads" it and tells us what we are seeing. Even the eyelashes and eyebrows are important for keeping our eyes safe. It's remarkable! If you have extra time, you might even want to study up a bit on the eyeball, or do so later as an extending option. In today's Bible story, we are going to read about a man who was born blind. He couldn't see at all, and Jesus healed him! Some people, though, were not very impressed.

Ask: What is one thing you would miss if you couldn't see?



Bible Lesson: Jesus Heals a Blind Man

How you choose to experience the story will vary according to the ages and abilities of your children (and how many are participating). For younger children, you may wish to use a children's or storybook version of the Bible, and explain details as you go.

Older kids can take turns helping to read the story. You can also turn this into a skit and have children act out the various parts as you are reading the narrative. You might find a short video version to reinforce it.

If your students have longer attention spans, feel free to read the whole story at once, and then discuss questions. If it works better, break things up into chunks and pause for questions as you go along.

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. -John 9:1-7

Explain the significance of what Jesus did. By making mud, He was technically doing "work", which was forbidden on a Sabbath day. Jesus was explaining to His disciples that He was the light of the world, and was better than the specifics of the law. Also describe that people in the times of Jesus used to believe that physical trouble (like blindness) was the result of sin.

- Is it true that sin causes problems? (Yes, and all of us are sinners; however, people born with handicaps are not that way because of sin. They are just born that way).
- If a stranger came and gave you odd instructions (like Jesus did to this man), what would you do?



The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." -John 9:8-12

Ask kids why they think these neighbors didn't believe what had happened. Why did this seem so impossible?

Did the (formerly) blind man know who Jesus was? (*No, because Jesus sent him away to wash, so he never saw Jesus*).

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." -John 9:13-23

Explain that the church leaders were upset by what had happened. They were very focused on following the law, and couldn't believe someone who didn't abide by their rules could do something positive and miraculous.

- Have there ever been times when you were distracted from a blessing because you were focused on something different?
- What did the blind man say about Jesus? How do you think he felt about Jesus?



So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe" in the Son of Man? ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no quilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your quilt remains. -John 9:24-42

The Pharisees refused to truly "see" the amazing thing that had happened. Jesus opened the blind man's eyes, and He recognized a miracle. But the teachers were too inwardly concentrated. They were upset and threatened by Jesus. It might seem strange, but if we think about it, sometimes we can get so wrapped up in ourselves that we fail to see what God is doing around us. People are in need and hurting, both near and far. If all we look at are our own problems, we miss out on opportunities to help others. Consider a few closing questions:

- Why do you think it was easy for the (formerly) blind man to accept and believe who Jesus was?
- Do you ever have a hard time believing what God has done, or understanding how miraculous it is?
- Do we ever behave like the Pharisees in the story?
- How do you think we can try to keep our "eyes open" to the needs of those around us?

Close with prayer and thank God for Jesus. Ask for help to see those around us who need His love, and to appreciate what He has done in our lives.



"Jesus Heals a Blind Man"

Children's Sermon Object from John 9:1-41

Children's Message: Look with your Heart!

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

Main Objective: This story reminds us that there is more than one way of being "blind." That symbolism can be a challenging concept for young children to understand, since they tend to interpret



and grasp things in a more literal way. This message aims to express how marvelous, miraculous, and loving Jesus is. It also reminds kids that we need to be open to what God does in our lives, as well as what He wants us to do for others.

Law/Gospel Theme: In this specific story, Jesus is explicitly overcoming the Law. The letter of the law stated that no work could be done on the Sabbath, and by healing the blind man, He was technically "working." The church leaders were, of course, suspicious and worried about Jesus. Their eyes were closed to what amazing things He was doing. We have the blessed assurance of understanding that He has already overcome every obstacle, and because of His death and resurrection, we will ultimately be healed and renewed. If we open our eyes to recognize this, we find hope in Him, and joy in serving others around us.

Optional Materials: Pieces of paper or paper towel tubes (one per student)

Bible Passage: John 9:1-41

Message Note: As with most messages, the details of how you choose to communicate this are adaptable and should cater to timing as well as to your audience and student needs. Use your judgment and ideas to best serve students.

More Teaching Ideas on the Man Born Blind

- Children's Church Lesson on Jesus Healing the Man Born Blind
- John 9:1-41 Sunday School Lesson
- Crafts on Jesus Healing the Man Born Blind



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John 9:1-41 Children's Message

Greet the children, and hand each student a piece of paper or paper towel tube.

Hello, children of God! How are you? How would you like to see a neat little trick with your eyes? You know, your eyes can do some pretty amazing things. But I am going to show you how your eyes can put a hole in your hand. Do you believe I can do that? I'll also show you how to make your hand disappear completely! Check this out...take that paper I gave you (or tube; if not already rolled, have students roll up the paper pieces), and hold it over one eye. Keep both of your eyes open, but hold the paper up to it.

Now, hold out your hand (demonstrate as you invite students to do this: hold out the hand that is not holding the tube, palm facing toward you, near the end of the tube/paper). Bring your hand close to the side of the tube (slowly do the same to show students what is happening. It should appear as though there is a "hole" in the hand, due to the perception of the eyes).

Do you see the "hole" in your hand? Now, keep that hand held out next to the tube. Close the eye that is not covered by the tube/paper. Did your hand disappear? Open your eye. It reappeared again! This is wild and impossible? How is it happening? (Students can put their papers or tubes down as you go on to explain.)

Well, your eyes are really quite marvelous and miraculous things. You have two eyes, and it takes both of them to make a proper picture. Your brain interprets what the eyes are seeing, and you can process all sorts of things through that. In fact, your eyes can see over ten million different variations of color, and can focus on fifty objects in a second! There are muscles behind your eyes, and they are extremely fast, but never need rest. The eye is so complex, it's just amazing! But some people have eyes that don't see perfectly, and they might wear glasses or contact lenses. Some people aren't able to see at all. Can you imagine if all you could see was...nothing? (Hold up a paper or hand over one or two of the children's eyes to consider blindness.) That would be challenging. You couldn't watch cartoons, or find your favorite color of shirt, or play a video game...it would be hard not to see!

In today's Gospel story, Jesus met a man who couldn't see. This man was born blind. He had never been able to see, not once in his whole life. Jesus decided to heal the man. He took some dirt, and he mixed it with his own spit, to make mud! Umm, eew? Then he spread that mud on the blind man's eyes! Jesus told him to go wash up in a pool, and when the man did, he could



see again! It was a miracle! Some people weren't too happy about this, though. Some people didn't believe it was the same man as the one who had been born blind. Some people were angry because Jesus did "work" on the Holy Sabbath day, since He made mud and healed someone. The neighbors and church leaders were questioning the healed man, and his parents. They were so suspicious and upset that they missed out on appreciating this great miracle. They closed their eyes, in a way.

Did you know we have eyes in our hearts? Not actual eyeballs, of course...but we can think about seeing with our hearts when we consider our attitudes towards God and one another. If your thoughts and your actions are focused on yourself, it's hard to have a "vision" or see outside your own little problems and needs. You might be able to look at things with your eyes, but you'll be "blinded" to what God is doing, or to the things other people need and are doing. It's like closing your eyes, or wearing goggles that don't let you look around.

God wants us to recognize that HE is the light. He should be our vision and desire. Jesus is the light of the world, and our heart eyes should seek Him. Jesus sometimes said that people did not see things clearly, even if they could see with their physical eyes. That's how some people missed out on HIM and the amazing things He did! So let's keep our eyes open, spiritually and physically. We can look around to know what others need. We can keep our minds on God, and what He wants to do in our lives. Why don't we pray and ask for help in doing this well?

Children's Prayer Moment

(Have kids repeat each line)
Dear God,
Thank you for your miraculous work
You do amazing things in the world and in our lives
Thank you for the TRUE stories of the Bible
Help me to open my eyes
So that I can love and serve those around me
Thank you for your love
We love you, God!
In Jesus name, Amen!



John 9 New International Version (NIV) Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. ¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. The Pharisees Investigate the Healing ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for



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himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" ²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." ³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" ⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

John 9:1-41 NIV





This lesson was prepared by <u>Kristin Schmidt</u>, who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

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Kristin has a professional background in elementary and preschool education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May

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- Sunday School Games, Bible Crafts, and Worship Songs for Kids
- Don't miss our new sister site <u>Sunday School Works!</u>



Craft Ideas Jesus Healing a Blind Man

Cleansed and Renewed...Open Your Eyes! Craft Ideas for Jesus Healing a Blind Man

There are many wonderful miracles in the life of Christ. One of the healings that memorably stands out is the blind man who received sight after the application of a homemade mud mask. There is something deeper in this story, though. Jesus healed the man's vision, but there were others watching who refused to "see" what happened. God wants us to look not only with our eyes, but with our hearts. This means we are to pay attention to those around us, as well as to God's work in our lives. We trust God's power and presence, in the Bible and in our lives today. Here are some fun crafts to accompany the story.

Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider...

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes... -Psalm 19:8

I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. —Isaiah 42:16

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Ephesians 5:8-10

"I will keep my eyes open to see God's work around me!"

"The eyes of my heart are on the Lord."

"Lord, reveal your purpose and people to my eyes."

"No longer blind...God works amazing miracles in my heart!"



Craft one: "Open your eyes puppet"

You will need:

- Paper plate, bag, or cup
- Scissors
- Google eyes
- Markers or decorating materials
- Glue and/or tape
- Popsicle sticks

Procedure:

- 1. Decorate a paper plate, cup, or bag, whatever you prefer to make your puppet.
- 2. Create a face, making one side of the plate "blind" with closed eyes.
- 3. On the other side of the plate (or cup or inside the flap of the bag), glue or draw eyes, making the man able to "see" again.
 Alternatively, you can place just one face on the paper item, and apply a blindfold or "mud pack" that is lifted.
- 4. Glue a stick to one side of the plate or cup, if you'd like to hold the puppet up.
- 5. Attach a verse or caption, and use the puppet to act out the story!









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Craft Two: "The Eyes of the Heart"

You will need:

- Paper, paper plates, or cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue
- Google eyes
- Decorative materials (markers, fabric paint)

Procedure:

- 1. Cut the paper or paper plate into a heart shape.
- 2. Decorate the heart, adding a verse or caption as well as pictures.
- 3. Glue eyes onto the heart, using just a pair or several eyes.
- 4. Hang to display, if desired, as a reminder of the story and theme.







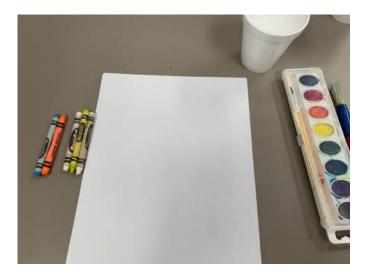
Craft Three: "Invisible images"

You will need:

- Paper
- Crayons, including some light colors
- Watercolor paints and brushes
- Water and clean-up materials

Procedure:

- Draw a picture or write a message on the paper using crayons. White or light colors are especially recommended. It will be difficult to see, but worth it in the end!
- 2. Press hard with the crayons for best results.
- 3. Using the watercolors, paint over the crayon picture.
- 4. Watch as the white crayons are revealed and the picture "comes to life"!



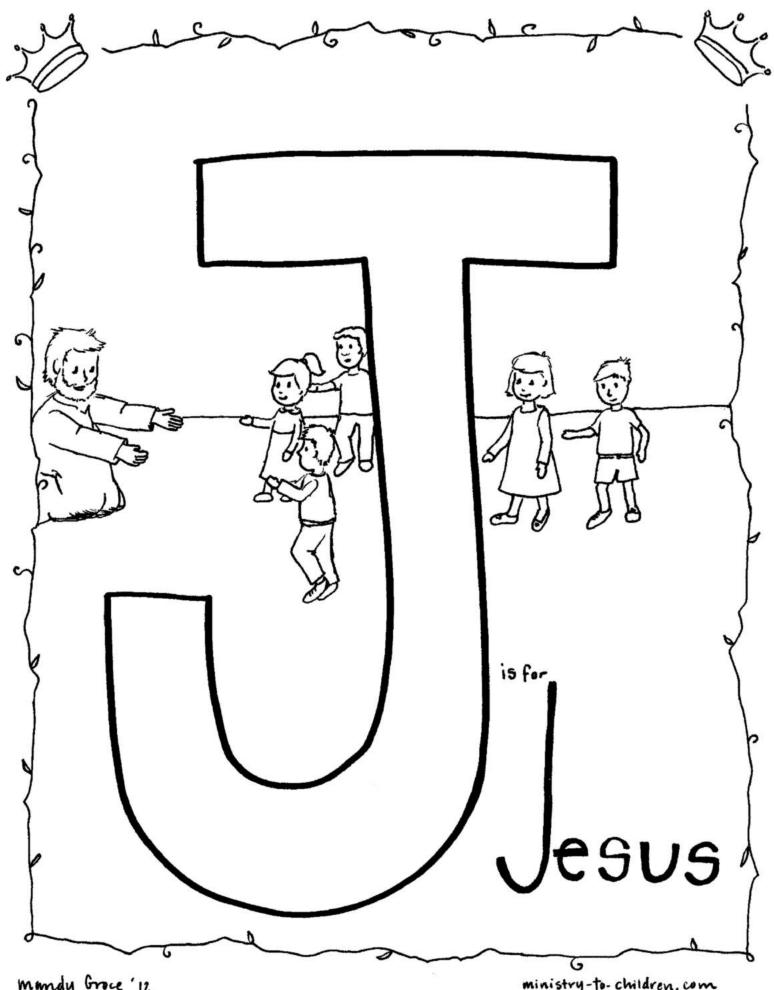




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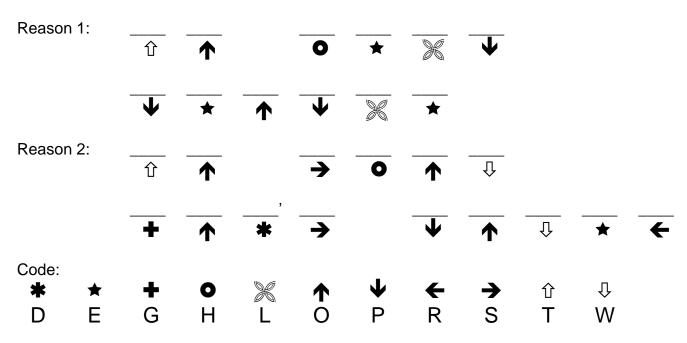
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Learn About

Miracles

Miracles are supernatural acts that only God can do. Jesus is God, so he did miracles. He calmed a storm, provided food for many people, healed all kinds of sicknesses, and even made dead people alive again!

Why Did Jesus Do Miracles?



Lots of Problems

Jesus helped people with lots of different problems. Find these words in the puzzle.

BLIND (can't see) LAME (can't walk) SAD LEPER (skin disease) DEAF (can't hear) **SCARED HUNGRY** MUTE (can't speak) SICK Α Η U Ν G R Υ Ε L Τ С S Α R Ε I D S D Α E Ρ U Α Ν Т U M ı R O Ε R Т C Ν Α Ε F 0 S Ε В L Ν D K

Jesus Stopped a Storm

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen. Sometimes Jesus and the other disciples went with them in the boat. One day a storm came, and Jesus' friends were scared. Jesus made the storm stop!

Read Mark 4:37.	Read Mark 4:39.
Draw a picture of the boat in the storm.	Draw a picture of the boat after the storm.

Someone to Help

Sometimes God doesn't make our problems go away, but he sends someone to help us. For each problem, draw a line to the person who might be able to help.

If this happens...

God might send...

Your dad loses his job

A new friend at school



A tutor to help with school work



Your homework is really hard

A church friend with groceries

