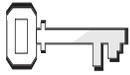


Seeing Is Believing



References

John 9; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 470-475



Memory Verse

“One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” (John 9:25, NIV).

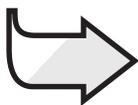


Objectives

The children will:
Know that they serve others when they tell them the good news of Jesus.

Feel a responsibility to tell others what Jesus has done for them.

Respond by joyfully sharing what Jesus has done for them.



The Message

I will tell others what Jesus has done for me.

Monthly Theme

Jesus calls us to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus restores the sight of a man who was blind from birth. The healed man is brought to the Pharisees for questioning. They also question his parents, who verify that it was their son who was healed, and that he was definitely born blind. The former blind man explains how he was healed, and that his Healer must be from God. He is thrown out of the synagogue. Jesus finds the man and invites him to believe in Him. The man commits himself to Jesus as a believer.

This is a lesson about service.

Anyone can tell someone what Jesus has done for them personally. No one can dispute it, and it has a genuineness that is compelling. Such personal sharing can create in the hearts of listeners a desire to know Jesus, the One who will help them too. Telling others what Jesus has done is a blessing to the speaker and the listener.

Teacher Enrichment

Regarding Jesus' use of saliva in healing: “The healing virtue of saliva was a matter of widespread belief in the ancient world. By making a paste of dust and spittle, Jesus may have symbolized the creative act of Gen. 2:7. He sealed the eyes and then sent the man to the pool of Siloam to wash away the clay. Modern excavations have shown that Siloam was an extensive reservoir which drew its water through a subterranean canal running from northeast to southeast from Gihon. Hence the Hebrew name which meant ‘Sender,’ originally given to this canal. The evangelist has taken the word as a passive participle, Sent, and sees in it a cryptic allusion to the name so often used of Jesus, ‘He who was sent’” (George Buttrick, ed., *The Interpreter's Bible*, vol. VIII [New York: Abingdon Press, 1952], p. 615).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Blind Sitting</i> B. <i>Blind Drawing</i>	large tin can or upside-down bucket to sit on, blindfold, Bibles blindfolds for half of the children, markers, newsprint or paper, Bibles
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbooks Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy, He Is Our Song</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container used last week <i>Sing for Joy</i> songbooks
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	a blindfold for each child rebus puzzle (see p. 45) Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Tell It Like It Is!</i>	paper, cellophane tape, crayons or markers
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>What Jesus Has Done</i>	sheet of paper, pencils, markers, crayons

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- large upside-down bucket or tin can to sit on
- blindfold
- Bibles

A. Blind Sitting

Place a large upside-down bucket (or tin can) on the floor somewhere in the room. Blindfold one child and turn them around. Ask the child to go and sit down on the bucket. Give each child only one attempt. When they have sat down on the spot where they believe the bucket is, untie the blindfold and let them see how well they did. As time allows give others an opportunity to try.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was this a fun or frustrating experience? Why?** (Wait for responses.) **How did you feel when you thought you sat down on the bucket, but it wasn’t there?** (It was funny; I was embarrassed, etc.) **What does this experience teach us about being blind?** (It isn’t easy to live that way, etc.) **Let’s find and read John 9:25 together.** Read aloud. **Our Bible story today is about a blind man who had a special reason to share about Jesus. We can tell others about Jesus too. Today’s message**

says:



I WILL TELL OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- blindfolds for half of the children
- markers
- newsprint or paper
- Bibles

B. Blind Drawing

Have the children form pairs and find a place on the floor to sit. Give each pair a blindfold, a marker, and a sheet of newsprint or paper. Choose one child to be blindfolded. Have the partner who’s not wearing the blindfold put the marker in their partner’s hand and place the newsprint on the floor in front of that person.

Say: **Those of you who are not blindfolded are going to hold your “blind” partner’s hand (demonstrate) and draw a picture on your newsprint. Don’t tell your partner what you’re helping them draw. After one minute, I’ll tell you to stop. Then we will see how many “blind” partners can guess what they have drawn. No talking while you are drawing.**

Let the children change places and repeat the activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **How difficult was it to guess what you were drawing when you were blindfolded?** (It was hard; it was easy, etc.) **How was it to help someone who couldn’t see?** (interesting, funny, etc.) **What did you like best, to be the “blind” person, or the helper? Why?** (Await responses.) **Our Bible story is about a blind man**

who was helped by Jesus. Let's find and read John 9:25 together. Read aloud. Now you know how Jesus helped the man. He learned to tell others about Jesus. Today's message tells us that we can do that too.



I WILL TELL OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "God Calls Us" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 130)
- "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129)
- "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 133)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134)
- "Pass It On" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 130)—theme song with new words from Lesson 1.



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **When we give mission offerings, we help tell others about Jesus.**

You Need:

- container used last week



Prayer

Have the children sing "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13) as a thank-You prayer to God. Ask: **Do you have a friend who doesn't know what good things Jesus has done for you? Think of that friend right now. Let's bow our heads for a silent prayer. Pray for that person, and that you will have the courage to tell them what Jesus has done for you.** Close with a short prayer.

You Need:

- *Sing for Joy* songbooks

Bible Lesson

You Need for each child:

- a blindfold

Experiencing the Story

Before you start the story, make each member of your class “blind” by applying a blindfold.

They are to remain “blind” during the story until you get to the part where Jesus tells the blind man to wash in the Pool of Siloam. At that point, have the children remove their blindfolds and receive their sight back. *Unless you have a child who is blind, then please modify this activity.*

Read or tell the story.

A blind man sat beside the road and begged. He had been born blind, and there was nothing else he could do to support himself.

Sometimes he wondered why he was born blind. He thought it was his parents’ fault. People believed that sickness, blindness, and other problems came to people who sinned.

He heard a crowd of people coming closer. “Please give! Please give!” the blind beggar cried. “Help the poor blind among you.”

He heard a man asking, “Who sinned? This man or his parents? Why was he born blind?”

The blind man strained his ears. He wanted to hear the answer. “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened to bring praise to God.”

Then the blind man felt some mud being put on his eyes. Jesus’ kind voice said, “Go and wash your eyes in the Pool of Siloam.”

The blind man obeyed. Someone led him to the pool. He washed off the mud. *[Have the children remove the blindfold.]* The sun was shining! He could see people!

Colors painted the whole world!

Some people weren’t sure it was the same man they had seen begging. But he insisted, “I am the man!”

“How is it that you can see?” they asked.

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” (John 9:11, NIV).

Jesus had healed the blind man on the Sabbath. Some people were not happy. The leaders said that Jesus broke the Sabbath. Others said Jesus was bad, so He could not have made a blind person see. They tried to show that the blind man’s healing wasn’t real. But the man who was born blind said to them, “One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see! If Jesus is not from God, He could not open the eyes of a man born blind.”

The leaders became very angry with the healed man. They believed that he was born blind because he was a sinner. They did not want God to help someone who was a sinner. And they did not want this healed man telling people what Jesus had done for him. So they put the man born blind out of their church.

Jesus found the man and asked, “Would you like to believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is He, sir?” the man asked.

Jesus said, “You have now seen Him; in fact, He is the one speaking with you.”

The man said, “Lord, I believe.” He fell on his knees and worshiped Jesus.

Jesus told him, “I came to this world to make the blind see, and to show those that think they see how blind they are.” Jesus was talking about spiritual blindness as well as being unable to see with one’s

eyes. There are people living today who are spiritually blind because they cannot or will not see Jesus as their Saviour. Jesus wants us to help them know Him by serving them with love and kindness.

Debriefing

Say: **How did you feel when you couldn't see at the beginning of our story?** (I felt sorry for those who really can't see.)

What did Jesus do to the blind man? (Put mud on his eyes.) **What did the man do?** (He washed the mud off in the pool of Siloam; praised God.)

What two miracles happened in our Bible story? (Jesus made the blind man see, and the blind man accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour.) **Has Jesus done something for you?** (yes)

Why would it be good to tell someone about it? (Because I want them to love Jesus and be blessed by Him too.)

Remember our message?

I WILL TELL OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

Say that with me.

You Need:
• rebus puzzle

Memory Verse

Ahead of time, make a rebus puzzle of the memory verse for all to see (see sample below). Have the children read it with you a few times. Then ask them to say it from memory. Or use the motions to teach the memory verse.

"1 thing  do know.  was
now  blind but C."

Bible Study

Divide the children into four groups. Make sure there is someone who can read in each group.

Say: **Let's read in our Bibles about the blind man in today's story.** Have all groups follow along as you read aloud John 9:1-7. **Now we will read in our groups about some other blind people Jesus cured.** Assign each group a different Bible passage: Matthew 9:27-31; Matthew 12:22, 23; Mark 8:22-25; Mark 10:46-52. Have them read it out loud in their own group. Then have someone from each group report to the whole class on the assigned passage.

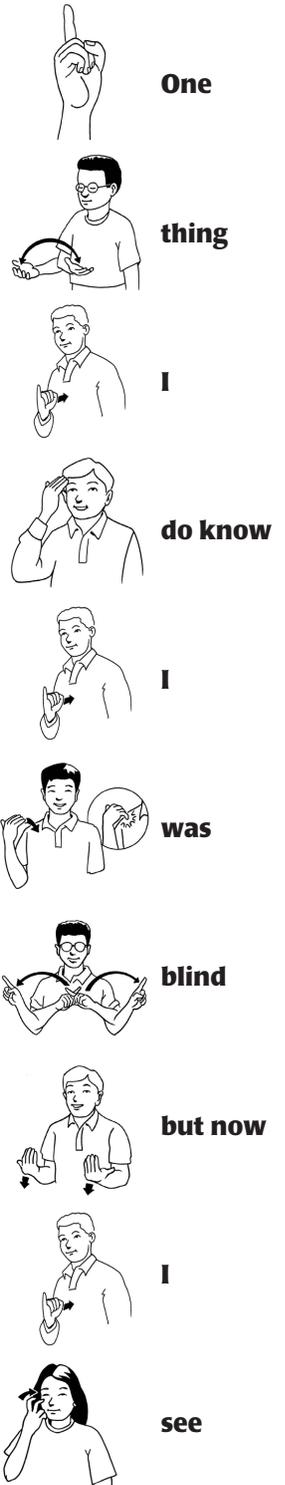
Debriefing

Discuss the various ways Jesus used to give the people their sight back. Then ask: **How would you feel if you had mud on your face as you tap your way to the Pool of Siloam to wash it off?** (I'd feel messy and embarrassed.)

Notice that the man who was born blind didn't argue. The blind man obeyed and came back seeing. What will you do when Jesus gives you instructions? (I will obey; maybe I'll complain at first.) **What will you do when Jesus helps you? Let's answer with our message:**

I WILL TELL OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

You Need:
• Bibles



John 9:25

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- paper
- cellophane tape
- crayons or markers

Tell It Like It Is!

Distribute paper and crayons or markers. Let the children decorate their paper. Then roll the paper into a cone shape to make a megaphone and tape each one.

Share with the class an interesting experience that tells about something Jesus has done for you. Encourage each child to find their own words to tell someone about something Jesus has done for them. Explain that even though they don't know everything about Jesus, they can tell what they know, just as the blind man did.

Form pairs and have the children use their megaphones to tell their story to each other.

(For example: The man born blind told others about what happened to him. He didn't understand all that had happened to him, but he said, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see.")

Debriefing

Say: **You could tell your partner something about what you heard, even though you didn't know about every detail.**

Is it important that we understand everything in the Bible before we can tell others about Jesus and what He has done for us? Why? (If we waited for that we would never tell others about Jesus. Sharing even one verse that we know will do much good.)

Why is telling others about what Jesus has done for you so powerful? (People enjoy stories, and if it happened to you, it is more real.)

Let's say our message again:



I WILL TELL OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

4

Sharing the Lesson

What Jesus Has Done

Ask the children to think for a minute of one thing that Jesus has done for them individually. Ask for volunteers to share this with the class. Then ask: **How many of you know one person with whom you can share what you just shared with us? Maybe it is the same person you told about Jesus last week.**

Distribute paper and art supplies and say, **Let's make a card for that special person. Fold the paper to make a card and draw a picture of something Jesus did for you. Also, write some words that tell about your picture. Write "Dear (name of person), Jesus did this for me. I love Him. He loves you too."**

It will be easier for the children if you copy the words on the board where all can see. Then have the children sign their names. Adults assist as needed.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think about tell-**

ing others what Jesus has done for you? Allow time for discussion.

Say: **Many people are worried and unhappy. When you tell what Jesus has done for you, you will help them to learn how to be happy and not to worry. Take a member of your family with you when you deliver your card. Make plans to deliver it soon.**

Let's say today's message one more time:



I WILL TELL OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

Closing

Pray for the people that the children told about Jesus last week, and for those who will receive their cards in the coming week. Then sing the "Pass It On" theme song (*He Is Our Song*, no. 130; new words found in Lesson 1).

Remind the children to use their Bible Study Guides every day and to do the daily activities.

You Need:

- paper
- pencils, markers, crayons

Seeing Is Believing

References

John 9; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 470-475

Memory Verse

“One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” (John 9:25, NIV).

The Message

I will tell others what Jesus has done for me.

Have you ever awakened in a room that was so dark that you couldn't see a thing, not even your own hands? How would you manage if everything around you was that dark all the time? That's what it is like to be blind.

A blind man sat beside the road and begged. He had been born blind. There was nothing else he could do to support himself.

Sometimes he wondered why he was born blind. He thought it was his parents' fault. People believed that sickness, blindness, and other problems came to people who sinned.

He heard a crowd of people coming closer. “Please give! Please give!” the blind beggar cried. “Help the poor blind among you.”

He heard a man ask, “Who sinned? This man or his parents? Why was he born blind?”

The blind man strained his ears. He wanted to hear the answer. “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened to bring praise to God.”



Then the blind man felt some mud being put on his eyes. In a kind voice Jesus said, “Go and wash your eyes in the Pool of Siloam.”

The blind man obeyed. Someone led him to the pool. He washed off the mud. The sun was shining! He could see people! Colors painted the whole world!

When people asked him how he was able to see, he told them what Jesus had done. (See John 9:11.)

Jesus had healed the blind man on the Sabbath. Some people were not happy about that. The leaders said that Jesus broke the Sabbath. Others said Jesus was bad, so He could not have made a blind person see. They tried to show that the blind man's healing wasn't real. But the man who was born blind said to them, “One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see! If Jesus is not from God, He could not open the eyes of a man born blind.”

The leaders became very angry with the healed man. They believed that he was born blind because he was a sinner. And they did not want this healed man telling people what Jesus had done for him. So they put the man born blind out of their church.

Jesus heard about this, and He looked for the man. When He found him, He said, “Would you like to believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is He, sir?” the man asked.

Jesus said, “You have now seen Him; in fact, He is the one speaking with you.”

The man said, “Lord, I believe.” Then he fell on his knees and worshipped Jesus.

Jesus told him, “I came to this world to make the blind see, and to show some who think they see how blind they are.”

The man born blind shared with others what Jesus had done for him. He even told those who didn't love Jesus. Have you shared with someone what Jesus has done for you?

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go for a Sabbath walk with your family. At the end of your walk blindfold each person except one. The person without the blindfold collects various objects (a piece of bark, feather, moss, etc.). Those who are blindfolded take turns touching the objects with one finger and trying to guess what they are.
- Remove the blindfolds and read your Bible lesson story. Read and discuss John 9:25.

Sunday

- During family worship read John 9:1-12. Thank Jesus for sight.
- Write your memory verse. Divide it as follows: One thing / I do know. / I was blind / but now I see! / John 9:25
- Make five cutouts of an eye. Write one section of the memory verse on each cutout. Attach each to string or yarn. Tie or tape the strings to a coat hanger in order. Hang your mobile where you will see it every day.

Monday

- Read and discuss John 9:13-17 for family worship. What did the man born blind say Jesus did for him? (verse 15) Tell your family something that Jesus has done for you.
- What is braille? Find out who invented braille and why. Make braille like this: With a pin, poke holes from the back of thick paper to make raised dots. Touch them with your fingertips. The raised dots can make words for blind people to read.
- Thank Jesus for your sense of touch.

Tuesday

- With your family, read and discuss John 9:18-23. The healed man's parents were afraid to tell what Jesus had done for their son. Why? (verses 22, 23)
- Why do some people wear glasses? How many people do you know who do?
- Look at your memory verse mobile. Then say

the verse without help.

- Sing "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134). Ask Jesus to help you let your light shine.

Wednesday

- Read and discuss John 9:24-34 for family worship.
- Evangelists are people who share the good news about Jesus with others. Was the healed blind man an evangelist? Why? How can you be an evangelist? Ask Jesus to help you.
- Draw a picture of the blind man telling the Pharisees and others about being healed. Write your memory verse on this picture.

Thursday

- Together with your family read and discuss John 9:35-41.
- Write a short letter to the Pharisees telling them what you wish they had done. Also tell them what Jesus has done for you.
- Did you give away the card you made in Sabbath School that shows what Jesus has done for you? Pray for the person you gave it to.
- Say your memory verse to an adult.

Friday

- At the beginning of family worship: (1) Put on a blindfold; then try to (2) pour water from one glass to another; (3) write your name on a piece of paper; and (4) cross out the name you wrote. How did you feel?*
- Act out the Bible story with your family. Say your memory verse as part of your act.
- The healed man told others about Jesus before he really knew Him. Read John 9:35-38 together. You already know Jesus. Do you tell others what He has done for you?
- Sing "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13) before prayer. Ask Jesus to help you be willing to tell others what He has done for you.

*Adapted from *Kathie Reimer, 1001 Ways to Help Your Child Walk With God* [Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1994], p. 164.)