

Lesson Ten

“Do You Want to Get Well?”



Growing as a Teacher

Scripture

John 5:1–18

Bible Truth

Jesus revealed himself as the powerful Savior by healing the invalid at the pool of Bethesda and commanding him to stop sinning.

Lesson Aim

To believe that Jesus is the promised Savior and to turn away from sin by his power.

Memory Verse

Review:

But these are written 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 20:31

We typically shake off the common cold and everyday aches and pains quite easily. But what about serious ailments and long-term health problems? To whom do chronic sufferers turn for help? Our hope and trust must ultimately be in the Lord, no matter *what* our physical condition or *how long* we have suffered.

In this week's Bible story, we find that Jesus not only dealt with a man's physical paralysis, but more important, he focused on the invalid's spiritual condition. The consequences of his sin were far more important than any physical problems.

Whether we are healthy and strong, under the weather or truly disabled, we all need forgiveness of our sins. Christ's miracles serve to direct us to who he is and the demands he makes on our lives. As sinners, we acknowledge our utter depravity and complete inability to save ourselves. Only he has power to heal our hearts, restore our souls and renew our minds—and heal our bodies, if he so chooses. Jesus is sovereign in all areas of life.

Pray that the children in your care will grasp this truth, and grow in faith that will sustain them through whatever circumstances they face in life.

Bible Background

Jesus did not heal all of the blind, lame and paralyzed at the pool. He singled out one man and healed him. On another occasion, Jesus healed everyone, laying his hands on all the sick who came to him (Luke 4:40). Whether he chose to heal few or many, each miracle of Christ must be seen as evidence of Jesus' sovereignty.

Also, the purpose of each miracle of Christ must be seen in the context of this week's memory verse, John 20:31: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Jesus' signs and miracles point to him as the Christ, the Promised One, the Messiah. By believing in him, we have eternal life.

However, the self-righteous Jewish leaders refused to listen to Jesus, recognize his deity or acknowledge his power and authority (John 5:17–27, 39–40). Without the eyes of faith, they were blind to their own sin and spiritual paralysis: They not only persecuted the Son of God, but determined to kill him.

Lesson Ten at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
1 Welcome	5-10	Watch a Pete Puppet skit to get ready for the Bible story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pete Puppet*
2 Bible Time	15-20	Listen to the man who was sick tell how Jesus healed him.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 10 Healed Man* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional:</i> Bible-times clothing
3 Memory Verse	5-10	Play <i>Move the Water</i> to review John 20:31. If time permits, review Luke 18:16.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 1c Memory Work* <input type="checkbox"/> Large plastic bowl or tub <input type="checkbox"/> Water and towel <input type="checkbox"/> Small plastic ball <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bag
4 Activities	10-15	Do activities reinforcing that Jesus has power over sickness and sin.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 10</i> ** <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil
5 Final Focus	5	Say prayers asking the Lord Jesus to help us trust in him as the only Savior, the only One who has power to take away our sin.	

Total time: 40-60 minutes

* Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack
** Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack



Enrichment

Make a clothesline story-line. Place a clothesline from one corner of the room to another. Have on hand a supply of clip clothespins. Give the students paper and markers. Tell them to summarize the Bible story in pictures. When they are through, have them number the pictures and hang them up in the correct order. Leave it up for a session or two as a reminder of the powerful Savior who healed the sick man at the pool of Bethesda.



Practical Preparation

Check the chart above and collect all the supplies you need to teach the lesson. Practice the Pete Puppet skit ahead of time; know the material thoroughly so that you do not have to read from the manual to do the skit.

Study the Bible story. It is told from the point of view of the man who was healed. Dressing for the part can add a great deal of interest to the story. Prepare the TA 10 pictures for display by separating them along the perforated lines (see sidebar, p. 7).

You will play a game called *Move the Water* to review John 20:31. Bring a large plastic bowl or tub, a small plastic ball and a large garbage bag to class. Fill the bowl or tub half full of water and set it aside in a safe place in the classroom. Keep the ball and garbage bag handy. You will need these items during the Memory Verse step.

Be sure to have sufficient copies of *At Home 10* and sharpened pencils on hand.



Welcome

5-10 minutes

Welcome everyone, then turn Pete Puppet toward you as you begin the skit.

Under the Weather

Pete: *(groans)* I feel soooo awful.

Mom: *(concerned)* What's wrong, Pete?

Pete: *(sighs)* My head hurts and my arms and legs ache.

Mom: I'm sorry. Maybe we can . . .

Pete: *(interrupts)* Will I ever get better? It's not fun to be sick.

Mom: *(gently putting her hand on Pete's forehead)* I think you have the flu. How about some chicken soup, a fruit popsicle and a few of your favorite things?

Pete: *(brightens)* You mean my quilt, stuffed animals, three favorite books, best toys, videos and . . .

Mom: *(interrupts)* It sounds like you're getting better already!

Pete: *(sniffs)* Well, *after* I've had a fruit popsicle and some other stuff, I *might* feel a little better.

Mom: *(bugs Pete)* Time for chicken soup and lots of tender loving care!



Ask the children how it feels to be ill. Allow time for discussion and listen carefully as the children share their experiences, feelings and reactions. There may be a child with a physical disability or someone in your class who is chronically ill; be sensitive to his or her special needs. Some children may not want to talk about illness or physical disability, and they should not feel compelled to do so.

At the end of the discussion, say Many of us have felt like Pete, under the weather for a day or two, or even a week. But today we are going to meet a man who was very sick for 38 years, and there was no doctor who could help him. He couldn't get up and move around. Then one day something very special happened!



Bible Time

15-20 minutes

Before you begin telling the story from the point of view of the man who was healed, turn to John 5:1-18 in your Bible. Tell the children that today's Bible story is found in this part of the Bible. Remind the children again that they are hearing God's truths, not just good stories.

Early Arrivals



Have paper and pencils available for early arrivals to make a list by drawing pictures or writing names of friends and relatives—people at home, church or school—who are ill or have special physical problems. Provide help with writing and spelling only if a child asks for it. When children are finished, add the lists to the bulletin board and pray for each individual during the final unit this quarter.



Teaching Tip

When a child is showing you a drawing, you can gain more insight and get better information if you respond with the request, "Tell me about your picture" rather than by asking, "What is this?" or trying to interpret it yourself.



Bible-Times Clothing

Wear Bible-times clothing as you tell the story: a bathrobe or simple cloth tunic and a towel or square of cloth for headgear will do.



Teaching Tip

When a topic for discussion elicits more responses than you can fit into the allotted time slot, divide the children into pairs or small groups and allow them to share with each other rather than you. This gives more children a chance to tell what was important to them, and prevents them from feeling ignored or neglected.



Did You Know?

The pool of five porches described in John 5:1–15 has very likely been discovered by archaeologists. The site where Jesus healed the disabled man lies near the Sheep Gate, in Jerusalem's Old City.



Hello, everyone. You wouldn't guess it to look at me, but I just recently walked for the first time! That's right. I spent 38 years lying on a mat, not able to move. Would you like to know what happened to me?

For many long years I lay on my mat by the pool of Bethesda. *Display the picture of a man lying on a mat (TA 10).* Lots of other people were lying there, too. Some were sick; others couldn't see; some, like myself, were unable to walk.

Every once in a while, the waters would bubble and churn. When this happened, friends would hurry to put the sick and disabled people into the water before the swirling stopped. It was commonly thought that the first person who could get into the bubbling water would get better. Each time the waters swirled around, I hoped someone would help me get into the pool first—but it never happened. So I just lay there year after year, unable to move.

Then one day a man came up to me and said, "Do you want to be made well?" I told him that I had lain by the pool for years, but I had not been able to reach the moving waters. Then the man simply looked at me and said, "Get up. Pick up your mat and walk!"

I was instantly healed! I stood up, rolled up my mat and started walking. *Put up the picture of the healed man carrying his mat.* It felt wonderful to get up and move about for the first time in 38 years!

As I was walking along, the Jewish leaders stopped me. "You are not supposed to work on the Sabbath. It's against the law to carry that mat," they said.

These men didn't even seem to notice the wonderful thing that had happened to me. So I just said, "The man who healed me told me to pick up my sleeping mat and walk."

"Who is this man who told you to pick up your mat and walk?" they demanded.

I told the Jewish leaders that I didn't know. The man who healed me had disappeared into the crowd.

I thought that I had seen the last of the man who made me well, but later, when I came to the temple, he found me there and began speaking to me. "See, you are well again," he said. "Stop sinning or something even worse may happen to you."

I told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed me. *Display the picture of the leaders.* The Jews went to find Jesus to argue with him about what he had done. Jesus explained that he was doing what God wanted him to do. They even wanted to kill him because Jesus said he was equal with God. But Jesus was not afraid of the men.

"My Father is always at work to this very day, and I, too, am working," he said.

At this point, as the narrative changes from the healed man to the teacher, remove the headgear and say The day that Jesus healed this man probably was the most amazing day of the man's life. Everything Jesus claimed, he proved to be true, for he is the powerful Son of God. Only Jesus can take away both sickness and sin.

3

Memory Verse

5-10 minutes

Have the children stand in a large circle. Place the garbage bag on the floor in the middle of the circle. Put the plastic bowl half-filled with water on the garbage bag. Hold the ball in your hand. Tell the children that they will play a game called *Move the Water* to help review the memory verse, John 20:31. To show them how to play, do the following: toss the ball into the bowl of water; if you hit the target, the water will ripple. Say **I moved the water, so now it's my turn to lead you in saying John 20:31.** Walk over to the memory verse poster and lead the class in saying the verse: **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.** Ask **What does moving the water remind you of?** (*the pool of Bethesda that was stirred up*)

Have the children take turns tossing the ball into the water and leading the class in saying the verse. If a child feels unsure about leading the class in the memory work, he or she should feel free to ask you or someone else to do it. However, make sure that everyone has opportunity to try to toss the ball into the water. It will help them remember the pool of Bethesda and what Jesus did there, *and* it is a fun way to memorize John 20:31.

Throughout the game, discuss the meaning of the verse:

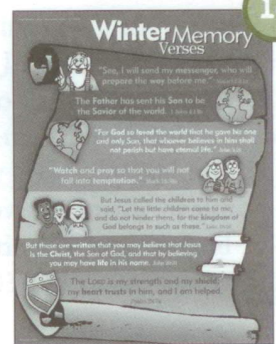
- **But these are written: What things are written?** (*the miracle-signs that Jesus did in John's gospel*)
- **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: Why were they written down?** (*so we will believe in the Savior, God's Son*)
- **and that by believing you may have life in his name: What happens when we believe in Jesus?** (*we have eternal life in his name*)

If time permits, lead the students in another round of *Move the Water* to review Luke 18:16 as well.



Teaching Tip

Remove the bottom seam and slit open the garbage bag to cover a larger area. If you have a drop cloth or old shower curtain, you may want to use that instead to protect the floor from splashes.





4

Activities

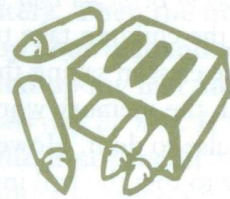
10-15 minutes

Give each child a copy of *At Home 10*. Make sure that there are pencils and crayons or markers for everyone. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

In *Jesus Is Powerful*, help the children not get lost as they work around the circle. Encourage them to point at each letter or to "X" out the ones they are to skip. **Answers: 1. healed, 2. sinning, 3. power**

In *Jesus Heals*, read aloud the captions and decide how to number the boxes. As the children work, discuss what Jesus meant about his Father working. **Answers: (3, 1) (5, 2) (6, 4)**

At the end of this step, turn to the back page of *At Home 10*. Take a minute or two to read *Emma's BMW* to the class.



5

Final Focus

5 minutes

To conclude the lesson, you may want to spend a little time talking about the fact that Jesus did not heal all the sick and disabled people who were lying by the pool of Bethesda; he healed only one man. On another occasion, as recorded in Luke 4:40, he healed everyone. Jesus is sovereign over every area of our lives. Today, too, he doesn't always choose to heal all our physical problems. But he is willing to forgive all our sins when we ask him to and to give us hearts that love him.

Close in prayer, asking the Lord to forgive the wrong things that we do and to help us trust him as the Savior who has the power to heal sickness and take away our sin. Thank and praise him that when he died on the cross, he wiped out our sins forever. If you have time, encourage the children to pray sentence prayers thanking Jesus for what he has done for them.

Be sure that the children have their take-home papers as they leave.



Item to Send Home

○ *At Home 10*