

Bible Story

Jesus' Early Miracles • Mark 1:21-45

Story Point

People came to Jesus and He healed them.

Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

Big Picture

What makes people special?

People are special because we are made in God's image,
as male and female, to know Him.

FOR PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study

Early in His ministry, Jesus and His disciples traveled to Capernaum, a town on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum became Jesus' home and headquarters. (See Matt. 4:13.) He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, when people would gather to hear and learn from the Scriptures.

Jesus quickly set Himself apart from the scribes and other religious teachers. Unlike the scribes, who relied completely on traditional interpretations of the Torah from other teachers, Jesus spoke with authority. His teaching came from His own authority as the Author of truth, and it had a profound effect on His listeners—they were astonished!

The early miracles recorded in Mark 1 demonstrate Jesus' power and authority as the Son of God. Jesus drove an unclean spirit from a man in the synagogue; even the demons obey His commands. Then Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, and that evening the people in the town brought to Jesus all those who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits. What did Jesus do? He healed them! (Mark 1:34)

Jesus' miracles continued, and He healed a man with leprosy. *Leprosy* is a skin disease that would have marked a person as “unclean,” requiring him to be separated from the community. Jesus had compassion on the man and healed him immediately.

Jesus' miracles brought many people to faith in Him. They also proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. These miracles strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Isaiah prophesied that the promised Messiah would bear our sickness and carry our pain. (Isa. 53:4) Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He healed people.

Help kids make the connection that through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life for all who would trust in Him.

Let's Get Started Activity: Are you willing?

Tell kids that you need a volunteer. Decide on a task (see suggestions) and explain the task to the volunteer and then ask, “Are you willing to do that?” If he is not, let him sit back down. If he is, give him the opportunity to complete the task. You can add your own ideas too! Repeat with new volunteers for each additional task.

Sample tasks:

- Sing the happy birthday song.
- Give everyone a high-five.

Pretend you are a cat for the rest of the game.
Do 10 jumping jacks.
Show us your best dance moves.
Pretend that you are underwater for 30 seconds.

What You Say:

In today's Bible story, a man believed Jesus could help him if Jesus was willing. Do you think He was? Let's find out.

Bible Lesson: Jesus' Early Miracles • Mark 1:21-45

Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Jesus Heals Many

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy

⁴⁰ A man with leprosy^[a] came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

⁴¹ Jesus was indignant.^[b] He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Discuss

- Jesus was at the synagogue in Capernaum. Who else was there? (*Jesus' disciples and other Jews*)
- A man with an unclean spirit shouted out. What did the unclean spirit know about Jesus? Look at Mark 1:23-24. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*] Jesus is the Holy One of God. Unclean spirits were quick to recognize Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man, and the spirit obeyed Him.
- Why was the crowd amazed at Jesus? Look at Mark 1:27. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*] Jesus wasn't like other teachers, who taught things they had learned from others. Jesus taught with

authority. He even had authority over unclean spirits.

- News about Jesus spread throughout the area. **People came to Jesus, and He healed them.** They brought their friends and family members who were sick, and Jesus healed them all.
- Jesus' early miracles showed His power and authority as the Son of God.

Christ Connection

Jesus' miracles proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. They strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

Additional Questions for OLDER KIDS:

What You Say:

Jesus traveled all over Galilee. He taught in synagogues and told people the good news about God's kingdom. **People came to Jesus, and He healed them.** Large crowds of people followed Jesus around—from Capernaum in Galilee to Jerusalem to Judea and across the Jordan River.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- How did Jesus' miracles show His care for creation? *Guide kids to discuss how Jesus' miracles restored parts of creation that were affected by sin coming into the world. Jesus cast out unclean spirits, made sick people well, and healed skin diseases. Explain that later in His ministry, Jesus also raised people from the dead, gave sight to people who were blind, and ultimately brought the greatest healing—forgiveness of sins—through His death and resurrection.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 77:14.)
- Do we need to see miracles to believe in Jesus? Why or why not? *Point out that many people saw Jesus' miracles and believed, but Jesus said those who do not see and still believe are blessed. The Bible tells us everything we need to believe in Jesus.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 20:29-31.)
- In what ways does God reveal Himself today? *Lead kids to recognize that God shows us what He is like through the Word—the Bible. The Bible says we can also understand what God is like by looking at His creation. Invite kids to share observations of creation that tell them something about what God is like.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 1:19-20.)

Big Picture Question

In today's Bible story and the stories for the next few weeks, think about our Big Picture Question. This question helps us remember that God is doing something bigger beyond the specific events of the story. The question is, ***What makes people special?*** This is a great question. Jesus spent a lot of His time on earth with people. Here is the answer: ***People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.***

Questions from Kids, Bible Story Video

Show the Bible Story video and then the Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to think about God's ability to perform miracles. Guide them to discuss evidence they can recognize as proof that God is still at work in the world today.

Missions Moment

Ask kids if they know how sports can be used in missions. Some will remember previous mission stories involving sports evangelism.

Every sport you play and every hobby you enjoy can be used to share the love of Jesus. In the Bible, we read that **people came to Jesus, and He healed them**. Jesus heals people today, too, by forgiving their sins and offering eternal life. Let's watch how a basketball player is sharing that message with people in Nevada.

Play the "Better Than Basketball" missions video. Then pray for Heiden Ratner, who is sharing the gospel.

Memory Verse

Show the Memory Verse Poster to the kids. Lead them to say it together.

God is love. He loves the world he created. ***What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.*** Yet the unbelieving world does not love God. The world is an enemy of God and fights against His rule and reign. Since sin entered the world, the world has believed the lie that God is not good and loving. This is a lie from Satan. God is so good that He loves His enemies. His love compelled Him to send Jesus into the world. Let's say our Memory Verse again together to help us remember the verse.

Prayer

Lord God, as we learn more about You, we are amazed at all You are. No one is like You. The unclean spirits obey You. You have power over sickness and You want to help us! Give us faith to trust that You will give us everything we need. Thank You for forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. We love You. Amen.

Craft Idea: Memory Verse Door Hanger

What You Need: printed templates, glue, scissors, construction paper or cardstock (white or colored)

What You Do:

Print out templates to make your craft. Cut out the pictures and verse phrases. Glue into appropriate boxes on the template. If printed on copy paper, consider gluing onto construction paper or cardstock to make it sturdy.

If you cannot print, use cardstock, construction paper or copy paper to make your own door hanger. Create and color your own pictures and write out the verse. Cut out as you would if you had the printed template and glue in the appropriate places. If using paper, fold in half lengthwise and glue back to back to give it more stability. Don't forget to cut out the circle to create the hanger part of the craft and then cut diagonally from the side to the hole to open it up (see sample).

Hang the Memory Verse craft on your doorknob or share with neighbors by placing it on their doorknobs. If you share with neighbors, be sure to let them know you are thinking of them by writing a short note somewhere on it!

