

**Bible Story**

Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame • John 5:1-8

**Story Point**

Jesus healed a man who could not walk.

**Memory Verse**

“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” **Isaiah 53:4-6**

**Big Picture**

**Why did God create people?**

God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

**FOR PARENTS: Bible Study**

Located in the city of Jerusalem, the pool of Bethesda was a place many believed to possess healing powers. People who were sick or disabled went to the pool in hope of being made whole. They believed an angel would stir up the waters, and the first person to get in would be healed. (Some translations include this detail in verse 4; but since the earliest and most accurate manuscripts do not include the detail, most contemporary translations omit it as well.)

Jesus sought out a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been disabled for 38 years. Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to get well?” The man, not recognizing who was talking to him (see John 5:13), explained his inability to get to the pool in time. Filled with compassion, Jesus commanded this man: “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” After decades of helplessness, the man was instantly healed. He picked up his mat and walked.

At this time, Jesus slipped away through the crowd. So when the Jewish leaders approached the man, asking questions about the healing and accusing the man of breaking the law by picking up his mat on the Sabbath, the man could not even identify who healed him. Yet Jesus sought out the man a second time. Jesus found the man in the temple and warned him, “Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.”

Jesus cared about the man’s body; He had healed it. But Jesus cared more about the man’s soul. As you teach kids, emphasize that the man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus’ commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.

## **Let's Get Started Activity: Paper Chatterbox**

**What You Need:** print out Chatterbox and Instructions

### **What You Do:**

Print a copy of the chatterbox instructions for each kid. Help kids follow the steps to create a chatterbox. Let kids choose partners to play with the chatterboxes. The partner will choose one of the colors. The creator will open the chatterbox in each direction, one time for each letter in the name of the color. Then the partner will choose one of the visible numbers, and the creator will open the chatterbox in each direction based on the chosen number. Then the partner will choose a flap to open. The partner should complete the action written beneath the flap. Continue as time allows and interest remains.

### **What You Say:**

Today in our Bible story, we are going to hear about a command Jesus gave to a man who could not walk. Jesus told the man, "Pick up your mat and walk." Let's open our Bibles to John 5:1-8 and find out what happened.

### **Bible storytelling tips:**

**Use dramatic conversation:** Stand or kneel in one place as you speak Jesus' dialogue. Sit in another place as you speak the dialogue of the man who was lame. After his healing, speak his dialogue standing up.

**Call for active listening:** Challenge kids to count how many times they hear the word *healed*.

## **Bible Lesson: Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame • John 5:1-8**

### **The Healing at the Pool**

<sup>5</sup> Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda<sup>[a]</sup> and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. <sup>3</sup> Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. <sup>[4] [b]</sup> <sup>5</sup> One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" <sup>7</sup> "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." <sup>9</sup> At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, <sup>10</sup> and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

<sup>11</sup> But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

<sup>12</sup> So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"

<sup>13</sup> The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." <sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

### **The Authority of the Son**

<sup>16</sup> So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. <sup>17</sup> In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

### **What You Say:**

God the Son came to earth in the flesh—as a baby born in Bethlehem. Around 30 years after He was born, Jesus began His ministry. He taught people about God and His kingdom. As He traveled, Jesus interacted with many people. We saw how **Jesus healed ten men, and one was saved**. Later, **Jesus healed a woman and**

**raised a girl from the dead.** Today we learned **Jesus healed a man who could not walk.**

### **Discuss**

- The pool of Bethesda was in the city of Jerusalem. People who were sick or disabled went to the pool in hopes of being made whole. They believed an angel would stir up the waters, and the first person to get in would be healed. The man Jesus met at the pool had been disabled for 38 years, and he had been lying at the pool a long time. What question did Jesus ask the man? Look at John 5:6.
- [Allow kids to read the verse and respond.] The man explained that he was never able to get to the pool before other people got in.
- Jesus had compassion on the man. What did He tell the man to do? Look at John 5:8. [Allow kids to read the verse and respond.] **Jesus healed a man who could not walk!**
- When the Jews saw that the man was healed, were they amazed by this miracle? No! They told the man that he was breaking the law by picking up his mat because it was the Sabbath. The Jews were also upset with Jesus for breaking their laws and for claiming to be God the Son.

### **Christ Connection**

The man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus' commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.

### **Additional Questions for OLDER KIDS:**

**What You Say:** Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem.

#### **Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:**

- Why did Jesus heal the man who was lame? *Prompt kids to recognize that the man did not ask for healing. He had been disabled a long time and seemed hopeless. The man did not even recognize Jesus, but Jesus showed compassion to the man and healed him—instantly and completely. The man experienced Jesus' power. Help kids realize that Jesus does not always heal people; sometimes His plan for someone involves sickness. But we can trust that Jesus is always working for His glory and our good.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 8:28.)
- How does Jesus give hope to sinners? *Lead kids to recall that the man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus' commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 71:5.)
- What do Jesus' healing miracles teach us about God's kingdom? *Point kids to the words of the prophet Isaiah about how the world would change when the Messiah comes. Isaiah said the Messiah would make the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the mute sing. God's kingdom is one of restoration and healing. He shows His grace through healing today. We look forward to the day when Jesus returns and makes all things new.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 1:15.)

### **Activity Page**

Invite kids to complete the activity page. Guide kids to unscramble the letters to find what is the Bible story title. Challenge kids to see what other words they can make with the letters.

#### **What You Say:**

Did you know that selection of letters can form more than 2,300 words? All of the letters can be used together to spell the title of today's Bible story. It's called "Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame."

### **Big Picture Question**

Does anyone remember our big picture question? [*Allow kids to respond.*] **Why did God create people?** Let's say the answer together: **God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.**

This is an important truth to keep in mind as we read the Bible. When you hear a Bible story, remember that God is doing something bigger behind the scenes. He created each person with a purpose.

### **Questions from Kids, Bible Story Video**

Show the Bible Story video and the Questions from Kids. Prompt kids to think about why God allows some people to have disabilities. Guide them to discuss how they can show love to people of all abilities. What do they know to be true about God that helps them trust His plan and purpose for all people?

### **Missions Moment**

Show the picture of Amy Carmichael and the story "A Special Healing"

### **What You Say:**

We have been learning about many people whom Jesus healed. In today's Bible story, **Jesus healed a man who could not walk.** The missions story that we will hear today is about a time when missionary Amy Carmichael, or "Amma," asked Jesus to heal her friend.

Choose a volunteer to read the short story about Amy Carmichael's friend Arulai. Close in prayer, thanking God for the ministry of Amy Carmichael and praying for any missionaries your church supports.

### **Prayer**

Lord God, we see in Your Word that You care deeply about people. You created us to worship You, love You, and bring You glory. You sent Your Son to free us from the power of sin and death by dying on the cross. Father, as we struggle with sickness or injury or the limitations of our bodies on earth, help us trust in You. We look forward to the day when Jesus will return and get rid of sickness and suffering forever. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.