

Bible Story

Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind • John 9:13-38

Story Point

Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind.

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

In the Old Testament, Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah. Isaiah 35:5-6 tells about a time when “the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.” When God the Son came to earth, He came as a Healer—removing skin diseases, raising the dead to life, making the lame walk, and giving sight to the blind.

John 9 gives us a glimpse of the kingdom of God, where creation is redeemed, and opens our eyes to the greater purpose of suffering in our lives. The disciples asked Jesus a question that many still wrestle with today: Why is this person suffering? (In this case, why was this man born blind?) Was it because of sin?

Jesus’ answer gives hope to anyone facing suffering: “Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him” (John 9:3). Because Jesus is Lord over everything, all suffering in this life has meaning and purpose.

Miraculously, Jesus gave sight to the man who was blind. The man’s neighbors noticed the change, and he told them what Jesus had done for him. But the reaction of the religious leaders—skepticism and unbelief—reveals a different kind of blindness: spiritual blindness. Sin keeps us from seeing what is true about God. Jesus came as light into a dark world. He helps us see what is true so we can know God.

Those who trust in Jesus are freed from sin and worship Jesus as Lord. We can live fully in the light of Jesus as we seek to make Him known to others so that their eyes might be opened to the truth of the gospel as well.

Let's Get Started Activity: Twenty questions

What You Do:

Choose a volunteer to be “It”. Assign the volunteer a topic (*animals, countries, foods, sports, famous people, jobs, and so on*). “It” should think of a word that fits the topic and write it on a piece of paper. Turn the paper facedown and begin the round.

“It” should announce the topic and then they will answer yes-or-no questions from the rest of the group as they try to figure out what word *It* wrote on the paper. At any time, a kid can guess the word. If they are correct, that person becomes “It”. Play another round with a new topic.

What You Say:

Asking questions is a great way to get answers about something you don't know. In the Bible story we will hear today, a man who was healed did not know who the Son of Man is. Jesus opened the man's eyes to the truth about Jesus. I can't wait for you to hear more. Let's open our Bibles to John, chapter 9, verses 13-38.

Bible Lesson: Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind • John 9:13-38

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 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.”

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

Spiritual Blindness

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.

Discuss

- **Why was the man born blind?** (so God's works might be displayed in him, John 9:3)
- **How did Jesus heal the man?** (Jesus mixed spit and dirt, put the mud on the man's eyes, and told him to wash it off; John 9:6-7)
- **What did the religious leaders do to the healed man?** (threw him out of the synagogue, John 9:34)
- **In what ways are we like the man born blind?** Guide kids to consider what it means to be born in sin. Help them see that spiritual blindness prevents us from being able to pursue God on our own. Guide kids to discuss what it feels like to be in darkness. Point out both the fear of the dark that some have and also the practical limitations of doing things in the dark.
- **Why do you think Jesus calls Himself the Light of the world?** Help them understand the ways in which Jesus "lights up" our life, such as helping us see and understand God's truth, giving us joy, and helping us walk in obedience to God. Point out that, while it is difficult to do things in the dark, light helps us work.
- **How can we be given "spiritual sight"?** Direct kids to think about the message of the gospel. Help them see that they cannot earn salvation, but it is given freely to those with faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. Remind them that with salvation comes new life and the Holy Spirit's help to love and obey God.

What You Say:

Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind. In a similar way, Jesus gives us spiritual sight when we trust in Him. God forgives our sins and opens our eyes to see the truth of His Word. The Holy Spirit helps us love and obey God.

Christ Connection

Our sin makes us unable to see the truth about God. Jesus came as a light in a dark world. He came to give us sight—true understanding of God and His kingdom. Those who trust in Jesus see who He is and worship Him.

Additional Questions for OLDER KIDS:

What You Say:

Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind. The man had been blind since birth, and Jesus told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. The pool was in Jerusalem. After the man washed, he could see! The man learned that Jesus is the Son of God, and he believed in Jesus.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- Why was the man in today's Bible story born blind? *Lead kids to recall Jesus' answer to the disciples: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him." Emphasize that Jesus was saying that the man's blindness was not a consequence of their sin. Sometimes our suffering is caused by our own sin, but often suffering is the result of living in a fallen world.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 1:5-6.)
- How does knowing Jesus cause us to think differently about suffering? *Guide kids to consider how the Lord is at work beyond what is happening immediately around us. Instead of feeling angry or hopeless, we can live with the hope that God is in control and will one day make all things right. Jesus took on the ultimate suffering by dying on the cross in our place so that we can endure suffering on earth and enjoy eternity with Him.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 8:22-23.)
- How can you share your story to tell others about Jesus? *Remind kids that when his neighbors and the religious leaders asked the man what happened to him, he told them how Jesus had healed him. We can share how Jesus saved us and changed us.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 9:10-11.)

Activity Page

What You Do:

Have kids complete the activity page.

What You Say:

Did you know that your eyes are one of the most complex organs in your body? Each of your eyes has more than a million optic nerve cells. Your eyes work together with your brain, taking in information all day about the things around you. Could you imagine not being able to see? Today, more than 39 million people in the world are blind. That was the reality for the man we heard about in today's Bible story.

During His ministry on earth, Jesus taught people about God and His kingdom. He also healed people! **Jesus healed ten men, and one was saved.** Later, **Jesus healed a woman and raised a girl from the dead.** Last time, we learned how **Jesus healed a man who could not walk.** In today's Bible story, **Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind.**

Big Picture Question

What You Say:

In order to make sense of what Jesus did in today's Bible story, we need to review our big picture question:

Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

God didn't just create people and leave them on their own. God wants to have a relationship with us through Jesus. He knows us and loves us, and He made us with a purpose. Let's say our big picture question and answer one more time: ***Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.***

Questions from Kids, Bible Story Video

Show Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to think about what they can do if God seems far away during hard times. Guide them to discuss ways they can encourage someone who feels alone or hopeless.

Show the Bible story video "Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind."

What You Say:

Jesus' disciples saw a man who was born blind. They had a question for Jesus: "Why was this man born blind?" They wondered if he was blind because he had sinned or maybe because his parents had sinned.

What did Jesus say? Look at John 9:3. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*] The man's blindness wasn't some kind of punishment for sin. God had a greater purpose for this man's life and suffering.

What did Jesus tell the man to do? Look in your Bible at John 9:6-7. [*Allow kids to read the verses and respond.*] **Jesus gave sight to man who was blind.**

The man's neighbors were amazed, but the religious leaders did not want to believe that Jesus has power to heal. The man had been physically blind, but the Jewish leaders were spiritually blind. They did not see the truth about Jesus.

Missions Moment

Show kids the Dohnavur Fellowship photos. Invite them to examine the photos and read the captions.

What You Say:

We've been learning about missionary Amy Carmichael and how she spent her whole life helping others. She started an orphanage called Dohnavur (don-AH-vur) Fellowship in a small village in South India where kids could experience the healing, love, and power of Jesus.

Kids there today still learn about "Amma," the woman who loved children and told them about Jesus. Today, the fellowship is more than a home for children who do not have a family. It is also a farm, a hospital, a church, a dairy, and a school for children of all ages. God has grown the work "Amma" started, and kids today still experience the love of Jesus at Dohnavur Fellowship.

Pray for the kids in India who are hearing the gospel. Thank God for the work of missionaries around the world. Also pray for any missionaries your church supports.

Prayer

Father, thank You that we can gain spiritual sight by faith in Your Son. Help us see the truth of the gospel and have courage to tell others about You. Open the eyes of those we interact with so they can see You and have a relationship with You through Jesus. Amen.

Fun Activity Idea: Dirt and Worms

What You Need: 12 chocolate cream-filled sandwich cookies, 1 (3.9 oz pkg instant choco pudding mix, 2 cups milk, 3 oz pkg gummy worms, ziplock bag

What You Do:

Help kids to follow these instructions to make a dirt and worms dessert.

(Note: Makes approximately four servings. Increase quantities for a larger group.)

- Seal the sandwich cookies in a ziplock bag and crush them into crumbs. (Option: Remove the filling before crushing the cookies.)
- Whisk together the milk and pudding mix. Stir for about two minutes.
- Sprinkle a layer of cookie crumbs in the bottom of a cup. Spoon a layer of pudding on top, followed by another layer of cookie crumbs.
- Top with one or two gummy worms.
- Refrigerate until serving.

What You Say:

When you enjoy your dirt and worms dessert, remember that **Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind.** Jesus used dirt to make mud and put it on the man's eyes. When the man washed off the mud, he could see! Our sin makes us unable to see the truth about God. Jesus came as a light in a dark world. He came to give us sight—true understanding of God and His kingdom. Those who trust in Jesus see who He is and worship.

Father's Day Crafts Ideas:

<https://www.bhq.com/holidays/fathers-day/crafts/fathers-day-crafts-for-kids/>