

Spring Lesson 4

Bible Passage: John 9
Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Ponder Point: Jesus Heals

Remember Verse

Practice this unit's Remember Verse with your child and talk about what it means. What character traits of God do you see in this verse that might connect to the Big God Story?

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Psalm 145:8

Connect Question

Discuss this Connect Question together and try to think about how it might apply to today's Big God Story.

What is the biggest mess you've ever made or been in? When was a time when you or someone you know was really sick or needed healing?

Big God Story

There is an optional Storytelling video to accompany today's Big God Story!

Today, in *The Big God Story* we're going to hear the story about Jesus healing the man who was born blind. In the story, Jesus heals a blind man, who then teaches the religious leaders about true faith. Today's story highlights that **JESUS IS HEALING**.

Before we hear more, let's pray together. *Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

Invite kids to open Bibles to John 9:1–3 and follow along. The Bible says, "As [Jesus] went along, he saw a man blind from birth" (v. 1). The blind man was begging for money because he could not work. Jesus' disciples also saw the man, and they asked Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (v. 2). Jesus showed this man love and respect by explaining that this blindness wasn't about the man's sin: "This happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him" (v. 3). Wow! Jesus was saying that this man's life was going to bring God glory! That makes me think something good was about to happen!

After Jesus said this, He did something really interesting. Jesus spit on the ground and mixed it with dirt to make mud.

Then Jesus put the mud on the man's eyes. "'Go,' [Jesus] told him, 'wash in the Pool of Siloam' [si-LOH-uhm] (this word means 'Sent'). So, the man went and washed, and came home seeing" (v. 7). Jesus restored this man's vision! He could see! What does it mean to restore something? *Encourage responses.* Great thoughts. To restore something means to repair it to its original condition. When we are healed, we are restored to our original condition or better!

When the man's neighbors saw him, they knew something miraculous had happened. So, they took him to the Jewish religious leaders, the Pharisees, to see what they had to say about it. The Pharisees asked the blind man "how he had received his sight" (v. 15). The man responded, "He put mud on my eyes ... and I washed, and now I see" (v. 15). This started an argument among the Pharisees, who thought the blind man was lying about being healed. So, they called in the blind man's parents to see if he had really been born blind. His parents said it was true, but the Pharisees *still* couldn't believe it!

You might remember how God commanded the Israelites not to work on the Sabbath—to rest from working on one day each week. In Jesus' day, the religious leaders followed that, but they also added a lot of extra restrictions that God never required. These leaders believed that mixing mud was work. So, the Pharisees thought Jesus had sinned, and they called the blind man back in.

Knowing Jesus had restored him, the blind man told the Pharisees, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (v. 25). "If this man were not from God, he could do nothing" (v. 33). The Pharisees were outraged and threw the man out!

When Jesus heard about this, He went to find the blind man and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" (v. 35). Remember, this was the first time the man had seen Jesus. The man responded, "Who is he, sir? ... Tell me so that I may believe in him" (v. 36). Then, "Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you'" (v. 37). Wow! Jesus, the Son of Man, the Messiah whom Israel had been expecting for thousands of years, valued this man so much and showed him so much respect that He came to see the man personally. The man replied, "'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (v. 38).

Jesus restored the blind man's sight and brought the man into relationship with Him. Jesus wants to restore things to how they should be—both physically and spiritually. And today, God still restores us because He loves us. *Tell a story of a time God restored something in your life, physically, emotionally or spiritually.*

God might have a plan to restore you or someone you love to better health. He might have a plan to restore your heart from pain and sadness to joy and peace. **God wants His glory to be revealed through your life, and He will restore you!**

Reflect Questions

Use these discussion questions to help kids understand and process the day's lesson.

What does the word heal mean?

How did Jesus heal the blind man? John 9:6

Why do you think Jesus used mud to heal the blind man? John 9:6

How did Jesus' healing point to God? John 9:31–33

How does God heal us today?

How can we be open to God's healing?

Is there a place in your life where you need God to heal you (emotionally, physically, spiritually, relationally)? What is it?

Blessing

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide. As you bless your child, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Open a Bible and read Jeremiah 17:14:

Lord, heal me and I will truly be healed.

Save me, and I will truly be saved.

Lord, you are the one I praise.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may you know God has power over death and that He alone gives life.**

Worship as Response

This time allows kids to respond to God through worship in creative ways. Feel free to respond with your child through this suggestion or another way God may be inspiring you.

SUPPLIES

- Poster board
- Permanent marker
- Red construction paper
- Pens
- Tape or glue
- Worship music (Check our YouTube playlist!)

Draw a large outline of a heart on the poster board and write "Jesus, Restore Us!" at the top. Tear up the red construction paper into pieces.

The Bible says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you." (Ephesians 1:18) The hope that we have in Jesus is that someday we will be restored – body and soul – to the life He intended for us to have in relationship with God.

Sin separates us from God and hurts our hearts. But because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, God has opened up the way for complete restoration. If we are willing, God can restore our hearts broken by sin. He works to restore us to a whole relationship with Him!

After a moment of prayer, tell your kids they can declare their openness to God's restoration in their lives by taping or gluing the pieces of paper inside the heart outline. They can also write things on those pieces of paper that they would like to be restored in their lives. Play worship music during this time.