

Jesus Heals the Blind Man

A Lesson Set written by Beth Tobin from:
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Art Workshop: Creation Station

Teaching method: Create a personal “Power” light switch plate to take home by decorating the switch plate with paint pens. Explore the story of Jesus healing the blind man. How did Jesus’ healing the blind man help the disciples and others to see more clearly as well? How are we able to see more clearly too?

Leader Preparation:

Read the scripture for this lesson. John 9:1-12

Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.

Make a sample switch plate for all to see.

Gather the following materials:

Bibles

One switch plate for each student.

Paint Pens

Paper place mats or paper to provide a work surface for painting.

Opening:

Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to your workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults. Shepherds will be taking attendance while you are starting your lesson.

Ask: Has there ever been a time when you couldn’t see? (Party games, at night, when it is dark etc...) Allow time for sharing.

Say: In order to see, there needs to be light. God made our beautiful world and we get to enjoy seeing all of the colors and textures that surround us. He made the light, and separated it from the darkness. Without light, we can not see.

In our story today, Jesus heals a man who was blind from birth. Once healed, the man could see God's beautiful world and his family and friends. I wonder what the disciples saw and what they learned about Jesus as they watched him heal the blind man?

Let's pray:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for our time together today and for everyone here! Thank you for your healing powers and for being our light in the world. Help us to learn more about you and give us strength to share your light with others. Amen.

Dig In:

Distribute Bibles. (Encourage bringing Bibles - 3rd grade and up.)

Ask: Where in the Bible would we read about Jesus healing people? (New Testament)

What are the first four books of the New Testament?

What do we call those first four books? (the Gospels)

Say: The word Gospel means "good news". The good news about Jesus is that he has God's power to heal and forgive sins. Jesus forgives our sins.

Have everyone find John 9:1-12. Read the scripture together. [See 'Review the Organization of the Bible.']

Say: As this story starts, the disciples want to know how this man was blind from birth.

Explain: Before Jesus came, people thought that if you were sick, you had done something bad - you had sinned - and the illness was your punishment. The disciples wanted to know if the man or his parents had sinned.

Ask: How does Jesus answer them? (God's work might be REVEALED in him.)

Ask: What does revealed mean? (Shown, made known)

Explain: Jesus plans to use this man's illness for a good cause. He wants people to know that he has authority over sin, sickness, and death - over the whole world!

Ask: What does Jesus say he is in verse five? (I am the light of the world.)

Ask: What does “I am the light of the world” mean? (I am the guide, I have the power and authority over the world, follow me, let me show you the way, I love you, through me you will be saved, I will be with you always.....)

Say: Another way to think of Jesus is that he is our power source! We’re going to decorate light switch plate covers today for you to use at home so you will be reminded of Jesus being your power source every time you turn on your light.

Put Bibles aside.

Show the class your sample.

Demonstrate some techniques.

Have shepherds help distribute supplies.

While students are painting continue the discussion of the story:

Ask: How did Jesus cure the blind man? (Spit and made mud, spread it on eye, told him to go and wash)

Exclaim: So! Jesus liked to make mud pies!!! Do any of you like to make mud pies?!

Explain: Jesus used the stuff of the earth to heal the blind man. doctors today use medicines that are made from the earth - plants and minerals - to help heal people.

Explain: At the time of this story, people were thinking.... ‘God is way up there in heaven and we are down here on earth.’ They did not think that God/Jesus, could be with them, and for Jesus to use earthly things to heal people challenged their beliefs. It made the Chief Priests and Scribes afraid of Jesus and his authority.

Remember that God reveals he is our power source in this story. When you turn on your light you will be reminded of this. He is our light in the darkness.

Ask: What might ‘darkness’ mean? (tough times, night time, sad times, lonely times) We can ask God/Jesus for strength to go through tough times. God promises to NEVER leave us.

Ask: How can we be a light to others?

Ask: What do you think the disciples thought about Jesus’ healing the blind

man? What did they learn? (Jesus has authority to heal - he's the real thing.)

Ask: What do you think God wants us to learn from this story? (Accept answers..... believe in him, power source, trust him, follow him, tell others about him, be kind to others.....)

Our memory verse talks about healing and being forgiven. Jesus wants us to be made whole, which means forgiven or made clean. Let's look it up. James 5:16a. The NRSV version says: Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

Extra Activities

Review the memory verse by mixing up the words and have the class put them in the correct order.

Write out the verse on index cards with one word of the verse on a card.

Closing:

Let's pray. Dear Lord, Thank you for being our light! Help us to be a light to others. Thank you for always being with us and help us to listen to you and follow you. Amen.