Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Heals the Leper

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Jesus cares, and He is willing. He reached out and touched the leper, who had to live alone (Leviticus 13:46), and we can come to Him with anything.
Bible passage: Mark 1:40–45. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean." *Mark 1:41 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Draw a big circle on the other side of the board.

1. Opening game: Can He? Will He? (5–10 minutes)

Say: "I'll name a job. If I *can* do it, stand up. If I *will* do it for you right now, raise your hands too." Try: "Lift this chair." "Sing a song." "Give everyone a hundred dollars." "Fly to the moon." "Tie your shoe." Talk about it: *Is there a difference between someone who can help and someone who will help?* Say: "Today a man came to Jesus. He was sure Jesus *could* help him. His question was whether Jesus *would*."

2. Bible story: I Will; Be Thou Clean (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Mark 1. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

A man who lived alone. Jesus was preaching in the synagogues throughout all Galilee (Mark 1:39). A **leper** came to Him (1:40). A leper had **leprosy**, a sickness of the skin. Under the law God gave through Moses, a leper was **unclean**. **Look up Leviticus 13:46.** "He shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be." Say: "That means he had to live alone, outside, away from everyone."

If thou wilt. Look up Mark 1:40. The leper came **beseeching** (begging) Jesus and **kneeling down** to Him: "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Say: "**Thou wilt** means 'You want to,' and **thou canst** means 'You can.' He didn't ask *if* Jesus could. He asked if Jesus would."

Jesus touched him. Look up Mark 1:41. Jesus was **moved with compassion**: He felt deep pity and care for the man. He **put forth his hand** and touched him, and said, "I will; be thou clean." Point to the circle on the board. Say: "The leper had to stay outside the circle, away from people. Jesus reached right in and touched him."

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Immediately. Look up Mark 1:42. As soon as Jesus had spoken, **immediately** the leprosy **departed** from him, and he was **cleansed**. Not slowly, not a little at a time: right away.

Go to the priest. Look up Mark 1:43–44. Jesus **straitly charged** him, which means He gave him a strict command, and **forthwith** (right away) sent him off. He told him to say nothing to anyone, but to go **shew** (show) himself to the priest and offer the things **Moses commanded** for his cleansing, "for a testimony unto them." God's law said a healed leper was brought to the priest, who went and looked to see if the leprosy was healed (Leviticus 14:2–3). A **testimony** is proof, so everyone could know he was clean.

The news spreads. Look up Mark 1:45. But he went out and began to **publish** it much and to **blaze abroad** the matter: he told it everywhere. Because of that, Jesus could no more openly enter into the city. He stayed out in **desert places** (lonely places where no one lived), and people came to Him **from every quarter**, from every direction.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The leper had to live alone (Leviticus 13:46). How do you think it felt when Jesus touched him?
2. Mark 1:41 says Jesus touched the man who had to live alone. Why do you think He touched him?
3. The leper said, "If thou wilt" (Mark 1:40). What does Jesus' answer, "I will," tell you about Him?
4. Jesus told the man to tell no one, but he told everyone (1:44–45). Why is it important to do exactly what Jesus says, even when we think we have a better idea?
5. Who is someone at school or church who is often left out? How could you reach out to them?

Recall questions

1. What was the leper doing when he came to Jesus? *(Beseeching Him and kneeling down to Him, Mark 1:40)*
2. Who did Jesus tell him to show himself to? *(The priest, 1:44)*
3. Where did Jesus stay after the man told everyone? *(Without in desert places, 1:45)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **moved with compassion** means filled with pity and care, **put forth his hand** means reached out His hand, **saith** means said, and **be thou clean** means be clean. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus was willing to make the leper clean, and He cares about you too. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: bring one thing that worries you to Jesus in prayer every day. And reach out to one person who is left out.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Mark 1:39: Where did Jesus preach? *(In their synagogues throughout all Galilee)*
2. Mark 1:40: What did the leper say Jesus could do? *("Thou canst make me clean")*
3. Mark 1:41: What moved Jesus? *(Compassion)*
4. Mark 1:41: What two words did Jesus say before "be thou clean"? *("I will")*
5. Mark 1:42: What departed from the man? *(The leprosy)*
6. Mark 1:44: Who commanded the offering for cleansing? *(Moses)*
7. Mark 1:45: Where did Jesus stay? *(Without in desert places)*
8. Leviticus 13:46: Where did a leper have to live? *(Alone, without the camp)*

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You that You are willing and that You care. Help us come to You with everything, obey You exactly, and reach out to people who are left out. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: Mark 1 does not say what the leprosy looked like or how long the man had it, and it does not say whether he went to the priest. Don't add those details. The "circle" is only a picture to help kids see that the leper lived apart.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post