Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Heals the Leper

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus cares about me.
Bible passage: Mark 1:40–45. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I will; be thou clean." *Mark 1:41 (KJV).* These are Jesus' words to the leper, and older classes learn the whole verse. The old words mean: **I will** means "I want to," and **be thou clean** means "be clean."
You need: a Bible, a pad of small sticky notes, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 1. Stick 10 small sticky notes on your sleeves, like spots.

1. Opening game: Spots Away! (5 minutes)

Show the kids your "spots." Say: "Oh no! I have spots all over my sleeves! Who will help me?" Let the kids take turns pulling off one sticky note each and saying, "Be clean!" Count the spots together as they come off. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a man with a sickness on his skin, and Jesus made him clean all at once!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 1. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

A man was sick. He had leprosy, a sickness on his skin (Mark 1:40). *(Pat your arms.)*
He had to live all alone (Leviticus 13:46). *(Hug yourself with a sad face.)*
He came to Jesus. He knelt down (Mark 1:40). *(Kneel down.)*
He told Jesus that if He was willing, He could make him clean (1:40). *(Fold your hands.)*
Jesus cared about him (1:41). *(Put your hands on your heart.)*
Jesus reached out His hand and touched him (1:41). *(Reach out your hand.)*
Jesus said, "I will; be thou clean." (1:41) **Say it with me: "I will; be thou clean!"**
Right away, the man was clean (1:42)! *(Throw your arms up.)*
He told everybody (1:45)! *(Cup your hands around your mouth.)*
People came to Jesus from everywhere (1:45). *(Point all around.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus cares about me!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who did the sick man come to? *(Jesus, Mark 1:40)*
2. What did Jesus do with His hand? *(He touched the man, 1:41)*
3. Was the man made clean? *(Yes, right away, 1:42)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'I will; be thou clean.' That means, 'I want to. Be clean!'" Teach the motions: point to yourself on "I will," then sweep both hands out wide on "be thou clean." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Mark 1:41" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus cares about you! God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: Kneeling to Jesus (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw the man kneeling down. While they color, ask: "Who did the man come to? What did Jesus say?" Kids who finish early can stick sticky-note spots on each other's sleeves and pull them off again, saying, "Be clean!"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for caring about me.
I can come to You with anything. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the sickness simple: "a sickness on his skin." Don't make it scary, and spend the most time on Jesus' touch and His words. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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