Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Heals the Leper

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus cares about us, and He is willing to help. 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, 6 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 1:40.

1. Opening game: I Will! (5 minutes)

Ask a question that starts with "Who will...?" Everyone who wants to help jumps up, says "I will!" and does it. Try: "Who will touch their toes?" "Who will clap for our class?" "Who will wave at a friend?" "Who will give someone a high five?" Then ask: *How does it feel when someone says "I will" when you need help?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who asked Jesus for help. Listen for what Jesus said back!"

2. Bible story: Jesus Heals the Leper (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 1, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Jesus was going all through Galilee, preaching in the synagogues, the places where people met to hear God's Word (Mark 1:39). One day a man came to Jesus. The man was a **leper** (1:40). Say: "A leper is someone with **leprosy**, a sickness of the skin." In Bible times, God's law said a leper had to live alone, away from other people (Leviticus 13:46).

The man came **beseeching** Jesus, which means begging Him. He was **kneeling down** to Jesus (Mark 1:40). He said, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Say: "That means, 'If You want to, You can make me clean.' He knew Jesus could do it!"

Read Mark 1:41 from your Bible: "And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean." Say: "**Compassion** means Jesus felt sorry for the man and cared about him with all His heart. Jesus reached out His hand and touched him! Then Jesus said, 'I will. Be clean!'"

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The story continues: As soon as Jesus spoke, **immediately** the leprosy **departed** from him, and he was cleansed (1:42). Say: "Immediately means right away. Departed means it went away. The sickness was gone, all at once!"

Then Jesus sent the man away and gave him a strict command (1:43). Jesus said, "See thou say nothing to any man." That means, "Don't tell anyone." Jesus told him to go and **shew** (show) himself to the priest, and to bring the offering that **Moses commanded** (1:44). Say: "God's law said a priest would look at a leper who was healed (Leviticus 14:2–3). Then everyone would know he was clean."

But the man went out and began to tell it everywhere (Mark 1:45)! So many people heard that Jesus could not go into the city openly anymore. Jesus stayed outside in **desert places**, places where no one lived. And people came to Him **from every quarter**, which means from every direction (1:45).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who came to Jesus? *(A leper, a man with leprosy, Mark 1:40)*
2. What was the man doing when he came to Jesus? *(Kneeling down and begging Him, 1:40)*
3. What did Jesus do with His hand? *(He put forth His hand and touched him, 1:41)*
4. What did Jesus say? *("I will; be thou clean," 1:41)*
5. How fast did the leprosy go away? *(Immediately, right away, 1:42)*

4. Memory verse: Touch and Say (5 minutes)

Write the verse on the 6 strips: *And Jesus, moved with compassion, / put forth his hand, / and touched him, / and saith unto him, / I will; / be thou clean. Mark 1:41.* Tape them up in order, low enough for the kids to reach. Explain the old words: **moved with compassion** means He cared with all His heart, **put forth his hand** means reached out His hand, **saith** means said, and **be thou clean** means be clean. Read the verse together while one child touches each strip as you say it. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking one strip away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus cared about the leper, and He cares about you too. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: when something is wrong, pray and ask Jesus for help, like the leper did. And be kind to someone who is left out or alone.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Jesus heals the leper word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/jesus-heals-the-leper-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/jesus-heals-the-leper-craft), or **From Every Quarter:** name the four corners of the room north, south, east and west, and send a few kids to each corner. Call out a corner. Those kids walk to the middle of the room and each says one thing Jesus did in the story. Say: "People came to Jesus from every quarter (Mark 1:45). We can come to Him too!"

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You for caring about us. Thank You that we can come to You with anything, just like the leper did. Help us be kind 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 man's leprosy looked like, how long he had it, or whether he went to the priest. Don't add those details. Keep the sickness simple (a sickness of the skin) and the focus on Jesus' compassion and His touch. The man did not obey when Jesus told him to tell no one (1:44–45); say it plainly, without guessing why.

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