



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

Luke 8:40-56

Psalms 30:1-5

Session Theme:

Hope

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: "Hope and Healing"

Bring some olive oil to class in a little jar or cup. Ask kids what this might be used for. (Cooking, baking, moisturizing skin, etc.) Something kids may not know is that oil can also be used to anoint a sick person and ask God for healing. Ask kids if they have ever seen a pastor do this, and if so, when? Anointing the sick with oil is based on James 5:14-15, and many Christians practice it to this day. Is physical healing the only way God makes us well, or are there other kinds of healing too?

In today's Bible story, several people came to Jesus for healing. They knew he could perform miracles and hoped he would do that for them. How did Jesus react to this? Let's begin our lesson and find out!

c. Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we know that you can work miracles. Today, we ask for healing for those we name in our hearts. (Pause.) Be with them. Please bring peace and courage and calm. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- "God Will Take Care of You" (hymn)
- "He's Got the Whole World" (children's song)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Miracles

Throughout his ministry among the people, Jesus demonstrated the active power of God by performing miracles and signs, such as healing the sick, casting out demons, commanding the elements, and raising the dead to life.

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level:

Children: Read aloud the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read aloud Scripture from the Bible

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Pre-Readers: Coloring Page and Activity

Elementary: Children's Pages (Worksheet and Drama)

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, and Questions)

Adults: Bible Study (Large or Small Group Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. Use the Bible Rhyme as a short review, or simply ask questions to help the students recall the events of the story.

Youth/Adult: Discuss "Reflection for the Week Ahead"

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Pre-Readers: Teacher leads a simple prayer

Children: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format

Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: Luke 8:40-56

1. There are two overlapping healing stories in this text. What did the two people healed have in common? On the other hand, how were their situations and their interaction with Jesus different?

Both Jairus' daughter and the woman were incapable of helping themselves. They both needed healing. Their situations were different in that Jairus' daughter had a short term but deadly illness, while the woman in the crowd had a chronic though less severe condition. Their interactions were different because while the woman in the crowd sought out Jesus and received healing when *she* touched him, Jairus daughter was unable to go to Jesus, so he came to her and she was healed when *he* touched her.

2. How is the sick girl's father, Jairus, described in verse 41? What kind of standing or reputation do you think he had in the community? What do you think the people thought about the interrupting woman? Did that affect the way Jesus treated her?

He was a ruler of the synagogue, and would have been well-respected in the community with a great deal of influence. Those in the crowd who had come with Jairus were likely annoyed that the woman in the crowd had interrupted him, they wanted him to get to Jairus' house and heal his daughter. Their attitude did not affect Jesus' response to the woman, he stopped and addressed both her illness and her faith.

3. How was the woman in the crowd healed? What does this story tell us about the power of Jesus? Why do you think she suddenly became afraid?

She was healed immediately upon touching his clothes, without Jesus saying or doing anything. This shows Jesus really is God because he is aware of things he cannot see and can make things happen by sheer power alone. Her condition made her unclean and therefore unworthy to touch any other person, let alone touch the clothes of God in the flesh.

4. In verse 48, what did Jesus say to the woman? Is faith a quantity of "something" this woman possessed? Or was her faith a trust in something outside of herself? Why is this difference important?

Jesus said, "Your faith has made you well."

(Literally, "Your faith has saved you.") Her faith was not a *quantity* of something; it was her trust in Jesus, and in his ability to save her. It was not her own power that saved her, but the object of her faith (Jesus himself) who was truly able to save her. Her faith in Christ is what enabled her to receive the free gift of healing and salvation.

5. What do you think was going through Jairus' head when Jesus stopped to take care of this other woman, instead of going straight to help his daughter? Do you ever get impatient with God because he doesn't do things as fast or in the way you want?

Jairus may have been impatient when Jesus stopped to talk to the woman. He had approached Jesus first, and he ought to go to heal his daughter before helping anyone else. It is easy for us to have a plan for how God should answer our prayers, and we often get annoyed when God's plan is different from ours, but in the end, we often see that God's way brings us greater blessings than if he had followed our own.

6. At the house, why did the people laugh at Jesus? What were they thinking?

The people laughed at Jesus because they knew that the girl had died; Jesus had not even seen her yet. They were likely thinking that Jesus did not know what he was talking about and that there was nothing which he could do for her.

7. The Bible often uses "sleep" as a metaphor for death. This is especially true in Jesus' teachings. How is calling death "sleep" different from describing it as *destruction* or *termination*? What does the image of sleep imply?

Using sleep as a metaphor for death, rather than words like destruction or termination tells us that death is not an end, but rather it is a temporary state. The image of sleep implies that those who have died will awaken; the dead will rise to new life at Jesus' return.

8. Read Psalm 30:1-5. To whom does the writer look for help? What does he mean when he says "you restored me to life" (v. 3)? In what way does God do this for *us* in our present lives? In what way is this also a literal promise of the life to come?

The psalmist looks to the LORD, the God of Israel, for his help. God has saved him from his enemies and given him hope/assurance, when earlier he despaired of ever knowing peace or joy again. God does this for *us* by his promises of salvation in Jesus and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In a literal sense, just as Jesus rose from the dead in a glorified body, we too will be rise from the dead in a body like his.

Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: "Healing Prayer Chain"

(for all children)

Materials Needed:

- Colored construction paper
- Markers
- Stapler



Instructions:

Cut different colors of construction paper into strips.

Give each student 5 strips.

Invite them to write the name of someone they would like the class to pray for on one side of the strip. This could be someone who is sick, elderly, or simply who could use any kind of healing. Kids could also list larger issues that need healing, like "peace in (name a country that is at war or having unrest)" "an end to the drought," etc.

Have kids turn the strips over, and decorate the other side of each strip with designs of some sort. These could be graphic shapes, zig zags or dotted lines, little pictures, or Christian symbols (crosses, water droplets or waves, doves, butterflies, etc.). When everyone is finished, ask them to bring their strips to you.

Mix them up together. Then, take one and form it into a circle. Staple the circle closed. Take a second strip, and loop it through the circle. Staple this second circle closed. Continue in this way, until all strips are connected like links in a chain.

Display the prayer chain somewhere in the classroom. It could be hanging from a bulletin board, or decorating a windowsill--the choice is yours.

Each week, before class begins, invite one student to carefully remove a link in the chain. As a group, pray for the person or intention listed on the strip.

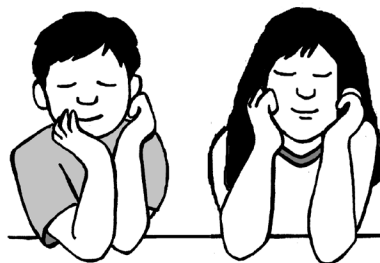
Today's lesson was about people in need of healing. Jesus cared for them and healed them. He cares for us and our loved ones too. When we feel helpless, it is good to remember that we can always lift people to God in prayer.

Activity 2: "Who Tapped Me?" Game

(for all children)

Materials Needed:

- Large area to play a game. It can have chairs and desks or not. Either will work fine.



Instructions:

Invite kids to either sit in a circle on the floor or to sit at a table or desks.

Choose 3 or more kids to be "The Tappers," and ask them to come forward and stand beside you.

Invite the other kids to close their eyes and put their heads down, so they cannot see anything. Tell them not to peek, and to stay in this position until you tell them to look up.

When you motion to the Tappers, they will scatter and quietly walk around the group of kids. One by one, they will each silently (and gently!) tap someone on the head. Then, the Tappers will come and stand by you.

When all Tappers are standing by you again, tell the rest of the class to raise their heads and open their eyes.

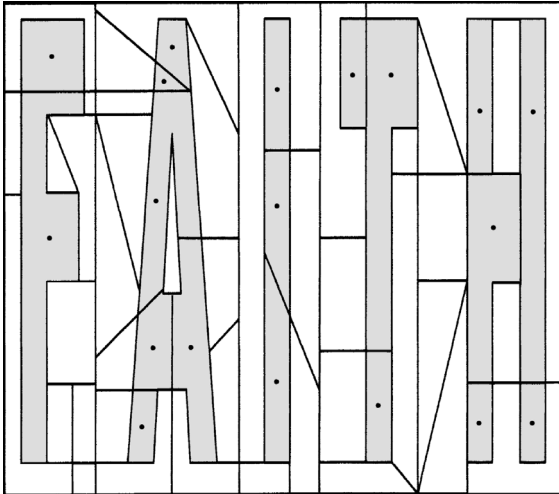
Ask those who were tapped to raise their hands. Call on each person, and invite them to name which Tapper they think tapped them. If they are correct, they can change places with that Tapper. If not, they stay where they are and the game continues for a Round 2.

Keep track of who has been tapped each round, and quietly encourage Tappers to choose other kids. This way, everyone should have a chance to be tapped and participate.

In our game, people tapped us on the heads and we had to guess who had done it. Somewhat similarly, in today's Bible story, a woman who had been suffering for a long time touched Jesus' clothing. He knew what had happened, but wanted to know who had done this, and why. Rather than being upset with the "tapper," Jesus showed her mercy. Not only was she healed of her ailment, but she was able to go in peace.

Worksheet Answer Key

Below are the answers to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:



Fill in the missing vowels in the verse below:

NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS
HOPED FOR, THE CONVICTION OF
THINGS NOT SEEN.

Map Answers (from the youth pages)



Reflection for the Week Ahead

Just as the people in today's Bible story came to Jesus for healing, we pray for these things in our time too.

Sometimes, physical healing is given; sometimes not. Yet even when health is not restored, we still have reason for hope. As Paul writes in 2 Cor. 4:16, "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." Whether or not physical healing is granted, those who are ill may be given an ability to face challenges with courage, or a heart to comfort and inspire others, or a peace that passes understanding. This is spiritual healing, and with it comes an inner strength that is a gift in and of itself. When we pray for healing, may we be open to seeing the many ways that God heals, not only in body, but in mind and in spirit.



Talk about a time in your life when you prayed for healing. Did God answer your prayer in any unexpected ways?

The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, write a prayer giving thanks to God for people who have meant a great deal to you. Ask God to bless them. If they have passed away, ask him to comfort those who miss them here on earth.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.

A: _____

D: _____

T: _____

R: _____

C: _____