



## I Spy

### Jesus Heals the Sick People

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus can do anything.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Matthew 9:27-31; 12:9-14; John 5:1-15

**KEY VERSE:** “With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26 (NirV)

# SCHEDULE

## 2S & 3S CLASSES

## PRE-K & K CLASSES

ARRIVAL &  
PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S  
LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP  
ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

SMALL GROUP  
ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER  
LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW  
ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

I took a blacksmithing class a couple nights ago. Tony, our instructor, handed us each a steel rod about 8 inches long. “In the next two hours,” he said, “we are going to turn this shapeless piece of metal into a beautiful piece of art.” We put our fireproof gloves and safety goggles on, and Tony led us to the furnace.

Steel, it turns out, is not all that malleable. It doesn’t bend easily — even under tremendous weight. That’s why they use it to build bridges and skyscrapers. But, when immersed in a white-hot fire, the steel begins, almost imperceptibly, to soften.

We plunged our rods into the burning coals and waited. Once they were glowing red, we took them to our anvils and began hammering and bending them into something else — something new. I only had a few seconds to work before the steel cooled and needed to, once again, return to the fire. It felt like a long time before there was any noticeable progress. But, little by little, it began to change shape.

As I pounded at the stubborn metal, I thought about the stubbornness of my heart. I thought about how unbending I can be. I thought about how, sometimes, the only way for God to mold and shape me is to allow me to be immersed in fire.

By the end, the steel was almost unrecognizable. The old useless gray rod had been worked into a piece of artistic twists and elegant curves. It is nothing to boast about, but if I — a complete novice — could draw *any* beauty out of a piece of steel, imagine what God could draw out of a heart of steel.

For some of us, like the people in today’s Bible story, it’s our bodies that need healing. But, for many more, it’s our hearts. God doesn’t always soften our hearts by fire. Nor does He only mold and shape us in the midst of the flames. But, when He does, I don’t want to resist. I want to take the fire when it comes. I want to be softened. God, soften me.

*Casey Jordan*  
GO! Contributor



## LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

### *How to Prepare Like a Champ for Large Group*

Here's a short story for you: A man gets up in front of a room full of kids and, with no forethought or preparation, he delivers a spellbinding and life-changing message. The kids are so grateful that they carry the man out of the room on their shoulders as confetti cannons explode. Great story, right? Unfortunately, you'll find it under "fiction." Great messages don't just happen without a little work on the part of the communicator. In short, your goal as the Large Group Leader is to communicate God's truth to kids in an engaging way so that life change can happen. To do that effectively, though, you've got to do a little prep work. Here are a few ways you can prepare:

**Live the message.** Authenticity is one of the most important traits of a good communicator. When we tell kids that they need to be pursuing God, they need to know we're doing that ourselves. That doesn't mean you have to be perfect; it just means that you have to be working towards living out the message in your own life.

**Memorize.** Sounds scary, right? It doesn't have to be. We'll spend more time in the future talking about how to memorize, but for now let's just say this: Effective communicators memorize. When you're tied to a script, you lose eye contact and your body becomes less animated. And when that happens, your level of engagement goes down. If you've never memorized before, start small. Pick a section of the lesson to memorize and pay attention to the difference it makes with your audience.

**Rehearse.** In short, don't let service time be the first time you've ever delivered your message. It might seem awkward at first, but run through your message a few times in advance. If possible, do it in the actual space where you'll be teaching.

**Pray.** When we deliver God's message, we're not alone. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be your co-teacher!

# 7.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



## UNIT DESCRIPTION

I spy with my little eye — I spy down low, and I spy up high! During “I Spy,” preschoolers will need to put on their looking eyes to look high and low for the hidden objects. Once found, each object will help tell a portion of the Bible story. It’s an eye-opening experience that teaches kids to follow and obey Jesus, our all-powerful Savior.

## SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Place a Band-Aid in the storytelling area. Have the teacher put the Band-Aid on their elbow before the lesson begins.
- Place the following items somewhere in the preschool room:
  - Two blindfolds (keep them together)
  - Ace bandage (or similar)
  - Towel or mat
- Create a “Super Duper Bible Box” and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the “Super Duper Bible Box.”
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher’s Storytime Rules signs and Topher’s Big Idea signs on 8½” x 11” cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See “Getting Started” in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.



## ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

### WELCOME AND MUSIC

**Music:** Play one or two upbeat worship songs

### BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

**Large Group Leader:** Hello, everybody! I spy with my little eye...a room full of friends. Do you know who I'm talking about? (*Children respond.*) That's right — it's YOU! (*Point to children.*) I love playing "I Spy" with my friends. In just a little bit, we're going to play a big game of "I Spy." All of the things we spy are going to help us learn about Jesus.

**Say:** Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **Jesus can do anything**. That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. (*Repeat Big Idea with children.*) **Jesus can do anything**. It's true! **Jesus can do anything**. In fact, that's what our memory verse from the Bible tells us. Let me teach it to you.

*"With people (point to all the children),  
this is impossible (two thumbs down and shake head "no").  
But with God (point up),  
all things are possible (two thumbs up and shake head "yes")."  
Matthew 19:26 (extend hands like you're holding a book).*

**Say:** Let's do that together. (*Repeat memory verse with children two or three times.*)

### 2s & 3s - STORY TIME RULES

**Say:** Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

**Video:** Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

(*Note: Play the "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.*)

### Pre-K & K - Bible Trivia

- Who Wrote the book of Matthew? (Matthew)
- Who wrote the book of Mark? (Mark)
- Who wrote the book of Luke? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of John? (John)
- Who wrote the book of Acts? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of Romans? (Paul)
- The Bible is split into two parts. What are they called? (The Old & New Testament)
- What is the difference? (Jesus was born in the New Testament)

# 7.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



## ISPY INTRO

**Say:** Have you ever had a really bad boo-boo? (*Point to the Band Aid on your elbow.*) A boo-boo that hurt so much it made you cry? Who wants to tell me about it? (*Take a few answers from children.*) Getting hurt is no fun at all. Wouldn't it be nice if someone could just make your boo-boo go away? (*Take Band Aid off and let children see there is no injury.*)

**Say:** Well, in today's true Bible story, that's exactly what happened. Jesus made some boo-boos go away. But they weren't just little boo-boos that go away on their own like a scrapped knee or a bruised elbow. The boo-boos that Jesus made go away were BIG boo-boos that never go away on their own.

**Say:** If you're ready to hear that story, wiggle your fingers in the air. (*Children wiggle fingers in the air.*) Great! First, let's get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. (*Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.*) I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

**Slide:** Show the "Jesus Heals the Sick People" slide

# 7.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



## **BIG BIBLE STORY — JESUS HEALS THE SICK PEOPLE**

*(Ahead of time, place the story objects around the room. Make sure they are visible from the seating area. When it's time to spy an object, give clues such as color, shape, and what it's used for. Retrieve the object once it has been spied by the children.)*

**Say:** Let's play "I Spy." I spy with my little eye something... **(Give clues about the blindfolds.)** In the Bible, there were two men who were blind. That means they couldn't spy anything with either of their eyes. *(Invite two children to the storytelling area, place a blindfold on them, and then tell them to high-five each other. They'll most likely fail.)* It's really hard to high-five when you can't see. When Jesus walked by, the two blind men shouted, "Help us, Jesus!" *(Prompt children to repeat line.)* Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can heal you?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. *(Prompt children to repeat line.)* Then Jesus touched their eyes *(touch children's eyes)* and said, "It will happen just as you believed." *(Take off blindfolds.)* Suddenly, the two men could see again. It was a miracle — something only Jesus can do! *(Ask kids to "high-five" each other again.)*

**Say:** Are you ready for another "I Spy?" *(Children respond.)* I spy with my little eye something... **(Give clues about a bandage.)** Another time, there was a man with a hurt hand. *(Choose a child to join you in the storytelling area, then tell them to close their hand into a twisted ball.)* His hand was weak and twisted. He couldn't use it. *(Wrap hand up with a bandage.)* When Jesus saw the man, He said, "Stretch out your hand." *(Prompt child to stretch out their hand, then remove the bandage.)* Suddenly, he could wiggle his fingers. *(Prompt child to wiggle fingers.)* He could scratch his nose. *(Prompt child to scratch nose.)* He could give high-fives. *(Prompt child to give you a high-five.)* It was a miracle — something only Jesus can do!

**Say:** Let's do another "I Spy." I spy with my little eye something... **(Give clues about a mat or towel.)** Another time, there was a crippled man whose legs didn't work — he couldn't walk. Let's imagine what that was like. Let's try to keep our legs still for 10 seconds. Don't even move a muscle. *(Count to 10 without moving legs.)* Wow — that's what it was like for the crippled man all day, every day! *(Lay towel or mat on the ground. Choose a child to lay down on it.)* Every day, the man just laid on his mat and didn't move. He couldn't walk to the pool or run on the playground. He couldn't even stand up. When Jesus saw the man, He said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." The man wiggled one foot. *(Prompt child to wiggle foot.)* Then he wiggled the other foot. *(Prompt child to wiggle the other foot.)* Then he got up, picked up his mat, and walked away. *(Prompt child to stand, pick up the towel, and walk.)* It was a miracle — something only Jesus can do!

# 7.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



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## **MUSIC AND CLOSING**

*(Encourage the children to stand up. Lead them in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)*

### **Music: Play one worship song**

**Say:** In our story for today, Jesus did three miracles. Can you say “miracle” with me? *(Repeat word with children.)* A miracle is something amazing that only Jesus can do. Jesus made the blind men see again, He healed the man’s twisted hand, and He made the crippled man walk. No one can do that but Jesus!

**Say:** If you think Jesus could make a blind man see, blink your eyes three times. *(Children blink eyes.)* If you think Jesus could heal a hurt man’s hand, wiggle your fingers in the air. *(Children wiggle fingers.)* If you think Jesus could make a crippled man walk, jump up in the air and shout, “Hooray for Jesus!” It’s true, it’s true! Jesus did all of those things!

**Say:** With people, those things are impossible. But with Jesus, nothing is impossible. That’s because **Jesus can do anything.**

## 7.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



### TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

**Say:** Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

**Video:** Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1"

**(Whisper.)** Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **Jesus can do anything**. On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to three and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

**Topher:** Hey, what's the Big Idea?

**Children and Large Group Leader:** **Jesus can do anything.** (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

**Topher:** Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

**Large Group Leader:** Let's say a prayer together and tell Jesus we believe He can do anything. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

**Dear Jesus,  
You are so, so amazing!  
And You are so, so powerful!  
I believe that You can do anything.  
I love You very much.  
Amen.**