



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

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

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 eight 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



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Small Group

Picture this scene: Moments before children's church is scheduled to begin, a leader stands in the corner of the room with their face buried in some papers labeled "Small Group Lesson." They seem oblivious to the kids moving quickly and loudly all around them. A bead of sweat rolls down their face. The clock ticks loudly as they read at a fevered pace. Have you seen this leader? Are *you* this leader? There's no judgment here! We get it — life is often *really* busy and finding the time to volunteer, much less prepare, can be tough. But by investing just a small amount of time into preparation, you can go from being a good leader to a great one. Here's how:

Read your lesson ahead of time. You saw that one coming, didn't you? When the kids arrive, it's game time. When you've read the lesson ahead of time, the kids get your full attention from the moment they walk in. When small group begins, you'll be able to lead much more effectively if you're not trying to figure the lesson out for yourself at the same time you're explaining it to your group.

Familiarize yourself with the materials. Many of the small group activities in the GO! curriculum have materials that go with it. When you read the lesson at home, you might have a picture of what the materials look like, but double check to make sure what you imagined matches reality when you arrive at church.

Prepare your own heart. The best way to lead the kids in your group is through example. Consider reading the Bible story ahead of time and asking yourself how it applies to your own life. Spend some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to show you how you need to change in light of this story.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

A CHALLENGING SNACK

Supplies: Snack with small pieces such as M&Ms® or Cheerios® (about 10–15 per child), hand sanitizer (1 bottle), napkins (1 per child)

Directions: Place the sanitizer, a stack of napkins, and the snack pieces in the middle of the table. Tell the children they can eat a snack, but they must first clean their hands with sanitizer and place a napkin on the table in front of them. There's one catch, though. They must do all of this without using their fingers, they can only use their balled-up fists. (They may not eat the snack directly off the table.) Challenge the children to keep their hands balled up the entire time. While they are eating, ask the questions below.

Question: Is it easier or harder to eat like this? What do you think it would be like to do everything with your hands like this?

Say: In our true Bible story today, there's a man who can't use his hand — it's weak and twisted. But Jesus does something amazing to help him. In just a little bit, we're going to find out what He does and learn that **Jesus can do anything!**

BALLOON VOLLEYBALL (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Chairs (2 per group), string (8 feet per group), balloon (1 per group)

Preparation: Place two chairs about 7 to 8 feet apart. Tie a string between the two chairs. The string should be about 2–3 feet above the ground. This will serve as a makeshift volleyball net.

Today's Bible verse:

*“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).*

Directions: Practice the above verse with the children a few times. When ready, divide the children into two teams and have each team sit facing each other on opposite sides of the string. Toss the inflated balloon to one team and have them bop it over the string to the other team. (It may take more than one bop to get the balloon over the string. That's okay.) Each time someone on either team bops the balloon, have all of the children say one word from the Bible verse (hand motions are not necessary). Continue bopping the balloon back and forth until the entire verse has been recited. If the balloon touches the ground before the verse is finished, pick it up and start over from the beginning.

2s & 3s – Large Group at 10:55
Pre-K & K – Large Group at 11:15



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

BLIND MAN'S HOPSCOTCH (Application Activity)

Supplies: Tape (1 roll), blindfold (1 per group)

Preparation: Ahead of time, use tape to create a hopscotch pattern on the floor (or use a hopscotch rug if you have one).

Directions: Have the children line up at the beginning of the hopscotch pattern. One at a time, allow them to hop through it. In single squares, they must hop on one foot. In double squares, they may hop on both feet. After each child has had a turn, allow them to do it again, but this time, blindfolded. Challenge the children to remember the pattern and finish in the final square. For safety, walk alongside the children while they're blindfolded to ensure they don't run into anything. When they reach the end, remove the blindfold so they can see how close they came to the final square. Continue until every child has had a turn, then ask the questions below.

Question: Which was easier: Being able to see or being blindfolded? Why was it so hard to be blind? What do you think it would be like to do *everything* without seeing?

Say: In our true Bible story for today, the two men were blind all of the time. They had to do everything without seeing. But then Jesus healed them. It was a miracle — something only Jesus can do. On the count of three, let's shout, "**Jesus can do anything!**"

ANIMAL CROSSING (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Animal Number signs (1 set per group)

Preparation: Print out the provided Animal Number signs and tape them to the walls around the room.

Directions: Each sign will have an animal and a number on it. Move with the children to the first sign as if you were that animal. For example, move like a hippo to sign #1. When you reach the sign, ask the children what happened first in the Bible story. Try to limit the children to sharing only the beginning of the story. Next, move with the children to the second sign like the animal indicated and ask what happened second in the story. Continue moving to the different numbers until the entire story has been told.

7.2 Small Group Lesson | Pre-K & K



HELP ME JESUS (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), crayons

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a picture of themselves holding hands with Jesus. While they're drawing, ask the children why they love Jesus so much.

Say: Jesus loves it when we tell Him how much we love Him. In fact, we should do that right now. Let's say a prayer and tell Jesus all of the things you just said.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by telling Jesus how much you love Him.

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

Question: How would you have felt if you were the crippled man and Jesus healed your legs? What would you have said to Jesus?

When you hear the first names be called, that is when the last song has started. Go ahead and finish up your activity and get the kids ready to go. This is a great time to turn on Topher Time with the iPad on the TV, so they can watch while kids are getting picked up, and the room stays clean. 😊