

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE

Miracles

BIG IDEA

Jesus knows what we need.

BIBLE

The Healing at the Pool:
John 5:1–9a

ABOUT THIS WEEK

There are so many different sea creatures in the world, and to take care of them, we have to know what each one of them needs. This week, we'll hear about the miracle of Jesus healing a man who couldn't walk. The man thought the water would heal him, but Jesus had something different in mind because

Jesus knows what we need.

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | I Have, Who Has?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, print out the cards from the [printable](#) on cardstock paper and cut them out. Hand each kid one card. If you have a smaller group, give kids more than one card. For larger groups, consider breaking them off into two or more smaller groups for this activity. Select a kid to go first by asking, "Who has (animal pictured at the bottom of their card)?" The kid with that picture on the top of their card says, "I have (that animal)." Then they can ask, "Who has (the animal pictured at the bottom of their card)?" This goes on until every kid has said, "I have ... " and "Who has ... ?" and the question returns to the first kid.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Cut out the cards, then cut each in half so you have two of each animal. Lay the cards out on the ground, facing up. Pick up one card and ask toddlers to help you find the card that looks just like the one in your hand. Help them say the name of each animal.
- Isn't it *miraculous* how many amazing ocean animals God has created? But that's not all! God created everything each of these animals needs in the ocean, too.
- Today's Bible story is all about how God's son, Jesus, knows about everything we need.

ACTIVITY | Octopus Walk

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, put kids into groups of four, having them sit in a circle facing outwards with their backs touching. Have them link arms. They are now an octopus! Challenge them to stand up, keeping their arms linked. After they've practiced walking around, you can try to have two octopi (two groups of four kids) races. Do this only if the kids do well walking around together and you are confident they can race safely.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Offer toddlers various textures to walk on barefoot, such as paper bags, tin foil, and bubble wrap. Supervise the bubble wrap carefully, as it can pose a suffocation hazard. The man in today's story wasn't able to use his feet like we can.
- For an octopus, moving on eight tentacles is easy peasy, but for us, moving around on eight legs was pretty hard.
- In today's Bible story, we'll hear about a man who couldn't move around easily either, so Jesus helped him get everything he needed.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | The Healing at the Pool (John 5:1–9a)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below. Each time you say the word “miraculous” throughout the story, wave your hands and wiggle your fingers in an arch formation. Invite kids to join you.
- Well, hello there, friends! **Ready to hear about another miraculous thing Jesus did?**
 - Let’s practice saying that word again. **Mir-a-cu-lous.**
 - Remember, a *miracle* is something surprising (*make a surprised face*) and very hard to explain (*point to temple, making a confused face*).
- Now you’re ready to dive in. In today’s **miraculous** story, there was a man who could not use his legs for a very long time. He wanted to walk, but there was no way he could.
 - In that town, there was a pool of water called Bethesda. It was a very special pool. People believed the water had special powers to make ouchies go away.
 - **Have you ever had an ouchy before?**
- A lot of people came to this pool. They were looking for something **miraculous**.
 - The man waited by the pool, too. But he could never go inside the water because nobody helped him.
 - Jesus saw the man and asked if he wanted to walk. The man told Jesus he wanted to, but how could he when nobody helped him into the pool?
- That’s a good question! The man thought he needed to get into a **miraculous** pool. But what he really needed was a **miraculous** Jesus.
 - So Jesus told him, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk!” And guess what? He did!
 - This man, who hadn’t moved his legs for 38 years, began to walk.
- The man thought he needed special water to help him walk. He thought he needed people to help him into the water so he could walk. But what he really needed was Jesus, and Jesus knew that. How **miraculous!**

BIG IDEA | Jesus knows what we need.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write this week’s Big Idea on a large piece of paper cut out of a fish (use outlines [like these](#)). Tape or glue the fish onto a blue sheet or plastic tablecloth representing the ocean. Keep this ocean to add more fish in the coming weeks.
- Our fish friend here is going to help us learn the Big Idea together!
 - **Jesus** (Sign language for “[Jesus](#).”)
 - **knows** (Tap your index fingers to the side of your temples.)
 - **what we need** (Place one palm over the other, facing up.)

VIDEO | *Miraculous*, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Cali’s World](#).

ACTIVITY | Who Has The Fish?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, hide a small fish toy in your hand. Have kids sit or stand in a circle with their hands behind their backs. Go around outside the circle and clasp your hands over each kid’s hands, but only drop the fish into one kid’s hands. Instruct kids that they can’t show that they have the fish when they feel it. Afterward, have kids guess who has the fish. Play again with kids taking turns putting the fish in other kids’ hands.

- We needed to find the fish but didn't know where it was. **Jesus knows what we need**, and he knows where everything we need is. We can ask Jesus to help us, and he will.

PRAYER

- Dear God, you are a miraculous God! Thank you for knowing what we need and always taking care of us. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | S'mores Starfish

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut square marshmallows into star shapes using a star cookie cutter, and give each kid one star on a plate. You can either use microwavable chocolate melts to dip the marshmallows in or drizzle chocolate syrup on top. Provide small cups or bowls containing graham cracker crumbs that they can sprinkle on their stars with a spoon. Have them enjoy their [starfish](#) over the plate to catch crumbs.
- Yum! Remember, **Jesus knows what we need** and gives us s'more than enough.
- **What do you need for a day out at sea or on the beach?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sit in a circle together. Pass around an ocean-themed stuffed animal so kids can take turns answering questions. The person holding the stuffed animal gets to speak.
- **What was wrong with the man at the pool?** He couldn't use his legs.
- **Why did people come to the pool at Bethesda?** They thought the water had special healing powers.
- **What did the man say he needed?** To get in the pool
- **What did Jesus do for the man?** Jesus told him to get up, pick up his mat, and walk, and he did!
- **Let's say our Big Idea together: Jesus knows what we need.**

ACTIVITY | Walk With Your Mat

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids color in the [printable](#) that you've printed on cardstock and cut out the pieces on the dotted lines. Give each kid a small rectangular piece of construction paper to act as the man's "mat" that they can roll up, seal with glue or tape, and wrap the man's arm around. Have them attach a brass fastener where indicated to adjust the legs from sitting to standing positions. See worked example [here](#).
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide people with dolls or action figures whose legs are movable. Act out the Bible story with the kids and have them try it. You could provide pieces of felt to use as a mat you can roll up for them.
- Jesus gave the man by the pool everything he needed. Jesus does this for us, too, because **Jesus knows what we need**. It's *miraculous!*

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 77:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Baby Shark." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples."**

PLAY TIME**ACTIVITY | Coloring Page**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Ocean I Spy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print ocean-themed I Spy worksheets like [this](#), [this](#), or [this](#), and have kids count how many of the ocean items they see. For a more tactile version, place mini sea animal figures inside a bottle filled with water, blue food coloring, and glitter or uncooked rice dyed blue and see how many creatures they can find ([like this](#)).

ACTIVITY | Marine Care Center

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Collect stuffed animals (sea otters, turtles, penguins, sharks, or whales) and toy vet tools, and have kids pretend to take care of different sea animals.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** When a toddler gets hurt, comfort them quickly and say a prayer with them. Toddlers are usually easily comforted. You can also have them look out the window with you or play with bubbles to help them feel better.