

JESUS
Restores

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CHURCH

RESTORE TO GOD: NICODEMUS

HOOK

ICEBREAKER

LESSON

STORY

Tell the story of Nicodemus' INTERVIEW with Jesus, based on **John 3:1-21**.

Today we're learning about a man named Nicodemus. He was a rich man. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, which means He was a religious leader of the people. He was respected. He also was one of the men talking about Jesus to others trying to decide if He was the Savior. He must have realised that the miracles Jesus had been doing could only be done if God was with Him.

During the night, Nicodemus went to see Jesus. He asked Him many questions. He acknowledged Jesus as a teacher sent from God, and asked, "What do I have to do to see the kingdom of heaven?"

Jesus told him that one had to be born again to see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus asked how anyone could be born when they were old ... Could he go back into his mother and be born again?

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." Just like the wind blows and you can hear it, but you can't see it or know where it comes from or where it goes, Jesus said it is the same as being born of the Spirit.

Nicodemus couldn't understand or believe a lot of what Jesus said. "You are a 'teacher of Israel', so why don't you know these things?" Jesus said. "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"

Then Jesus told Nicodemus a very important truth: *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.* (John 3:16-17)

VIDEOS

Kids on the Move <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQDGTfwDSY>

The Gospel Project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7743kxargw>

NICODEMUS, THE PHARISEE

John introduces Nicodemus as a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

Pharisees were a religious sect of the Jews who were very concerned with purity. They believed in the Old Testament books and the ultimate resurrection of the dead. They were generally respected and had great influence.

In the New Testament, Pharisees are often portrayed as judgemental and hypocritical. They jealously guarded their positions, and some were even a dangerous threat to Jesus throughout his ministry.

In contrast to other Pharisees, Nicodemus seems to be genuinely interested in learning more about what Jesus is teaching. He recognises that the miracles Jesus is performing must be from God.

Even though Nicodemus recognised that Jesus came from God, He greeted Jesus as Rabbi, or teacher. He wasn't prepared yet to recognise Jesus as who He really is, God. He was curious though. Could Jesus be the Messiah? The one to bring God's kingdom?

So he asked Jesus many questions. And Jesus gave Him answers that he couldn't really understand at that time.

While this passage did not record how Nicodemus responded to Jesus that night, John recorded later of how Nicodemus stood up for Jesus in front of other Jewish leaders (John 7:50-51) and helped bury Jesus in the garden tomb (John 19:39). Perhaps by then, Nicodemus had moved from recognising Jesus as teacher to recognising Jesus as Lord.

BORN AGAIN

Jesus came to earth to **RESTORE** man to God. And that was an important truth He revealed to Nicodemus that night.

Jesus told him, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.' Nicodemus thought Jesus meant somebody's body being born again, like they had to be a little baby again.

But Jesus was talking about the inside of a person. SIN separated man from God. Due to SIN, our spirit is dead. But when we believe in Jesus, our spirit is "born again". That's because Jesus took our SIN and DEATH on the Cross, and when we believe in Him, He gave us His life and His Spirit. You don't live how you want to live anymore. You live how God wants you to live. It's like you're starting a NEW Life.

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

When we believe in Jesus and become Christians, the Holy Spirit lives inside of us.

Can any of you see God or the Holy Spirit? *No*.

Then how do you know He's there?

Illustration idea: take a balloon and blow it up.

Look at this balloon. Can you see the air in there? *No*.

You can't see the air. The air is clear. You can only see that the balloon got filled up. That's the same way it is with God and the Holy Spirit. We can't see Him, but we know He is there because we see what He does, giving us power and assurance, producing the Fruit of the Spirit, telling us what the right things to do are etc.

ETERNAL LIFE

Jesus revealed to Nicodemus God's heart for His people and His plan for salvation from the beginning. God has always wanted to RESTORE His people into relationship with Him, to His family.

Even when the Israelites were wandering in the desert, God had already shown them part of His plan when He healed them from poisonous snake bites. *"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."* (John 3:14-15)

And then the verse we all should know in our heads and our hearts. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* (John 3:16-17)

Jesus was explaining why He was on earth, what His mission and purpose was, to be lifted up on that Cross so that all who believe in Him will be BORN AGAIN and have ETERNAL LIFE, His life!

CLOSING THOTS

- Who is Jesus to you? A teacher? A good man? Or God?
- Would you like to be BORN AGAIN and receive Jesus' ETERNAL LIFE?
- Would you like to be RESTORED into God's family as His child?

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

John 3:16-17 (for younger kids, just v.16)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

MEMORY VERSE SONG

There are many versions on Youtube. Try to choose 1 that sticks true to the verse, so kids can learn it.

Psalty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iPbqHA62GM>

Seeds Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTc8Lv6SdJg>

The Rizers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2iHNzNJkJw>

Daily Music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyvX2qQi2c8>

Close in prayer.

HOOK

GAME: IF YOU'VE NEVER

Similar to "Blow wind blow". Kids sit in a circle with one less chair than players. The person without a chair stands in the middle of the circle and names something that some of the players might never have done.

They might say something like, "If you've never worn a pink sock ..." or "If you've never ridden on a plane ...". Anyone sitting down who has never done what the person in the middle says has to get up and run to a different chair. The person in the middle also tries to find an empty chair. Whoever doesn't find a seat is in the middle.

As the last criterion, get up and say, "If you've never sinned ...". No one should move. If someone does, explain what sin is so that they understand that everyone has sinned.

LESSON

STORY

Tell the story of Jesus & the woman caught in adultery, based on **John 8:1-11**.

One day very early in the morning Jesus went to the temple to teach the people. As Jesus sat down to teach, a group of men brought in a woman. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman has done something very bad. She was caught in the act of adultery."

(If kids ask, tell them that adultery is when a person does not keep their marriage promises, or when two people act like they are husband/wife even though they are married to other people.)

"Our law says when someone does something this BAD, all of us should throw rocks at her until she dies. What do you say we should do, Jesus?"

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger. When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again, He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

The men looked at Jesus, and one by one, from the oldest to the youngest, they left the temple. Only Jesus and the woman remained.

Jesus stood up and asked the woman, "Where have they all gone? Is there no one left to condemn you?"

She said, "No one, sir."

Then Jesus said, "I do not condemn you either. Go, and sin no more."

VIDEOS

Life Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhGY7KlkQCw>

LESSON

What was supposed to be the woman's punishment for breaking the law? *She was supposed to be stoned.*

The Pharisees brought the woman to Jesus because they wanted to trap him. They didn't really care about the woman, or about the Law of Moses. If Jesus agreed that the woman should be punished by stoning, He would have been responsible for her death. If He said the woman shouldn't be stoned, they would have accused Him of breaking the Law.

How did Jesus respond at first? *He didn't say anything at first. He bent down to write in the dust (we don't know what it was He wrote).*

After they questioned Him further, what did Jesus say? *He said that if anyone had never sinned, then they could throw the first rock at her.*

HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN ...

Jesus was telling the people that they couldn't judge the woman — they couldn't kill her for doing something wrong — because they all had done wrong things too.

Just like us. We have all done things that are wrong sometimes. (Romans 3:23)

Do any of you like to forget what you have done wrong and point a finger at someone else for what they are doing wrong? It can be easy to do that, especially if you're someone who is supposed to be very holy, like the Pharisees. The Pharisees thought they were very good at keeping the Law. And they were very good at finding fault in others. But when they looked deep inside, they knew that they had made their share of mistakes too. And if you keep 99 laws but broke 1, it is as good as breaking the whole Law.

Jesus is God. And only He has never done anything wrong before. Hence, only He had the right to judge.

RESTORE DIGNITY

But Jesus didn't want to judge the woman. He didn't want to kill her.

The woman was caught in the act of adultery. She was acting as a wife to a man who was not her husband. However, the man she was with was not dragged out in public. Only her. She probably had little clothes on when she was dragged out. She was humiliated and shamed. Rejected and scorned. She had committed sin and broken the Law. People watching judged her and were ready to kill her.

But Jesus came to **RESTORE** her dignity. He did not condemn her. He forgave her. He gave her a new identity and the power to sin no more. The woman could walk free, with a thankful heart and her head held high.

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RESTORE TO DIGNITY: WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

CLOSING THOTS

- Do we sometimes think we're better than others because of the good we do?
- Do we sometimes think we're too bad for God because of the bad things we have done?
- Jesus came to **RESTORE** our dignity and to give us a new identify as a child of God.
- Let's come to God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

This is a repeat from last week, but it is applicable for this week's lesson too; good to refresh too.

John 3:16-17 (for younger kids, just v.16)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

MEMORY VERSE SONG

There are many versions on Youtube. Try to choose 1 that sticks true to the verse, so kids can learn it. (can check with previous class' teacher on which video they used)

Psalty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iPbqHA62GM>

Seeds Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTc8Lv6SdJg>

The Rizers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2iHNzNjKJw>

Daily Music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyvX2qQi2c8>

Close in prayer.

HOOK

GAME:

WHO TOUCHED ME?

Have the children sit in a circle. One person sits in the middle and is blindfolded. Children will take turns as the teacher quietly points to each one, to go to the child in the middle and TOUCH that children and quietly run back to the circle. Then the blindfold can be removed and the child can try to guess who TOUCHED him/her. If he guesses it correctly, then that child goes to the middle to be blindfolded, etc.

LESSON

STORY

Tell the story of Jesus & the woman with an issue of blood, based on **Mark 5:25-34**).

After Jesus left and came back to the other side of the lake, He was quickly summoned to heal a little girl who was dying.

A big crowd followed Jesus as He walked. In the crowd was a woman.

The Bible doesn't put her name, but we know that she had been bleeding for 12 years. How many of you are 12 years old? 12 years is a long time to be bleeding.

Besides the discomfort and pain she might have been going through, this woman had to keep away from society, as she was bleeding and considered "unclean".

Do you remember who else were considered "unclean" in Jewish society? Lepers

This woman went to many doctors. She spent a lot of money. But instead, she got worse! Nobody could heal her.

But she heard there was someone who could heal her — Jesus.

So even though she was not supposed to be out in public, she decided to go see Jesus. She thought to herself, "If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed!"

So she crept up behind Jesus and touched the edge of His long cloak.

Immediately, her bleeding stopped! And the woman knew that she had been completely healed.

Even though there were so many people around Him, Jesus also realised something had happened. He turned around and asked, "Who touched me? I know that power has gone out from me."

The woman knew she couldn't hide. She came and fell at Jesus' feet. And she told Him and everyone there what had happened to her. She testified how God had healed her.

Then Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

VIDEOS

The Chosen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYEmdFyWBq8>

LESSON

A DESPERATE WOMAN

The woman had:

- No name
- No money
- No improvement
- No standing (by Law, she was unclean)

A WOMAN OF FAITH

When all hope was gone, this woman had faith that Jesus could heal her. She confessed it with her mouth, "If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed."

This faith allowed her receive the divine health that Jesus had for her.

We, too, can exercise faith in what we say. Speak out God's truth and promises, even when things may seem hopeless. We, too, can reach out in faith and receive our healing and miracle.

JESUS RESTORED HER IDENTITY & WHOLENESS

This woman was not named. She was just identified as "The woman with an issue of blood".

But when Jesus spoke to her, He said, "Daughter, your faith has healed you."

He called her "Daughter", **RESTOR-ing** to her a true sense of identity and belonging.

Jesus also healed her and **RESTORE-d** her to wholeness & well-being, no more suffering.

CLOSING THOTS

When we meet Jesus, we cannot remain the same. We will be transformed.

- Healing takes place
- We are given a new identity — no longer just "woman" but "daughter"
- We have His peace

Like the woman, all that is left for us to do is to tell others what God has done for us.

Let's pray: *Thank you Jesus that a touch from You is all we need. You have the power to heal us. You have the power to make us Your sons and daughters. Thank you for loving us and working in us. In Your name, I pray Amen.*

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

WORKSHEETS

Fill in the Blanks [www.sermons4kids.com/power in a touch cloze.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/power_in_a_touch_cloze.htm)

Word Search [www.sermons4kids.com/power in a touch wordsearch.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/power_in_a_touch_wordsearch.htm)

Crossword [http://www.sermons4kids.com/power in a touch crossword.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/power_in_a_touch_crossword.htm)

Close in prayer.

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RESTORE TO LIFE:
Jairus' Daughter

HOOK

LESSON

STORY

Tell the story of Jesus & the woman with an issue of blood, based on **Mark 5:21-24, 35-43**).

Last week we learned about a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. When she touched Jesus, He was actually on His way to see a little girl.

This little girl was 12 years old, and she was very sick.

Her father's name was Jairus. He was a synagogue leader — a ruler of the synagogue.

Even though he was an important man, when his daughter was sick, he knew that only Jesus could help.

So the moment Jesus got off the boat, Jairus fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him. "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."

Jairus knew that Jesus had the power to heal his daughter, and he believed that she will be healed. This is called faith.

Jesus went with him. Along the way, He was "interrupted" by the woman who was bleeding for 12 years. For Jairus, it must have an anxious time because Jesus stopped to talk to the woman while his daughter was dying. But perhaps his faith was strengthened when he heard the woman's testimony.

However, some people came from Jairus house and said, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?" To these people, Jesus was just a "teacher".

Jesus assured Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

Jesus brought Peter, James and John with him to Jairus' house.

At the house, there were many people crying and wailing loudly.

Jesus said, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep."

But the people laughed at him.

Jesus put the people out of the house, leaving only his disciples and Jairus and his wife.

They went into the room where the girl was lying.

Taking her by the hand, Jesus said to her, "Talitha Koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!")

Immediately, the girl stood up and began to walk around.

Jesus told those present not to let anyone know about this and to give the girl something to eat.

VIDEOS

Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRDKoYjUiBc>

The Chosen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLblaA5u3gY>

LESSON

OVERCOME FEAR WITH FAITH

Like the woman who was bleeding for 12 years, Jairus also spoke out in faith when he said, "Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."

When the woman who was bleeding interrupted Jesus, when the people from Jairus' house told him that his daughter was dead, when the wailers and mourners were crying in the house ... despite these circumstances, Jesus still called Jairus to believe in Him.

Jesus also told Jairus: *"The child is not dead but asleep."* (Mark 5:39)

To us, death may seem like the final blow. But to Jesus, death is just temporary. And He proved it by rising from the dead after that. (All of us have to die one day eventually. Even when our physical bodies are dead and buried, when we have Jesus in our hearts, we can be with Him forever in heaven.)

And when Jesus said: *"Little girl, I say to you, get up!"* (Mark 5:41), the girl stood up and began to walk around. Jesus' words bring life!

When all hope seems gone, no matter what we are going through, we can continue to speak in faith and believe in Jesus. We can hear what Jesus said, *"Don't be afraid; just believe."*

A TALE OF 2 DAUGHTERS

Last week, we learnt about the woman with an issue of blood. Both RESTOR-ation of the woman and Jairus' daughter happened on the same day. The circumstances for both healings were very different. But it shows us that Jesus can RESTORE whoever, whenever, wherever and however.

WOMAN WITH ISSUE OF BLOOD	JAIRUS' DAUGHTER
12 years of bleeding	12 years of life then suddenly died
Bold faith	Dependent faith (father's)
Public healing	Private healing (in room)
Desperate	Dead

Let's pray: *Thank you Jesus that when we are faced with difficult situations, You are there with us. When things seem hopeless, You call us not to fear and to believe in You. Help us to learn to trust You more each day and to speak life and faith, according to Your promises. In Your name, I pray Amen.*

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MUSIC VIDEO

Kingdom Kids TV https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsauUj_vlwk

WORKSHEETS

Crossword http://www.sermons4kids.com/jairus_daughter_crossword.htm

Word Search http://www.sermons4kids.com/jairus_daughter_wordsearch.htm

Close in prayer.

HOOK

THE UNTOUCHABLE

Have one kid wear a hat or something distinctive. This kid has to try to tag the other children. All other children have to keep away from this kid.

Once they are tagged/touched by this kid, they have to go behind the kid and hold his/her shoulders. The more children the kid touches, the longer the chain of children behind him/her.

Game ends when there are 10 or 15 kids in the chain.

(play by ear, according to crowd and time; avoid over rowdiness)

LESSON

STORY (Mark 1:40-45)

Picture ideas: www.ebibleteacher.com/chalmers/leper.html, www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/bbs/healing_of_the_leper-storyboardprint.jpg

Act it out ideas: use baby powder to cover face, arms etc to depict leprosy; wipe off when “healed”

Jesus went to town one day and met a man with leprosy.

Who knows what leprosy is?

Leprosy is an infectious disease that affects the skin, nerves, limbs and eyes. It can cause fingers and toes to be shortened and deformed. In the Bible, leprosy can also refer to other infectious skin diseases.

Just like the game, if you are too close to the leper, you could get infected with leprosy yourself. So nobody liked to be near a leper. If they saw a leper coming, they would go far, far away.

These lepers were outcasts. People who were rejected by society. They had to stay outside of town. When they came near anyone, they had to announce loudly, “Unclean, unclean” to warn people.

Can you imagine what it’s like to live like that?

This leper must have been so tired of living this way. When he saw Jesus, he forgot all the rules of staying away from other people. He fell face down to the ground and begged Jesus, *“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”*

This man must have heard of Jesus’ miracles. He knew Jesus could heal him. But was Jesus willing? Maybe he wasn’t good enough to be healed. Maybe Jesus couldn’t be bothered about someone like him. Maybe Jesus didn’t want to be contaminated by him.

How do you think Jesus reacted?

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. Isn’t that amazing? Nobody wanted to be near lepers. Nobody touched him for years. And here was Jesus, touching him! Jesus could have just stood at a distance and healed the man, but He reached out and touched him, to RESTORE Him with love.

Then Jesus said, *“I am willing. Be clean!”* And immediately ... the leprosy left him! Praise the Lord!

Jesus told the man to show himself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for cleansing. Even though Jesus told him not to tell others about his healing, the man went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

VIDEOS

The Chosen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VL8DThlIZAY>

LESSON**JESUS IS ABLE & WILLING**

The prophet Isaiah tells us that Jesus will “carry our sicknesses and diseases”.

But even though we know Jesus can heal us, sometimes we don't think He wants to.

We think that maybe He won't heal us because we've been naughty or we're not good enough. We think maybe He's got more important things to do. We think maybe He wants us to be sick so we can learn a lesson.

But the truth is that Jesus took all our sicknesses on the cross when He died. He is able to heal us. And more importantly, He is willing! He is reaching out to touch us with love and compassion!

If anyone of you are sick today, put your hand on the part of the body that's not feeling well. And pray this prayer: *“Thank you Jesus that when you died on the cross, You carried all my sins and sicknesses. Thank you, Jesus that you are able to heal me. Thank you, Jesus that you are willing to heal me. In Jesus' name, I receive my healing. Amen!”*

For older kids:

JESUS BECAME THE OUTCAST

The leper was an OUTCAST, but Jesus RESTORED him back to society by making him clean.

But as news of the healing spread, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed OUTSIDE in lonely places.

And when Jesus was crucified later on to make us righteous, it was OUTSIDE the city gates (Hebrews 13:12). He was dragged out, shamed, struck ... He became an OUTCAST.

Jesus RESTORES the outcast because He BECAME the outcast.

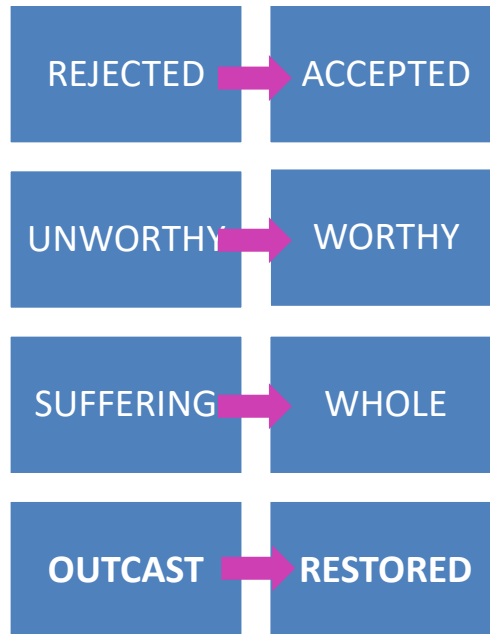
Do you know we, as Gentiles, were OUTCAST? Because of Jesus, we are ACCEPTED in God's family forever (Ephesian 2:11-13).

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RESTORE THE OUTCAST: Leper

JESUS RESTORES THE OUTCAST COMPLETELY



ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 53:4 *He carried our sicknesses and our diseases.*

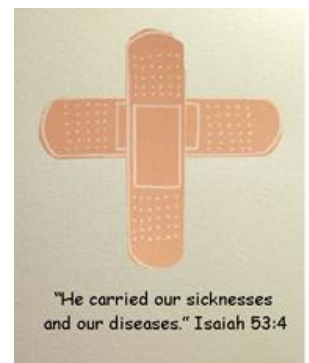
CRAFT

Materials: Notecards and band aids

On one side of the notecard: Stick 2 band aids on it as a cross and write the memory verse on the card.

On the other side of the notecard: Thank you Jesus for RESTORING us to God's family.

Pray together with each kid.



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RESTORE TO COMMUNITY: Zacchaeus

HOOK

LESSON

STORY (Luke 19:1-10)

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

LESSON

Do you know what a tax collector is?

In Jesus' time, tax collectors were Jews who helped the Roman government collect taxes from their own people. Jews hated the Romans. So they also hated the tax collectors who worked for the Roman government. The tax collectors also often collected extra money for themselves. E.g. if they were supposed to collect 100 dollars, they would collect 150 dollars instead and keep 50 dollars for themselves.

Today we learn about Jesus' meeting with a tax collector. His name is Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a very, very rich man. But he was not popular among his own people, the Jews, because they saw him as a traitor and a cheat. And for all the money he had, he felt that there was something missing in his life. He wasn't a happy man. Like the leper we learnt about last week, he was like an outcast. He was also a short man.

One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was passing through. He must have heard good things about Jesus. He knew that Jesus was friends with many tax collectors. There was something different about Him — He was not like all the other teachers of the law or Pharisees. If only he could just see Him ... But Zacchaeus was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead, and he climbed a sycamore tree, to catch a glimpse of Jesus.

JESUS CALLS

When Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was:

- He looked up and saw Zacchaeus — He had come for him
- He called him by name — He knew him already!
- He invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house — the home of any outcast!

JESUS TRANSFORMS

What's the result of Zacchaeus warmly welcoming Jesus into his house? What effect did it have on him?

Zacchaeus stood up and told Jesus, *"Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

Zacchaeus knew how unrighteous he was — he knew there was no way he could earn salvation on his own. But when Jesus came into his house and touched his heart, he was transformed. He could give up his money willingly and generously.

JESUS RESTORES

The people around were not so happy. *"Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner."* They thought that Zacchaeus was not worthy to have Jesus in his house and wondered why Jesus would "waste" His time with a sinner.

Jesus told them, *"Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

Jesus came to save the lost. Those who thought they were good enough didn't want to be saved, so He came to those who knew they were not good enough. And because Zacchaeus received Jesus into his house and heart, he was saved and had eternal life.

Jesus also came to RESTORE. He restored Zacchaeus the outcast to community, so that he can be a blessing and testimony to those around him.

JESUS DOES THE SAME TODAY

Today Jesus also does the same:

- He looks for us — while we were lost sinners
- He calls us by name — He knows us before we were born
- He invites Himself to our hearts

We can all be like Zacchaeus and welcome Jesus happily.

And we can let Jesus transform our lives, give us eternal life in Him, and be RESTORED to community!

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RESTORE TO COMMUNITY: Zacchaeus

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 19:10 *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

SONG

Zacchaeus was a wee little man

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8GJXE7e5s0&list=RDC8GJXE7e5s0&start_radio=1

HOOK

When was the saddest time (or a sad time) in your life?

Share your experience and invite the children to share theirs.

Today we are going to hear about a woman who was going through the saddest time of her life.



LESSON

STORY (Luke 7:11-17)

Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her.

What's a widow? A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

How many of you have mummies who work in the office? In those days, married women didn't go out to work as they had to take care of the household. They depended on the men in the household to provide for them and protect them.

The widow of Nain wept/cried for her son. First, she lost her husband, now her son. Now, with her only son dead, she had no one left to depend on. She would be very poor, her life would be difficult, and she would suffer. To support herself, she would have to find someone's field to glean (like what Ruth did when she and Naomi returned to Bethlehem when their husbands died. Remember the story of Ruth?)

When the Lord saw the widow, his heart was moved with compassion. He felt so sorry for her. He saw and felt her pain and sadness. Jesus went to her and said, "Don't cry!" Then he walked over to the open coffin and touched it, and the people carrying the coffin stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up." Then the dead man sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

VIDEOS

[Luke 7 | Jesus Raises the Son of the Widow of Nain | The Bible](#)

LESSON**JESUS SEES US WHEN WE ARE SAD**

There are times we are feeling sad inside, but we don't tell other people about it. We don't want to tell them because we think they won't understand us. However, Jesus sees us when we are sad, and He understands our hurts and pain. He not only sees us, but His heart is moved with compassion for us because He loves us so much and cares deeply for us. He tells us gently, "Don't cry".

If we feel sad because we have lost someone or something that is precious to us, remember that Jesus is with you. He comforts you in His love and RESTORES your sad heart.

Psalm 34:18 says, *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit".*

JESUS' WORDS HAVE POWER

Jesus told the dead man, *"Young man, I tell you, get up."*

The man was dead and everyone thought there was no hope. But because of the power of Jesus' words, he rose from the dead.

There are times we may think that no one can help us in our troubles and that we have no hope. But God has made many promises to us in the Bible, and all of them are true for us because of Jesus' finished work on the cross. *"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ ..."* (2 Corinthians 1:20)

One of these promises is Romans 8:28, which says *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Even when things look bad or hopeless, God can make things work out for good and RESTORE it to His original plan. Let's trust in God's promises for us.

DO WHAT JESUS TELLS YOU

What did the dead man do when Jesus told him to get up? Did he continue to lie in the coffin? No, he did what Jesus said. He got up.

In the same way, let us do the next thing that Jesus tells us to do.

Maybe our favorite toy is broken or our dog or cat died. Maybe it is something worse than that.

Whatever happens, it is ok to feel sad. But Jesus wants to RESTORE His joy to us. He invites us to get up and move on with Him, to enjoy new adventures with Him. He wants us to look forward to the future, to have hope because He has so much more in store for us.

When we trust in Him and do the next thing He asks us to do, He will RESTORE our sad heart and show us the new things that He has for us.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 34:18 *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit".*

GAME: Arise!

Have the class lie down on the floor motionless. Make sure that they do not move a muscle, acting as if they were really dead. Explain to them that when you say, "I say to you, arise," they are to sit up and start jumping.

Let them lie there for a while then say, "I say to you, arise." Have the children get up and jump up and down to get all their wiggles out.

Repeat as necessary.

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RESTORE SIGHT: The Blind Man

HOOK

Pin the tail on the donkey

Blindfold a volunteer and get the child to pin the donkey's tail. See who pinned the closest to the target. Ask the children to share their experience of not being able to see.

Today we are going to hear the story of a blind man.

LESSON

STORY (Mark 10:46-52)

As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city of Jericho, a blind man called Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside. Because he couldn't see, he wasn't able to work to earn money, so he had to beg.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Although he was blind, he must have heard from others that Jesus was able to heal people.

How did the crowd react? They scolded him. They asked him to be quiet. In their eyes, blind people should be seen and not heard — maybe they thought he was unworthy to disturb Jesus.

But he shouted even more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" He didn't care about what they said, as this was his chance to see again.

Jesus heard Bartimaeus. He stopped walking, stood still and told the people, "Call him."

So they called Bartimaeus, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

Bartimaeus said, "Teacher, I want to see."

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately, the blind man's sight was RESTORED, and he could see and followed Jesus along the road.

VIDEOS

[Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight \(The Blind Men Near Jericho\)](#)

LESSON**TRUSTING JESUS**

Bartimaeus had never seen Jesus. But He must have heard about what He has done. So the minute He heard that Jesus was passing by, He cried out to Him in faith.

Unlike the leper we learnt about in previous lessons, Bartimaeus didn't ask if Jesus was willing to heal him> He called out and declared what He wanted Jesus to do for him. He believed and knew in his heart that Jesus would heal him.

That is faith. And Jesus recognized and acknowledged it. *"Go," he told Bartimaeus. "Your faith has healed you."* (Mark 10:52)

Sometimes when we call on Jesus, some people may ask us to keep quiet. "Don't disturb Jesus. He's very important. And you ... who are you? What do you have to offer Him? Don't make so much noise."

But we don't have to let that stop us. We should be like Bartimaeus and call on Jesus anyway — We can be bold because we know He loves us so much.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) Let's go to Jesus when we need help and believe that He will hear us and answer our prayer.

JESUS HEARS US WHEN WE CALL

That day, it must have been very crowded and noisy. It would have been hard for Bartimaeus voice to be heard.

But Jesus heard him. He stopped walking and immediately asked the people to bring Bartimaeus because He wanted to heal him. Jesus cared for Bartimaeus and wanted to RESTORE him.

- Jesus heard
- Jesus stopped
- Jesus called
- Jesus RESTORED

In the same way, Jesus hears us when we call to Him ...

- whether we pray in a quiet or noisy place;
- whatever time of the day, whether it is morning, afternoon or night;
- whether we are important people or not.

Today, Jesus is asking us the same question, "What do you want me to do for you?" And like Bartimaeus, we can say: "Lord, I want to see."



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RESTORE SIGHT: The Blind Man

JESUS RESTORES SIGHT

What can we see?

Physical sight: healing — Jesus came to open blind eyes (Isaiah 42:7)

Spiritual sight: We can see Jesus (Luke 24:31) — His beauty (Psalm 27:4), His goodness (Psalm 34:8), His salvation (Luke 2:30-32; Acts 26:16-18)

When Bartimaeus received his sight, He followed Jesus and praised God. Those around also praised God. When we see Jesus, in His beauty, His wonder, and all that He has done for us, we will also follow Him and praise God. And the more we see Him, the more we are transformed in His image (2 Cor 3:18).

Let's ask Jesus to RESTORE our sight to see more and more of Him!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 35:5 *"And when He comes, He will open the eyes of the blind ..."*

CRAFT IDEAS

<https://members.10minutesofqualitytime.com/product/jesus-heals-the-blind-man-craft/>



HOOK

WELL, WELL, WELL

Prepare a pail of water and a paper cup tied with a string. Let kids take turns to try to draw water from the pail using the paper cup.

THIRSTY?

Ask your children if they have ever been thirsty? Think about different times you have wanted a drink. When you are cold, would you rather drink hot chocolate or iced lemonade? When you are very hot, would you rather drink water or milk?

Pour a glass of fresh water and refer to it as you tell today's story.

Jesus used water as an example to the Samaritan woman to show her how important it was to have Jesus in her life. Without Jesus, our souls are dead. He is the living water that makes our souls well and strong, just like physical water makes our bodies, and pets, and plants well and strong.

LESSON

STORY (John 4)

Jesus was leaving Judea and was going to Galilee. He travelled through Samaria. In the middle of the day, Jesus decided to stop and rest. He was in a city called Sychar, and He stopped by a well, Jacob's well (Jacob was the father of Joseph in the Old Testament). His disciples went to town to buy some food.

A woman from Samaria came to the well for water. Jesus asked her for a drink of water. The woman asked Jesus why He would ask her for water! She said Jesus was a Jew and she was a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritans did not have anything to do with each other!

Jesus told the woman that if she knew who was saying, "Give Me a drink", then Jesus would give living water. But the woman replied that He doesn't even have anything to get the water in and the well is deep!

The woman asked Jesus if He was greater than Jacob? (Jacob, his sons and his animals drank from the well.)

Jesus told her that whoever drinks of the living water that He would give would not ever be thirsty again. Jesus said the water that He gives would become a fountain that builds up into eternal life!

The woman asked Jesus for this eternal water so she wouldn't be thirsty again and so she wouldn't have to come to the well and draw water.

Jesus told her to go and bring her husband to see Him. But, she told Jesus that she didn't have a husband. Jesus agreed with her and told her that she has had five husbands! The man she was with now wasn't her husband either.

The woman told Jesus He must be a prophet! Jesus told her that the way of worship was changing. The people wouldn't be worshipping under the Old Law. God wants the people to worship Him in spirit and truth. The woman told Jesus that she knew the Messiah was coming and He is called Christ. He is coming and He will tell us what we need to know.

Jesus told her that He is the Messiah. The woman was amazed.

At this time, the disciples returned from the city and they couldn't believe that Jesus was talking to a woman. And, she was a Samaritan woman! They didn't say anything, though.

The woman left her water jug at the well and returned to the city. She told some men what Jesus had said and asked if He could really be the Christ? They left the city and went to see Jesus at the well.

Many of the people that lived in Samaria believed in Jesus because the woman told them what Jesus had said. Jesus knew all the things that she had done. The Samaritan people begged Jesus to stay with them, so He stayed there for 2 days. There were many believers in Jesus.

The people didn't believe because of what the woman had said, but when they heard what Jesus said, they knew He was really the Christ that they were waiting for. He was the Savior of the world!

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RESTORE THE THIRSTY: Woman at the Well

VIDEOS

LifeKids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vf3rqnoG5c>

The Gospel Project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QszHeIUsbTQ>

LESSON

JESUS WENT TO MEET THE WOMAN

In John 4:4, we read that as Jesus and his disciples head to Galilee, He “needed” to go through Samaria.

Why did Jesus want to go there? Normally Jews would avoid going through Samaria. Not only was the road very hilly, but the Jews and Samaritans were enemies.

But Jesus wanted to go to Jacob’s well in Samaria to meet a special person, the Samaritan woman.

In the same way, Jesus goes to great lengths to meet us. He came down from heaven to walk among us. And He is always there for us even today.

THE WOMAN WAS THIRSTY

This woman was ...

- a Samaritan — a hated race
- female — low status in society
- looked down on by her own people — had many husbands

She was at the well to get water to meet her physical thirst.

But there was a big hole in her heart that the well water couldn’t fill — she was spiritually thirsty too. She was thirsty for love and acceptance. She was thirsty for God.

And Jesus knew only He could fill that hole in her heart.

JESUS RESTORES THE THIRSTY

Jesus came to meet the woman where she was, despite her nationality, gender or status in society.

Through this woman, He wanted to show the Samaritans that God loves them and wants them to be part of His family. He told the woman that it didn’t matter whether one worshipped God in Jerusalem or in Samaria (or anywhere in the world) as long as they worshipped Him *in spirit and in truth*.

How can we worship *in spirit and in truth*? By being filled with the Spirit — the living water that Jesus gives. This water fills the thirsty soul, the big hole in our hearts, so we can have the life God wants for us.

John 4:14 *Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.*

The Holy Spirit is the living water. And Jesus offers it freely to all who come to Him thirsty.

John 7:37-39 *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”*

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RESTORE THE THIRSTY: Woman at the Well

In His encounter with the Samaritan woman, Jesus shows that His living water is for all.

His love knows no bounds. He sees us, knows us, and invites us to come and drink. His grace reaches beyond divisions, offering hope and a new beginning to all who believe.

Are you thirsty? Is there something you need in your life? Come to Jesus and let His living water fill you!

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RESTORE THE THIRSTY: Woman at the Well

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

John 4:14 *"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."*

HOOK

LEGLESS RACING

Have kids line up in pairs or relay-style teams. The task is to cross the room to retrieve an item or high five a teammate, etc (adjust task according to age). There is one catch: the racing kids cannot use their legs! They can use partners, or arms, but no legs. Is it challenging?

FEELING HELPLESS

Does anyone know what “helpless” means?

Being helpless means the person is unable to do anything to help himself/herself.

(Some ideas how to explain this: [helpless](#) | [How to explain to child](#))

Today we are going to hear the story of a man who was hopelessly helpless.

LESSON

STORY (John 5:1-9, 17)

Jesus went to Jerusalem for a special Jewish festival. In Jerusalem, there is a pool near the Sheep Gate called Bethesda. It had five covered porches. Many sick people, blind, lame and paralysed were lying on the porches beside the pool, waiting for the water to move. They believe that an angel would go down at a certain time into the pool and stir up the water, and that whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, would be healed of whatever disease he had.

There was a man lying there who had been paralysed for 38 years!

What's paralysed? *Cannot move his body on his own. Completely helpless.*

Jesus saw him by the pool, and when H knew that he had been sick for a very long time, He went up to him and asked, "Do you want to be well?"

The sick man answered, "Sir, there is no one to help me get into the water when it starts moving. I try to be the first one into the water. But when I try, someone else always goes in before I can."

Then Jesus said, "Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk." Immediately the man was well. He picked up his mat and started walking.

All this happened on a Sabbath day.

Later, Jesus found the man at the Temple and said to him, "See, you are well now. But stop sinning or something worse may happen to you!"

VIDEOS

[Jesus Heals at the Pool of Bethesda | Animated Bible Story for Kids | Bible Heroes of Faith \[Ep. 4\] - YouTube](#)

[Paralytic by Pool of Bethesda - YouTube](#) until 3.27

LESSON

THE MAN WAS HELPLESS & HOPELESS

The man was paralysed for 38 years ... that's a very long time. He could not walk. He could not move on his own. He was helpless. He had hoped that someone would help him to get in the pool first after the angel stirred the water, but he was not able to. So he remained paralyzed. As more and more years went by, he probably began to think that his chances of getting healed were getting lower and lower.

Then Jesus came along. He asked him, "Do you want to be well?"

The man didn't say "Yes" or "No". He just gave an excuse — he was all alone, no one to help him. Jesus was standing right in front of him, asking if he wanted to be well, but the man was focusing on the wrong thing. He was looking to the pool, not Jesus, to heal him. He did not realise that the one standing in front of him was Jesus, the son of God, the Source of healing and wholeness.

JESUS RESTORED THE HELPLESS

Yet, Jesus RESTORED the helpless man.

He did it:

- Without being asked to
Unlike the blind man (Bartemeus), or Jairus, or the woman with the issue of blood [from the previous lessons], the paralysed man did not call out to Jesus for healing.
- Even though undeserved
The man did not do anything to earn his healing. In fact, he may even have been paralysed because of a sin he did (which was probably why Jesus told him to "stop sinning").
- Perfectly and fully done
Jesus did not just agree to help bring the man to the waters when it stirred. He healed the man completely so he could stand up, pick up his mat and walk.

JESUS RESTORES US WHEN WE ARE HELPLESS

All of us were once like that paralysed man. We were all paralysed by sin. We could not help ourselves. We were helpless. And no one else could help us.

Only Jesus. And Jesus came to RESTORE us. Even when we did not ask. Even when we did not deserve it. And He did it completely by taking our sin and punishment on the Cross.

Romans 5:6-8 says "... when we were still powerless [i.e. helpless], Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Even today, whenever we are feeling helpless, we can look to Jesus to RESTORE us. Jesus helps us even when we do not deserve to be helped, when we get ourselves into trouble, or do not want to listen to Him. Even if we feel all alone and there's no one to help us, He never leaves us and is still with us. We can follow Him because He always has the best plans for us.

Just tell him, "Jesus, I don't know what to do, but You do; help me with this problem". You will see how wonderful and kind he is.

TAKE HOME

Without Jesus = we are HELPLESS

With Jesus = we have an ever-present HELP

Psalm 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble".

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 46:1 *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble".*

TESTIMONY

Share your testimony of how Jesus helped you when you were helpless. Ask the children to share their experience (e.g. a family member was sick, they got lost or bullied, etc).

CRAFT

With memory verse or "Jesus RESTORES the Helpless"

chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://digin-resources.group.com/media/8623/q2_lesson-04_man-by-the-pool_handout_life-of-jesus.pdf



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RESTORE THE HELPLESS (Pt 2): The Paralyzed Man & Friends

HOOK

GAME: LOWER THE MAT

Prepare a “mat” with a string tied to each corner of it. Place a small doll or object on it.

Choose 4 volunteers and get them to stand on chairs. Give them each one of the strings and have them lower the “mat” down slowly to the floor without dropping the doll/object.

LESSON

STORY (Mark 2:1-12)

One day Jesus was teaching in a house in Capernaum. The Pharisees and teachers of the law came from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem to hear him teach.

The house was very crowded.

Some men, carrying a paralysed man on a mat, tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. Who knows what “paralysed” means? (*Someone who cannot move his body and limbs*)

They had heard that Jesus was healing many people. So they wanted Him to heal their friend too.

But there were so many people in the house, and they couldn't get in!

Oh no! What do you think they could do?

Suddenly, they had an idea. They would bring their friend up to the roof and lower him through the tiles! So they carried their friend to the roof and started removing the tiles. Then they lowered him carefully, slowly, down, into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Everybody must have been so surprised to see a man come down from the roof!

Jesus was pleased at the four friends' faith. Then He told the paralysed man, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Isn't that a strange thing to say? The paralysed man was waiting for Jesus to heal him, but Jesus just told him that his sins were forgiven.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law were not happy. They began thinking to themselves, “Who is this man who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Even though they didn't say it out, Jesus knew what they were thinking.

He asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier to say: ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Get up and walk’? But I want to tell you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”

So Jesus said to the paralysed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

Immediately, the man stood up in front of them, took up his mat and went home, praising God.

Everyone was amazed and praised God. They said, “We have seen remarkable things today!”

VIDEOS

Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cmppSIQUX4>

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWDgdPiNpz0>

LESSON

THE MAN WAS HELPLESS & HOPELESS

Last week, we learned about how Jesus RESTORED a man who was paralysed for 38 years. Today's lesson is about another paralysed man. He also could not walk. He could not move on his own. He was helpless. It took 4 people to be able to carry him.

The situation was hopeless. Jesus was in a house, but it was so crowded that there was no way in.

THE MAN HAD FRIENDS

This was very similar to the paralysed man we learnt about last Sunday. But there was a big difference. What was it? *He had friends to help him come to Jesus.*

The man's friends didn't give up. They saw the impossible situation, and they knew Jesus was their only hope. So they carried the man to the house. And when they saw there was no way in, they overcame many obstacles (carrying him upstairs, removing the roof etc) to get him to Jesus.

JESUS RESTORED THE HELPLESS

Jesus RESTORED the man, not just physically but also spiritually. He didn't just heal the man's paralysis. He also forgave his sins. (In the Bible times, sicknesses were seen to be a result of sin.)

The Pharisees and teachers of the law were upset that Jesus said He forgave the man's sins because only God could forgive sin.

So Jesus was actually saying that He was God. And He proved it by:

- Knowing what the Pharisees and teachers of the law were thinking, even though they didn't say anything aloud.
- Asking the man to get up, pick up his mat and walk.

If Jesus were not God, the man's sins would not have been forgiven, and he would still be paralysed.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law were probably not happy about that. But everyone else was amazed, and they all praised God!

IN JESUS, YOU HELP THE HELPLESS

Just like the man's friends, all of us who already know Jesus can help others to come to Him. Those who do not know Jesus are helpless in their sin. We can bring them to Jesus so they are RESTORED physically and spiritually to Him.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 5:24 *"But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."*

SHARING

Get kids to think about how they can play a part in bringing the helpless to Jesus.

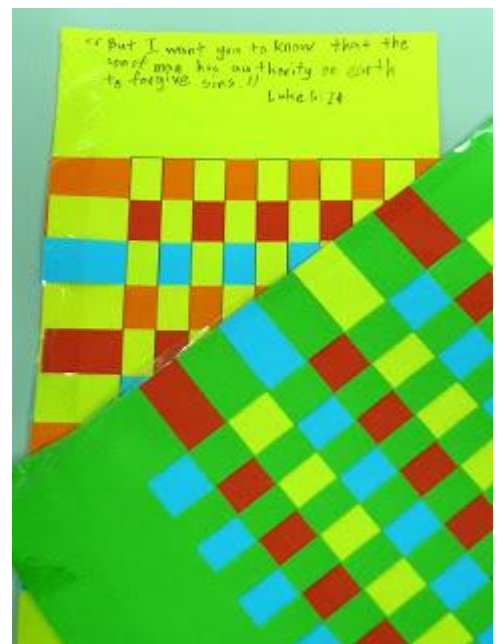
CRAFT: Mat

Materials: A5 cards with slits and strips of colour paper

Get kids to make a "mat" by weaving the colour paper through the cards. Good to make a sample for them to see.

E.g. www.dltk-kids.com/World/mexico/mplacemats.htm

Then write "JESUS RESTORES THE HELPLESS" on the mat.



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RESTORE THE TORTURED MIND Demon-possessed man

HOOK

GAME: Tangled to Free

Play the human knot challenge (or age-appropriate variation):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EIEP0w64s4>

Sometimes our minds can be all knotted out and in a mess. But Jesus can RESTORE our troubled or tortured minds.

LESSON

STORY (Mark 5:1-20)

Jesus and His disciples crossed a lake in a boat to the country of Gerasenes. ([*pronunciation*](#))

When they went on shore, suddenly, a demon-possessed man came running up to them.

This man was under the power of an evil spirit. The evil spirit would attack him and make him do things he didn't want to do. He was naked! He was dirty.

Even though the man was chained up on his hands and feet, with someone always watching him, the evil spirit would cause him to break the chains and go stay in the tombs — where dead people are placed.

The evil spirits recognised who Jesus was. They were afraid because they knew this was someone who had authority over them. The man fell down before Jesus and cried out loudly, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!"

Jesus asked, "What is your name?"

The evil spirit answered, "Legion", which meant many demons.

The evil spirits begged Jesus not to send them to the bottomless pit but into a herd of pigs nearby. Jesus permitted them. The evil spirits went out of the man and entered the pigs, which ran violently off the cliff, into the lake, and drowned!

Those who saw what happened went to tell other people. When they returned, this man was sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. What a transformation!

They were afraid and asked Jesus to leave.

The man who was delivered from the evil spirits wanted to follow Jesus. But Jesus told him to:

"Return to your own house and tell what great things God has done for you."

And the man went to tell the whole city what Jesus has done for him.

VIDEOS

Share Faith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX1GOz3My5I>

LifeKidz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HIT7kGarIk>

LESSON**A TORTURED MIND**

What's "tortured"? *Severe pain and suffering. Very disturbed, troubled.*

What was the state of this man?

Demon-possessed (demons went into his body and controlled him) Naked. Lived in tombs (not in his own home). Was chained hand and foot, but broke the chains. Would cry out every day and cut himself with stones.

This man was suffering greatly, both physically and mentally. The demons in him were torturing him and causing him to hurt himself.

JESUS HAS POWER OVER ALL

The man had many demons in him. They were called "Legion" — which usually refers to 3,000-6,000 men in the Roman army — for there were many of them. They were so powerful, and they controlled the man so that no one could overpower him.

And yet, these "many" demons recognised Jesus and feared Him. They cried out loudly, "*What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me*". Can you imagine ... these demons tortured the man so much, but they were afraid of being tortured by Jesus!

And with just His word, the demons all left the man. They rushed into a heard of pigs, which ran violently off the cliff, into the lake, and drowned! That must have been quite a scary sight — so many pigs just running off a cliff. Can you imagine how much torture the man was under by these spirits?

Because we have Jesus in us, we don't have to be afraid of any evil spirits or ghosts or anything scary. We have the power of the Holy Spirit. We can command all evil spirits to leave in Jesus' name.

FROM TORTURED TO RESTORED

The man had been isolated from society. He was not in control of his own body or mind. But when he met Jesus, Jesus RESTORED him completely. The town people found him dressed and in his right mind, sitting with Jesus. And after Jesus left, this man (who used to live in the graves) went into the cities and told everyone how much Jesus had done for him!

Jesus RESTORED the man's mind. He gave Him the mind of Christ.

All of us have the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16). So we can all go and tell everyone what Jesus has done for us!

JESUS
Restores

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RESTORE THE TORTURED MIND

Demon-possessed man

UNDER POWER OF EVIL SPIRITS	UNDER POWER OF JESUS
Naked	Clothed
Attacked and tormented	In right mind
Stayed in solitary places / tombs	Returned to the city to tell what Jesus had done for him

JESUS
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RESTORE THE TORTURED MIND Demon-possessed man

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

1 Cor 2:16 *"We have the mind of Christ."*

PRAYER

*Thank you Jesus that at Your name, demons and evil spirits will run away. I do not have to fear them.
I thank You that Your Holy Spirit lives in me forever and that I have the mind of Christ.
In Your name, I pray Amen.*

HOOK

It was Daddy's birthday. And Sam wanted to have a nice party for Daddy. So he hung decorations (including a hand-drawn "Happy Birthday" banner) and baked a cake. Daddy came home after work at 6. Wow! The house looked wonderful, and he was so happy. But wait, nobody was around! "Sam!" Daddy called. "Just a minute! I'm mixing the drinks!" Sam replied from the kitchen.

Daddy took a seat at the table and waited. After 10 minutes, he called again, "Sam! Come over here and join me!" "Hold on, Dad!" Sam said, as he ran to and fro the table and the kitchen. "I need to get the forks and spoons out." Several more minutes passed. Daddy was feeling lonelier at the table.

Finally Daddy called Sam again. "Sam, come here." "Wait Dad! I want everything to be just perfect for your birthday!"

"But Sam," Daddy said. "My birthday will be perfect as long as I can spend it with you. Now there are all the decorations and cakes and drinks, but you are not here! All I want is to be able to celebrate my birthday by spending time with my boy! So come on here and sit with me and tell me about your day!"

Sam came and cuddled up to Daddy, and they had a lovely time together. They had such a good time that they almost forgot to eat the cake. But Sam finally realised that all his Daddy wanted was to be with him.

It is the same with our Heavenly Daddy, who loves us and just wants to be with us. Let me tell you about what happened when Jesus went to visit His good friends at their house.

LESSON

STORY (Luke 10:38-42)

(Can use puppets or get kids to act out etc. Props can be kitchen ware/cleaning supplies for Martha.)

When Jesus visited his two friends, Martha and Mary, they must have been so excited to have Jesus in their house.

What did Martha do? She wanted to make everything perfect for Jesus. She cooked and cleaned and arranged everything neatly.

What did Mary do? She wanted to spend time with Jesus. So she just sat at His feet and listened to Him talk.

Martha was rushing everything ... dinner time was coming. Where was that sister of hers? Just sitting there? That made Martha very angry. She complained to Jesus, "My sister left me to do the work by myself! Tell her to help me!"

Jesus calmed her down. "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

VIDEOS

Life Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2e1bCykvkc>

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFBkyDc6blc>

LESSON

MARTHA WAS STRESSED

Martha thought Jesus would be pleased with her if she did everything right. She wanted everything to be just nice for Him. But in her busyness, she became stressed — “upset and worried” about many things. She also became angry at people who weren’t as busy as her. She complained about them.

JESUS RESTORED HER REST

It’s not wrong to want to serve Jesus. But Martha was trying to do things out of our own strength. And in doing so, she lost sight of the most important thing ... Jesus.

Jesus reminded Martha that He didn’t need all her “doing” to be pleased with her. He was already pleased with her. All she needed to do was be like Mary and to just sit and spend time with Him, resting.

Mary was focused on Jesus. Yes, she could be helping her sister to cook and clean also. But Jesus was there. And He became her priority. So she sat at His feet and rested.

Illustration idea:

(You may choose to use props etc)

Torch light with battery vs. Lamp plugged into socket. Once the battery runs out, the torch light will not work anymore. But the lamp is plugged into the power source and will keep on shining. If we do things on our own strength, we are running on our own battery, which will drain out eventually. But if we rest in Jesus, we’re always connected in His strength, which will never run out.

JESUS WANTS TO RESTORE OUR REST

Sometimes we, too, get distracted with a lot of things in life. We get frazzled and tired and stressed. Maybe things are not going our way. Maybe we are worried about our exams. Maybe we are going from tuition to training to church practices, and we are upset, angry and tired.

Jesus loves us and wants to RESTORE our rest. He gives us this invitation: *“Come to me, all who are tired, and I will give you rest.”*

When we come to Jesus, He RESTORES our rest, letting us draw on His love, His joy, and His strength every day. And because of that, we can serve Him and others with His love, His joy and His strength.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 11:28 *"Come to me, all who are tired, and I will give you rest."*

QUIET TIME

Play some slow worship songs (instrumental would be good). Have kids sit a bit apart from each other, close their eyes, keep quiet and just enjoy the music and God's presence for about 5 minutes (depending on age/attention span).

SONG: One thing is needed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMXun5wxmv0>

SONG: Mary & Martha

(to the tune of London Bridge.)

Jesus came to see His friends,
see His friends, see His friends,
Jesus came to see His friends
They were happy.

Martha baked a loaf of bread
loaf of bread, loaf of bread.
Martha baked a loaf of bread
Just for Jesus.

Mary listened carefully
carefully, carefully.
Mary listened carefully
Just to Jesus.

PRAYER

Thank you Jesus that we can rest in You because You have done everything for us. Thank you that You love to spend time with us. Thank you for loving me. In Your name we pray, Amen.

HOOK

MUMMY GAME

Divide kids into 2-3 groups. Choose one kid from each group. Get parents/kids to help wrap up the kid with toilet paper (like Lazarus). Most creative one wins. Then get kids to remove the “grave clothes”.

WINK, WINK, RESURRECTION

Similar to wink murder. Kids sit in a circle. Choose someone to be the “resurrector” and a detective to guess. The resurrector has to discreetly wink at one of the other kids. But this time if someone is winked at, they must jump up and shout “I’m alive”, instead of dying. The detective is allowed three guesses to work out who the resurrector is before everyone is “alive”.

LESSON

STORY (John 11:1-45)

Tell the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Get the older kids to read the Bible passage out loud. You may want to get some kids to role play.

Last Sunday, we learnt about 2 sisters. Who remembers their names? *Mary and Martha*

Today we meet them again, along with their brother. His name is Lazarus.

One day, Lazarus fell very sick. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, *"Lord, the one you love is sick."*

Did Jesus rush immediately to his side? No. He stayed where he was for 2 more days.

Why? Why didn't He stop Lazarus from dying? (get kids to think)

Because there was a bigger plan — Jesus wanted to demonstrate some greater miracle of God to prove that He had victory not only over sickness, but also over death.

When Jesus finally reached Bethany, Lazarus had already been dead for 4 days!

Martha and Mary each came to meet Jesus separately, but they both said the same thing: *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

Jesus told Martha two important facts.

He said: *"Your brother will rise again."*

And then: *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

Jesus later asked to see where Lazarus was laid.

What did He ask the people to do at the grave? *Move away the stone.*

How long had Lazarus been dead? *4 days.* Ewww ... stinko!

How did Jesus pray? Did He beg God, *"Please, please do something!!!!"*?

No. Jesus said, *"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."*

Note: Jesus called God "Father".

What happened when Jesus said, *"Lazarus, come out!"*

Lazarus came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Isn't Jesus wonderful? Even when no one around believed that He could do it, when people doubted and complained, He still did a great miracle and RESTORED Lazarus — who had been dead 4 days — to LIFE!

JESUS
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RESTORE TO LIFE
Lazarus

VIDEOS

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FT04jjh3Q8>

ShareFaith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCD-4-eeDQw>

LESSON

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

What did Jesus say to Martha? <get kids to read>

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

What is resurrection? Resurrection means being RESTORED to LIFE.

Jesus said those who believed in Him will live, even though they die. Then He says if they believe in Him, they will never die! What do you think Jesus meant by that?

Jesus didn't just mean that when we die, we will go to heaven. He didn't mean we will never die physically — all of us will die one day; even Lazarus died physically later.

Jesus wanted to tell Martha something very important and wonderful. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He wanted to prove something even more awesome and miraculous — that He can give LIFE to those who are spiritually dead!

THE EMPTY TOMB

Lazarus was in the tomb for four days. But when Jesus RESTORED Him to Life, he walked out of the tomb. This reminds us of another important tomb in the Bible. Yes, that's right. The Garden Tomb where Jesus' body was laid.

Jesus came to die on the cross, taking all the punishments for our sin. His body was removed from the cross and buried in a heavily guarded tomb. Three days later, the tomb was rolled away, and Jesus walked out of that tomb alive! By His death and resurrection, Jesus had defeated sin AND death!

JESUS CAME TO GIVE US THE "JESUS LIFE"

More importantly, Jesus' death and resurrection brought us back to life from spiritual death.

When Adam disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, he died spiritually. And because of that, we ALL were dead spiritually. We were all like Lazarus ... dead!

But because of Jesus' finished work on the Cross, He RESTORED us to Life by giving His life to us — the Jesus Life. This is an everlasting life that will never die.

When we believe in Jesus, we have His Jesus Life in us today! And even when we sin, even when we sometimes do things our way, even when our physical body dies, we will always have this Jesus Life in us forever!

Do you want to believe in Jesus today?

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Do you believe that believing in Jesus and trusting Him will allow you to have everlasting life? What difference does it make in your life? Share and pray for each other.

SONG: I'm the Resurrection & the Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sok25KPuEI8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aMn3avhn6E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tLBCXPLwus>

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RESTORE OUR JOY Disciples on Road to Emmaus

HOOK

JIGSAW: UNCOVERING THE BIG PICTURE

Cut up pictures into smaller pieces. Pick up 1 piece and ask the kids what it is. They may not be able to figure it out. Then, get the kids to piece the pieces together and see the picture it creates.

Sometimes when we feel sad or hopeless, we can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. But God knows, and He is showing us bit by bit. And one day we can recognize what it is that He has in store for us.

LESSON

STORY (Luke 24:13-35)

Who remembers what happened on Easter morning? *Get kids to share about the women and Peter and John discovering Jesus' empty tomb.*

Later that same day, two other disciples — Cleopas and his friend — were walking to a village called Emmaus, about 7 miles from Jerusalem.

How do you think they were feeling?

Yes, they were feeling sad! They were feeling dejected. Disappointed. Defeated.

Why were they sad?

Their friend Jesus had died. Their hopes and dreams for a “superhero saviour” had been dashed. And now, they have even heard that Jesus’ tomb was empty!

As they walked and talked to each other, suddenly Jesus came by and walked together with them. But somehow, they were not able to recognize him.

Jesus asked them, “What are you talking about?”

Cleopas was surprised. “Are you new to Jerusalem? Don’t you know what’s been happening here the past few days?”

They went on to explain. “We were talking about Jesus. He was a powerful prophet. We had hoped He would deliver Israel from the Romans. But the chief priest and rulers handed Him over to be crucified.

“Then today, some of our women told us that they went to the tomb early this morning and they couldn’t find his body! They saw angels instead, who told them that Jesus was alive. Then some of our friends went to the tomb and find it empty, but they did not see Jesus.”

Then Jesus told them, “Don’t you know what all the prophets have said? Don’t you know that the Messiah has to suffer all these things before being glorified?

Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to the two disciples what all the Scriptures said about Himself.

As they reached the village, Jesus pretended to walk on. But they urged him, “Stay with us. It’s almost evening.”

So Jesus stayed with them. He had supper with them. He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to them. Who knows when Jesus did this before? Yes, at the Passover dinner — His last supper with his disciples. (The Covenant Meal/Holy Communion/Lord’s Supper)

When Jesus broke the bread, suddenly the disciples remembered too! Their eyes were opened, and they could recognize Jesus!

Then Jesus disappeared from their sight.

Cleopas and his friend said to each other, "Didn't our hearts feel warm when He was talking to us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned immediately to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven disciples and others who had gathered with them. "It is true!" The other disciples said. "The Lord appeared to Peter!"

And Cleopas and his friend also told them how Jesus met them on the road to Emmaus, and how they recognized Him when He broke bread.

VIDEOS

LifeKids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPsWHNa84Tc>

Saddleback <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3QkZsKLU2o>

LESSON**JESUS WALKS WITH US**

The disciples were very SAD. They were down and out. Depressed. Discouraged.

But Jesus came to walk with them.

Jesus walks with us too! When we are feeling down and discouraged, when we are sad or mad, sometimes God seems very far away. But the truth is that Jesus never leaves our side. We may not recognize Him always, but He's always there with us. He's walking with us all the way.

JESUS RESTORED THEIR JOY

Even though the 2 disciples did not recognize Jesus yet, they invited him to stay for a meal. After the breaking of bread, they recognized Him.

When they recognized Him, sorrow turned to joy, confusion to clarity, despair to hope. Instead of being sad and discouraged, the disciples' hearts were warmed, and they could tell the good news excitedly to everyone else!

Jesus can do that for us too. Whenever we feel hopeless or depressed, sad or mad, we can look to Jesus and recognize His presence. And He can RESTORE our Joy.

JESUS SHOWS HIMSELF TO US (optional for Red class)

Luke 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them in all the Scriptures what was said about Himself.*

The whole Bible is a love story written by God to man. It tells how God loved the world so much and planned to send a Saviour to save the world from sin. Every story in the Bible, every prophecy, shows us more about Jesus and what He has done on the cross for us.

That's why in tNCC, we always look at Jesus and His finished work on the cross!
(Especially when we are feeling sad or depressed!)

So when we read the Bible, we can ask ourselves, "How does this story show me Jesus and His finished work?" And you'll be amazed at how beautiful a story it is of God's love for you and me!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

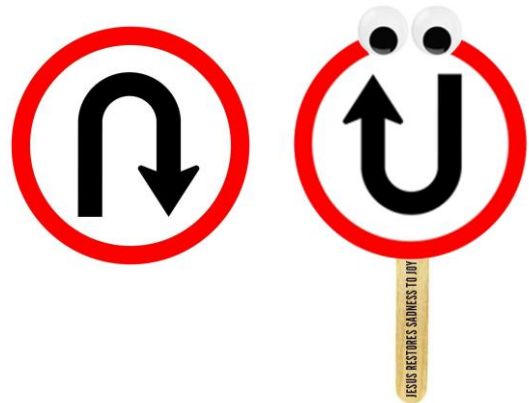
MEMORY VERSE

Luke 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them in all the Scriptures what was said about Himself.*

For Red Class: "The Bible is all about Jesus."

CRAFT: U-turn sign

Text: Jesus RESTORES our Joy



HOOK

BREAKFAST BY THE BEACH

Invite the children to sit down on a picnic mat. Prepare some goldfish biscuits and bread (or something else if you want). (Optionally: play gentle ocean sounds in the background.)

Talk about:

Have you ever made a mistake or done something wrong that made you feel sad or guilty? Peter was one of Jesus' best friends, but one night, he made a big mistake. He said he didn't even know Jesus — three times! (Luke 22:54-62)

But Jesus didn't give up on Peter.

Let's hear how Jesus showed Peter love and forgiveness and RESTORED him (after cooking breakfast for him and the disciples on the beach).

LESSON

STORY (John 21)

When Jesus was arrested, his disciple Peter had denied knowing him three times out of fear. Now Jesus had died and risen again. But still Peter felt guilt over what he did.

One day, Peter announced to the other disciples that he was going to go fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Peter was a professional fisherman before He met Jesus. Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two other disciples decided to go with him. They fished all night but didn't catch anything.

Early the next morning, they heard someone calling out to them. Their boat was about 100 yards away from the shore (about the length of a football field), so they couldn't tell who it was.

The man called out to them, "Friends, don't you have any fish?" "No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish."

When they did, they could not pull the net into the boat. There were too many fish in it.

Then, John said to Simon Peter, "It is the Lord!"

As soon as Peter heard that, he put his coat on. He had taken it off earlier. Then he jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat. They were towing the net full of fish.

Once the disciples knew who was with them, they were thrilled! Not only did Jesus help them catch a bunch of fish, He even cooked some fish for them to eat.

But that isn't the most important part of the story ... after breakfast, Jesus had a conversation with Simon Peter.

Jesus asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

Peter replied, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

Jesus asked Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter said, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

Then for a third time, Jesus asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was grieved because Jesus had to ask three times. He said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

And after saying all these, Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me."

JESUS
Restores

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RESTORE OUR CALLING
Peter

VIDEOS

Saddleback https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ_ROBNrUQI

Sharefaith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulRPKXet8n4>

LESSON**JESUS RESTORED PETER**

Despite Peter denying Jesus three times, Jesus still went to him, called out to him, provided for him (huge catch of fish) and prepared breakfast for him.

When Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved Him, Peter felt a bit hurt and upset because maybe he felt he had failed Jesus already, so perhaps Jesus didn't believe him anymore. But it could be that Jesus was giving Peter the opportunity to affirm his love out loud three times, once for every time he had denied Jesus earlier.

Jesus still loved Peter even though he made a mistake and was willing to forgive him. He wanted to RESTORE him.

JESUS RESTORED PETER'S CALLING

Jesus told the disciples to throw their nets on the other side, and they caught a lot of fish.

Actually, this miracle had happened before ... do you remember it? Jesus was teaching from Peter's boat and then He told Peter to take the boat to where the water was deep and put out his nets. When Peter did so, the nets were packed full of fish. His partners, James and John, had to come with another boat to help bring in the fish. Both boats were so full of fish that they nearly sank! That was the time Jesus said to Peter, *"From now on, you'll be fishing for people."* That meant Peter would help bring people to know God's love. That day, Peter, James and John left everything to follow Jesus (Luke 5:1-11).

This round, the miracle was like a reminder to Peter and the disciples that their calling is to fish for people. Peter must have been feeling aimless and lost (or broke) when he decided to go fish that day. But Jesus RESTORED His calling. When Jesus helped him catch lots of fish again, it was like Jesus was reminding him: 'I still have a job for you, Peter!'" Then Jesus told Peter to "feed His sheep/lamb" three times and to follow Him.

Peter went on to become a very influential person in the early church. He was no longer just a fisherman, but a true fisher of men. God used him in remarkable ways. He shared his faith and proclaimed Christ, even when it later cost him his life (as Jesus had also told him).

TAKE-HOME POINT

God can always turn our stories around. Even if we think that we have fallen too far to recover, or we make mistakes and don't think we can ever be forgiven, Jesus forgives us. He wants to turn our mess into success, and He wants to work in us and through us to fulfil our calling. So let Jesus RESTORE us and see what amazing things He can do in you and through you!

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RESTORE OUR CALLING
Peter

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

John 21:17 *"Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'"*

CRAFT