

Use Week of:

## Unit 22 • Session 3

# Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lam

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

John 5

### STORY POINT:

Jesus healed a man who could not walk.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:4-5

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
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**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
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**APPLY THE STORY**  
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Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [ministrygrid.com/gospelproject](http://ministrygrid.com/gospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

Located in the city of Jerusalem, the pool of Bethesda was a place many believed to possess healing powers. People who were sick or disabled went to the pool in hope of being made whole. They believed an angel would stir up the waters, and the first person to get in would be healed. (Some translations include this detail in verse 4; but since the earliest and most accurate manuscripts do not include the detail, most contemporary translations omit it as well.)

Jesus sought out a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been disabled for 38 years. Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to get well?” The man, not recognizing who was talking to him (see John 5:13), explained his inability to get to the pool in time. Filled with compassion, Jesus commanded this man: “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” After decades of helplessness, the man was instantly healed. He picked up his mat and walked.

At this time, Jesus slipped away through the crowd. So when the Jewish leaders approached the man, asking questions about the healing and accusing the man of breaking the law by picking up his mat on the Sabbath, the man could not even identify who healed him. Yet Jesus sought out the man a second time. Jesus found the man in the temple and warned him, “Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.”

Jesus cared about the man’s body; He had healed it. But Jesus cared more about the man’s soul. As you teach kids, emphasize that the man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus’ commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.

# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame

*John 5*

Jesus went to Jerusalem and stood by the pool of Bethesda (buh THEZ duh). Many people were at the pool who were blind, lame, or paralyzed. **Jesus noticed a man who could not walk. He had been lying there for a long time. Jesus asked him, “Do you**

**want to get well?”**

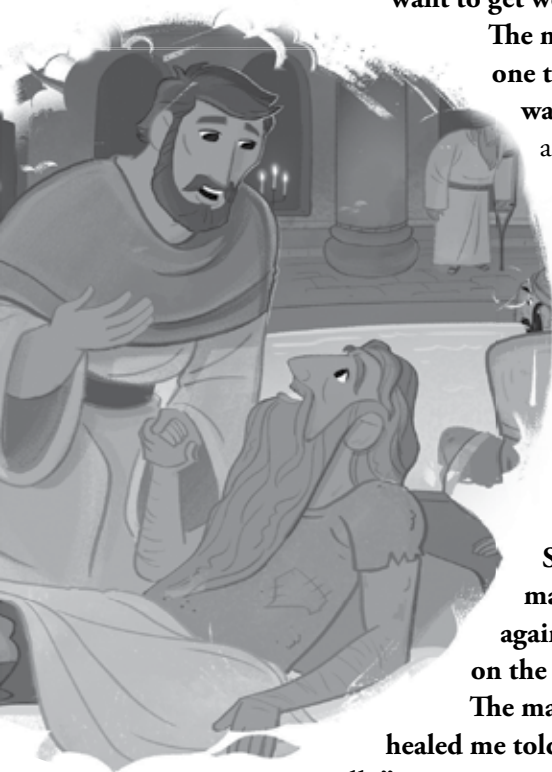
The man answered, “Sir, I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up. Someone else always gets in before me.” The man thought if he could get into the water, he would be healed.

Jesus told him, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” Right away, the man was miraculously healed. He picked up his mat and started to walk.

This happened on the Sabbath, so the Jews told the man who was healed, “It is against the law to pick up your mat on the Sabbath.”

The man replied, “The man who healed me told me to pick up my mat and walk.”

“Who was the man?” the Jews asked. But the man who was healed did not know who had healed him. By this time, Jesus had slipped away into the crowd.



Later, Jesus found the healed man in the temple. Jesus said to him, “See, you are healed. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.”

Then the man went to the Jews and told them that Jesus had healed him. So the Jews began persecuting Jesus because He was healing people on the Sabbath. Jesus told the Jews, “My Father is still working, and I am working too.”

Now the Jews wanted even more to kill Jesus because He wasn’t just breaking their rules about the Sabbath, **He was saying that God is His Father—making Himself equal to God.** Jesus is God’s Son, and He always did what God said was right.

*Christ Connection: The man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus’ commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.*

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use dramatic conversation:** Stand or kneel in one place as you speak Jesus’ dialogue. Sit in another place as you speak the dialogue of the man who was lame. After his healing, speak his dialogue standing up.
- **Call for active listening:** Challenge kids to count how many times they hear the word *healed*.

# INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** John 5

**STORY POINT:** Jesus healed a man who could not walk.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 53:4-5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to tell about their favorite place to swim or a favorite summer vacation spot.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

- “All Stirred Up” activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “All Stirred Up” on the activity page. Guide kids to unscramble the letters to find today’s Bible story title. Challenge kids to see what other words they can make with the letters.

**SAY** • Did you know that selection of letters can form more than 2,300 words? All of the letters can be used together to spell the title of today’s Bible story. It’s called “Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame.”

## LOW PREP

- index cards
- pencils

## Session starter (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Do you want to?

Distribute index cards and instruct each kid to write something he would like to do one day. Collect the cards. Stand at the front of the room and ask a question beginning with, “Do you want to ... ?” Then finish the question with

one of the prompts kids listed. (Example: “Do you want to climb a mountain?”)

Any kids who would answer the question with “yes,” should stand. You may let kids guess who wrote the activity on the card. Then call for kids to sit, and ask another question. Continue asking questions through all of the prompts.

**SAY** • In the Bible story we will hear today, Jesus approached a man and asked him, “Do you want to get well?” What a strange question to ask. We will find out why Jesus asked that and how the man responded.

#### **OPTION 2:** Paper chatterbox

Print a copy of the chatterbox instructions for each kid. Help kids follow the steps to create a chatterbox.

• “Chatterbox  
Instructions”  
printable

Let kids choose partners to play with the chatterboxes. The partner will choose one of the colors. The creator will open the chatterbox in each direction, one time for each letter in the name of the color. Then the partner will choose one of the visible numbers, and the creator will open the chatterbox in each direction based on the chosen number.

Then the partner will choose a flap to open. The partner should complete the action written beneath the flap. Continue as time allows.

**SAY** • Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a command Jesus gave to a man who could not walk. Jesus told the man, “Pick up your mat and walk.” Let’s find out what happened.

## **Transition to teach the story**

# TEACH the Story



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**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

## Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- toolbox
- Bible

*[Leader enters wearing overalls and a buttoned shirt with the sleeves rolled up. He or she carries a toolbox and a Bible.]*

**LEADER** • Hi there! I am so happy you are here today. *[Set down the toolbox and Bible.]* As you might remember, my name is *[your name]*, and I am an inventor. I love creating new things to solve everyday problems. Just this last week, a friend was complaining to me about how his chewing gum loses flavor after a few minutes of chewing. I've been working in my kitchen to develop gum with flavor that lasts three whole days! If I can get the formula just right, it will be incredible!

*[Pick up the Bible.]* Today I want you to hear a story from the Bible about someone who found the answer to his problem in Jesus. This man did not even go to Jesus looking for help; Jesus went to him!

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Does anyone remember our big picture question?

[Allow kids to respond.] **Why did God create people?**

Let's say the answer together: **God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.**

This is an important truth to keep in mind as we read the Bible. When you hear a Bible story, remember that God is doing something bigger behind the scenes. He created each person with a purpose.

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

· Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • God the Son came to earth in the flesh—as a baby born in Bethlehem. Around 30 years after He was born, Jesus began His ministry. He taught people about God and His kingdom.

As He traveled, Jesus interacted with many people. We saw how **Jesus healed ten men, and one was saved.** Later, **Jesus healed a woman and raised a girl from the dead.**

Today's Bible story is called "Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame." That means **Jesus healed a man who could not walk.** Listen closely to this story.

· Bibles  
· "Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame" video  
· Big Picture Question Poster  
· Bible Story Picture Poster  
· Story Point Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to John 5. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame."

**LEADER** • The pool of Bethesda was in the city of Jerusalem. People who were sick or disabled went



to the pool in hopes of being made whole. They believed an angel would stir up the waters, and the first person to get in would be healed. The man Jesus met at the pool had been disabled for 38 years, and he had been lying at the pool a long time.

What question did Jesus ask the man? Look at John 5:6. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*] The man explained that he was never able to get to the pool before other people got in.

Jesus had compassion on the man. What did He tell the man to do? Look at John 5:8. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*] **Jesus healed a man who could not walk!** When the Jews saw that the man was healed, were they amazed by this miracle? No! They told the man that he was breaking the law by picking up his mat because it was the Sabbath. The Jews were also upset with Jesus for breaking their laws and for claiming to be God the Son.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 49 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • The man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus' commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.

## Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

• "Unit 22, Session 3" questions from kids video

Show the "Unit 22, Session 3" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why God allows some people to have disabilities. Guide them to discuss how they can show love to people of all abilities. What do they know to be true

about God that helps them trust His plan and purpose for all people?



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Before the session, print the “A Special Healing” printable.

• “A Special Healing”  
printable

**LEADER** • We have been learning about many people whom Jesus healed. In today’s Bible story, **Jesus healed a man who could not walk.** The missions story that we will hear today is about a time when missionary Amy Carmichael, or “Amma,” asked Jesus to heal her friend.

Choose a volunteer to read the short story about Amy Carmichael’s friend Arulai.

Close in prayer, thanking God for the ministry of Amy Carmichael and praying for any missionaries your church supports.

### Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Isaiah 53:4-5.

• Key Passage Poster  
• “By His Wounds  
(Isaiah 53:4-5)” song

**LEADER** • Can anyone tell me in which testament the Book of Isaiah is found? (*Old Testament*)

Long before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about a Servant who would come from God. Isaiah said this Servant would bear our sicknesses and carry our pains. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He healed many people. [*See Matt. 8:16-17.*]

In today’s Bible story, **Jesus healed a man who could not walk.** Let’s sing our key passage together. Lead kids in singing “By His Wounds (Isaiah 53:4-5).”

- “Miracle Maker” song
- Bible

## **Sing (4 minutes)**

Open your Bible and read aloud Romans 8:1-3.

**LEADER** • In today’s Bible story, the man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus’ commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him. Let’s sing.

Sing together “Miracle Maker.”

## **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Lord God, we see in Your Word that You care deeply about people. You created us to worship You, love You, and bring You glory. You sent Your Son to free us from the power of sin and death by dying on the cross. Father, as we struggle with sickness or injury or the limitations of our bodies on earth, help us trust in You. We look forward to the day when Jesus will return and get rid of sickness and suffering forever. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

## **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# APPLY the Story



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**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 53:4-5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- strips of paper
- marker
- tape
- paper lunch bag

Before the session, write the key passage as phrases on several strips of paper. Put the strips in a paper lunch bag. Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 53:4-5 together.

Call on a kid to pull a strip from the bag and tape it to a focal wall. Choose another kid to pull a second strip and tape it before or after the first strip, leaving room for other strips if it does not immediately precede or follow the existing phrase. Allow kids to continue to pull and arrange the paper strips until the words of Isaiah 53:4-5 are in order. Then guide kids to read the key passage aloud together. Invite kids who have memorized the key passage to recite it from memory.

**SAY** • Jesus is the Servant the prophet Isaiah wrote about. He suffered for us. Keep working this week to memorize our key passage!

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to John 5. Explain that John wrote his Gospel so that people would believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Choose a

volunteer to read aloud John 5:8-9.

**SAY** • Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem.

[*Point to Jerusalem (H4) on the New Testament Israel Map.*] **Jesus healed a man who could not walk.**

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why did Jesus heal the man who was lame? *Prompt kids to recognize that the man did not ask for healing. He had been disabled a long time and seemed hopeless. The man did not even recognize Jesus, but Jesus showed compassion to the man and healed him—instantly and completely. The man experienced Jesus' power. Help kids realize that Jesus does not always heal people; sometimes His plan for someone involves sickness. But we can trust that Jesus is always working for His glory and our good.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 8:28.)

2. How does Jesus give hope to sinners? *Lead kids to recall that the man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus' commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 71:5.)

3. What do Jesus' healing miracles teach us about God's kingdom? *Point kids to the words of the prophet Isaiah about how the world would change when the Messiah comes. Isaiah said the Messiah would make the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the mute sing. God's kingdom is one of restoration and healing. He shows His grace through healing today. We look forward to the day when Jesus returns and makes all things new.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 1:15.)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

## Activity choice (10 minutes)



- “How Did Amy Dress?” printable
- kid-friendly magazines
- scissors

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

### OPTION 1: Dress the part

**SAY** • Missionary Amy Carmichael decided that she wanted to dress like the people she was serving. When she lived in Japan, she dressed in a kimono. When she lived in India, she wore a sari. She didn’t want the clothes she wore in Ireland to distract people from hearing the gospel.

Point to the photos from the printable as you explain how Amy chose to dress.

**SAY** • Let’s think about what people wear and why Amy chose to dress like the people she was living around. God can use even the clothes we wear to help us show the love of Jesus.

Explain that you will call out a certain group of people. Invite kids to look through magazines to see if they can find someone dressed like that group. When they find a picture that matches your description, ask them to raise their hand. Call on kids to show the picture to the rest of the group.

Sample descriptions: *athletes* (pictures of people in sports uniforms), *doctors or nurses*, *chefs*, *police officers* or *firefighters*, *teachers*, and so on.

Explain that not all people need to change the way they dress in order to tell someone about Jesus, but missionaries around the world often do so to show respect to other cultures and make friends with the people around them.

### OPTION 2: Clay figure theater

Choose volunteers to be “clay” and play the roles of Jesus, the man who was lame, and a few Jews. Choose two or more kids to be the “sculptors.” Give the rest of the kids a Bible and instruct them to find John 5.

## LOW PREP

- Bibles
- digital camera (optional)



Instruct the volunteers to stand at the front of the room. Call for kids with Bibles to read John 5:1-15, one or two verses at a time. After kids read, the sculptors should arrange the volunteers to create the scene by repositioning volunteers' arms, legs, or heads. Volunteers should hold the pose as if they are clay.

**SAY** • We learned in today's Bible story that **Jesus healed a man who could not walk**. The man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus' commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, asking God to help kids faithfully follow and obey Him.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Order of Events" on the activity page. Kids should number the events in the order they happened.

Option: If a digital camera is available, take photos of each scene to put together a live action comic strip.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

• pencils  
• Journal Page  
• "Order of Events"  
activity page,  
1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.