

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



CAPERNAUM CONFIRMS JESUS' IDENTITY

Luke 4:31-44 Jesus removes an evil spirit

AIM: To learn how healings confirmed Jesus' identity

Wherever Jesus went, crowds gathered to hear what he had to say. Today we join Jesus in Capernaum, a fishing village in Galilee, where he continued to teach the people. There was no escaping the fact that Jesus was someone very special, and when he miraculously healed the sick even more gathered to follow him around.

Each child will need:

→ Craft materials to make encouragement cards – see Action It section

Start It

Say: In today's session we see Jesus healing the sick and performing amazing miracles. In our starter we are going to watch a clip that shows less effective ways of looking after those who are poorly.

Video

Horrible Histories – Historical Paramedics/Measly Middle Ages by Horrible Histories (2 mins 41 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KhCSwY-8Zc

Ask:

- What are the chicken feathers used for?
- How do the historical paramedics treat sleeplessness?
- What do they use to heal the bruising on the patient's arm?
- What animal do they shout for when they think the patient has a skin disease?
- What horrible cure do they suggest for ringworm?

Sing It

Say: In today's story Jesus heals the sick and brings them back to full health. Our song for this session talks about Jesus as the healer of the world.

'Jesus is the healer' by IDMC Kids (2 mins)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjmTLwKE3GY

Tell It

Say: In our first three sessions we saw Jesus begin his ministry with a time of temptation in the desert with the devil. We then saw him turn water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

Ask: What happened in last week's story?

Say: When four men, Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, saw the amazing miracle Jesus performed, they decided to follow him. They were no longer fishermen, instead they

were fishers of men. Today Jesus performs two more miracles. Let's read and discuss how the people of Capernaum reacted to the miracles of Jesus.

Read:

'Jesus went to Capernaum, a city in Galilee. On the Sabbath day, Jesus taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because he spoke with authority. In the synagogue there was a man who had an evil spirit from the devil inside him. The man shouted in a loud voice, "Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come here to destroy us? I know who you are – God's Holy One!"

'But Jesus warned the evil spirit to stop. He said, "Be quiet! Come out of the man!" The evil spirit threw the man down to the ground before all the people. Then the evil spirit left the man and did not hurt him.'

— (Luke 4:31-35 ICB)

Say: Wow! That must have been a pretty unusual thing for the people of Capernaum to see.

Ask:

- How do you think you would have reacted if you had been there?
- The people had lots of questions they wanted to ask Jesus. What would you have wanted to ask?

Read:

'The people were amazed. They said to each other, "What does this mean? With authority and power he commands evil spirits, and they come out." And so the news about Jesus spread to every place in the whole area.'

— (Luke 4:36-37 ICB)

Say: The people couldn't believe what they had seen.

Ask:

- If something like this happened today, how do you think people would react?
- How do you think everyone would find out about it?

Say: Jesus' amazing miracles didn't stop there. He went to Simon's house and something miraculous happened.

Read:

'Jesus left the synagogue and went to Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was very sick with a high fever. They asked Jesus to do something to help her.'

— (Luke 4:38 ICB)

Ask:

- Have you ever had a high fever/temperature before?
- What did it feel like?
- What does your parent or carer usually do to help your temperature go down?

Say: In Jesus' day there was no Calpol or antibiotics to manage a fever, so people would be very worried if a family member was sick like this.

Ask:

- Why do you think Simon wanted Jesus to see his mother-in-law?
- What do you think he was hoping would happen?

Read:

'He stood very close to her and commanded the fever to leave. It left her immediately, and she got up and began serving them.'

'When the sun went down, the people brought their sick to Jesus. They had many different diseases. Jesus put his hands on each sick person and healed every one of them. Demons came out of many people. The demons would shout, "You are the Son of God." But Jesus gave a strong command for the demons not to speak. They knew Jesus was the Christ.'

'At daybreak, Jesus went to a place to be alone, but the people looked for him. When they found him, they tried to keep him from leaving. But Jesus said to them, "I must tell the Good News about God's kingdom to other towns, too. This is why I was sent."

'Then Jesus kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.'

— (Luke 4:39-44 ICB)

Ask:

- Do you think Jesus heals people today? Explain your answer.
- What do you think happened to Jesus' popularity once people knew he could heal the sick?
- Do you think people were interested in what Jesus had to say, or just what he could do for them? Explain your thoughts.

💬 Say: Healing can be a difficult topic, especially because we may know someone who has suffered. Experience shows us that Jesus heals sometimes without us knowing how. At other times he uses special people to help us. What we learn from this passage is that as Jesus continued to teach and perform miracles, more and more people decided to follow him.

Action It

💬 Say: Jesus spent time with those who were sick and performed miracles of healing bringing them back to full health. It must have been amazing for the people to see.

💬 Say: In our sessions we have talked about how we can show the miracle of Jesus to others. Today we are going to spend time thinking about those who are unwell and find ways to care for them.

Spend some time discussing with the children about people within their family or church family who are unwell. Give the children craft materials to make cards of encouragement to send to those who are sick.

When the children have completed their cards, spend time praying as a group before sending the cards to their recipients.

Pray It

Memory verse

💬 Say: Our memory verse for this month has focused on what it means to be part of the body of Christ. Let's share it together.

'All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body.'

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

Throughout these sessions we have thought about who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. To bring our session to a close, spend time writing a prayer to Jesus asking him to help you as you try to follow him and live your life his way.

This prayer time provides an opportunity for the children to recommit their lives to Jesus or give their heart to him for the first time.

Say: To bring our session to a close we are going to tweak our memory verse just a little. Let's say together, 'Now we are the body of Christ, and each one of us is part of it.'

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

MARCH
SESSION 04

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FOR ME

TOGETHER



Pray

There may be someone that you know that has been struggling with their health and is feeling unwell. Spend time writing a prayer for them and promise to spend time praying for them as often as you can.



Support

Is there someone you know who is feeling under the weather at the moment? Have a chat with the people at home and send a card of encouragement to them.

If you can't think of anyone, then you could cheer up one of the children on the Post Pals website. The Post Pals charity provides a way for people to send cards and letters to poorly children across the UK. www.postpals.co.uk



Song for the week

'Jesus is the healer' by IDMC Kids (2 mins)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjmTLwKE3GY



Memory verse

**'All of you together are the body of Christ.
Each one of you is a part of that body.'**

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

