

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



JESUS HEALS ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

📖 Matthew 8:1-4; John 4:46-54 Jesus heals a sick man

🎯 Aim: To discover that Jesus did not have favourites

Today we are going to discover two stories in the Bible about people from very different backgrounds and look at the way Jesus treated them. Isolated from his friends and family, a desperate man with a painful skin disease came to be healed by Jesus. In total contrast, a royal official and adviser to the king came to Jesus desperate for his son to be healed. Jesus treated them both the same, and their lives were changed for ever.

Each child will need:

- Bible verse wristband
- A range of art and craft materials and paper – see Action It
- Pens/pencils and paper (optional) – see Pray It
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- *Favourite Things* handout – slips cut up, folded, and placed into a container
- Pens/pencils and paper (optional) – see Pray It

Start It

Explain to the children that they will be answering the question, 'What is your favourite ...?' Take a *Favourite Things* slip out of the container to see how the question ends. (You do not have to use all 40 slips!)

💬 Say: It can be quite easy to share our favourite book, superhero or sport, but when we're talking about people it's a different story.

Ask: How might it feel if we thought that our teacher had a favourite member of the class? Would it make a difference if we were the favourite? If so, how?

💬 Say: In today's story we discover that Jesus didn't have favourites. He loved and cared for everyone in the same way.

Sing It

Give each member of the group a memory verse wristband.

💬 Say: Our memory verse for this month reminds us God loves us so much that he sent Jesus. Let's read it together.

'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.'

— (John 3:16 NIV)

💬 Say: To help us memorise the verse, we are going to sing a song all about John 3:16.

'John 3:16 (For God so Loved the World)' by The Rizers (2:45)

Tell It

Say: Today we are going to discover two stories in the Bible about people from very different backgrounds and look at the way Jesus treated them.

Say: First we are going to meet a man who had a skin condition called leprosy. In the time of Jesus, there were some illnesses that meant that you couldn't live and worship with your friends and family. In fact, the person had to keep away from everyone and became an outcast. There was no cure then for leprosy, and often people thought that the ill person had done something wrong to deserve their illness.

Ask: How do you think it felt to be isolated from friends and family for an illness that wasn't your fault?

Say: These days we know a lot more about illnesses and how they are caused, but in the time of Jesus things were different and people were often treated unfairly. Let's read the story from Matthew's Gospel to find out more.

Read:

'When Jesus came down from the hill, great crowds followed him. Then a man sick with a harmful skin disease [leprosy] came to Jesus. The man bowed down before him and said, "Lord, you have the power to heal me if you want."

'Jesus touched the man and said, "I want to heal you. Be healed!" And immediately the man was healed from his skin disease. Then Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anyone about what happened. But go and show yourself to the priest. And offer the gift that Moses commanded for people who are made well. This will show people that you are healed."

— (Matthew 8:1-4 ICB)

Discuss:

→ How do we know that the man with the harmful skin disease had already heard about Jesus?

→ What do you think it felt like to be standing in front of someone who could take your illness away?

Say: The man came to Jesus believing he could be healed, but gave Jesus the choice. As soon as Jesus said, 'Be healed!', the skin condition disappeared.

Ask:

→ Why was this healing so important to the man?

→ What difference do you think it made to his everyday life?

Say: Jesus chose to heal a man that many people chose to ignore. In our next story we learn about a man that everyone in the town would have known. He was one of the king's important officials and his son was very poorly.

Video

Jesus healed the official's son (John 4:46-54) by Apollo Baptist (1:40)

Discuss:

→ Jesus had visited Cana before. What amazing miracle had he performed on his last visit?

→ What did the royal official do when he heard that Jesus was in the area?

→ What do you think Jesus meant when he said, 'You people must see signs and miracles before you will believe in me'?

Say: The royal official would not give up and kept asking Jesus to heal his son. On the way home the royal official discovered that his son had been healed right at the moment Jesus said he would be healed.

Discuss:

→ Think about the two characters we have met in our stories today.

→ How are they similar?

- How are they different?
- How did Jesus treat them both when they came and asked for help?

Say: Jesus treated both the outcast sick man and the important king's official equally. He loves us all the same and doesn't have favourites.

Action It

Say: Our memory verse for this month is the perfect reminder that we are loved. Let's share it again together.

'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.'

— (John 3:16 NIV)

Say: Today you are going to create your own version of the memory verse and fill it with pictures and symbols that remind you that God loves everyone.

Give the children a range of drawing and craft material. Discuss ideas together about ways they could create a picture of the memory verse. They may decide to use a heart-shaped piece of paper or concertina the paper so that the memory verse is gradually revealed. It might be helpful to have a large version of the memory verse on display in case they can't remember it.

Pray It

Say: On Tuesday 10 October it is World Mental Health Day. Across the globe people will be thinking about the importance of mental health and how we need to share our feelings, good and bad, with each other.

Video

Lucy's Blue Day – A children's mental health animated short by Lucy's Blue Day

Discuss

Watch the clip *Lucy's Blue Day* with the children and discuss the different emotions they recognise. What kinds of situations bring up these emotions?

Discuss how Lucy felt when her hair turned blue. How did the other children in the class react? What can we learn from this when we are supporting someone who is having a blue day? How did it feel for Lucy when she discovered that someone else felt the same way as her?

The children will have an opportunity to pray for people who are having lots of blue days. The discussion may also prompt them to share what it feels like when they have a blue day. The discussion and prayer will be led by your group and their experiences. You can write a prayer together as a group and read it together or give the children time to write their own prayers.

Say: We all have blue days, when we feel sad and things seem a little harder than normal. Today we are going to pray for all the people across the world who are struggling with a lot of blue days.

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.



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FOR ME



Remember

Watch the clip to help you memorise this month's memory verse.

Eureka! Remember Verse – John 3:16 by The Foundry Kids

TOGETHER



Share

This week we shared our favourite things; we took slips of paper out of a container and asked, 'What's your favourite ...?' Create your own favourite things game and find out what the people at home like.



Song for the week

'John 3:16 (For God so Loved the World)'
by The Rizers



Memory verse

'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.'

— (John 3:16 NIV)

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!

