

JESUS HEALED MANY

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 4:1-44



Jesus proclaims the good news with the Spirit's power.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

The “good news” is announced – Jesus arrived at the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood and read from the prophet Isaiah. When he finished, all eyes were fixed on the carpenter’s son. Having captured their attention with a stunning reading, Jesus announced that the Scripture He read was fulfilled. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him indeed. The one whom Isaiah had prophesied about was in their midst. Jesus did, in fact, go forth with the good news. He did set the captives free, pushing back the curse of sin and the work of the enemy. Jesus also freed people from oppression and sickness.

From marvel to murder – Upon hearing Jesus read the scroll of Isaiah and comment with authority, the people who knew Him as the carpenter’s son marveled. But their amazement did not move them to faith. They only thought Jesus spoke graciously until He spoke of God’s mercy to people outside Israel. The Israelites had come to believe they had God’s exclusive favor simply by virtue of their heritage as children of Abraham. When Jesus reminded them that God sent Elijah to a Sidonian widow and a Syrian leper, rather than the widows and lepers of Israel, they were filled with wrath. They drove Jesus out of town to kill him, intending to throw him down a cliff. But Jesus simply passed through them and escaped easily.

The Kingdom advances – Jesus went on from the synagogue to Simon’s house and healed Simon’s mother-in-law. Later in the day He brought healing to everyone who was brought to Him. Some demons cried out, “You are the Son of God,” but Jesus rebuked them and would not let them continue speaking. The next day Jesus was followed by the crowd, who wanted keep Him there, but Jesus objected, saying He must preach the “good news” to other towns also.

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WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Through the mocking voices of the demons we discover Jesus' true identity. Jesus is no mere man; He is the Son of God, the Holy One of God, the Christ. Jesus was anointed by God as the next king-- the last in the Davidic line. The demons mocked Jesus, but by going to the cross, Jesus gained the victory over all the powers of Satan. On the cross, the curse and wrath of God fell upon Jesus, yet brought freedom to the captives and released the chains of sin. Those who were demonized, like the man in the synagogue, were easily set free by Jesus. This demonstrated Jesus' power over Satan.

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

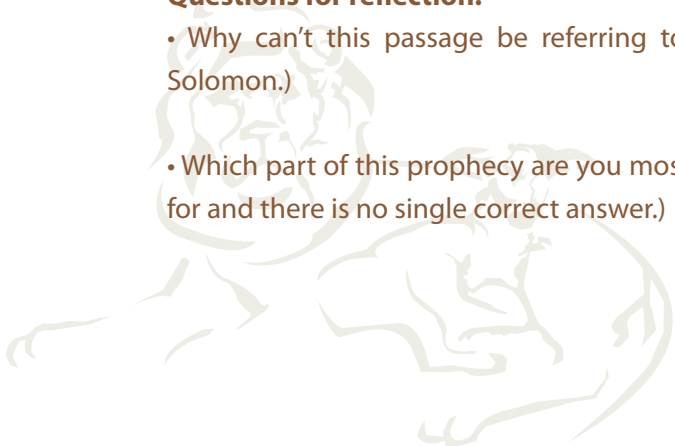
Bible Passage: Ezekiel 37:25-28

Connecting the passage to Christ:

Jesus is a king, in the line of David, who will reign forever. So Jesus is the prince forever Ezekiel refers to in Ezekiel 37:25. The everlasting covenant referred to in Ezekiel 37:26 is Jesus' covenant in His blood. Because the penalty of our sin is paid for by Jesus, our fellowship with God is restored. God places His Spirit in our hearts. This means that God's presence no longer dwells in a temple built by human hands. Now God's people are His temple. Because God gives us eternal life, He will live in us forever.

Questions for reflection:

- Why can't this passage be referring to David? (David died and gave up his throne to his son, Solomon.)
- Which part of this prophecy are you most grateful for? (There is much in this prophecy to be grateful for and there is no single correct answer.)



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SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

RECOUNT THE PROPHECY

Supplies:

- prizes for the winning team
- large index cards
- markers

Divide the class into four to six teams and give them five minutes to memorize Ezekiel 37:25-28. Tell them they need to know this passage for the competition, since the answers to the questions will be found in the passage. When time is up have them close their Bibles. Give each team a stack of large index cards and a marker. Ask a question and give the team one minute to write down an answer. Then one by one have the teams show their cards. Award points for a correct answer. Keep a tally of the points on the board. After three questions give them a three minute peek at the passage again, then ask the final three questions.

- What is the title given to David my servant? (prince)
- What kind of covenant will God make with His people? (peace or everlasting. Give two points to the team that gets both.)
- How long will God's Sanctuary be with the people? (forever)
- What three things will God do for His people as a result of making an everlasting covenant with them? (He will establish them, increase their numbers, put His sanctuary among them forever.)
- Fill in the two blanks: "I will be their ____ and they will be my ____." (God, people)
- List as many of the promises from this verse as you can remember, one point each. (Count any of the blessings they list that are directly from the passage.)



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HE PASSED RIGHT THROUGH THEM

Reenact the scene – Reenact the crowd's dramatic change from speaking well of Jesus to trying to murder him. First read through the passage with the children, then plan with the class how you could do it as a skit. Gather their suggestions, then assign a narrator and a person to play Jesus. If you are teaching an older class you can assign other speaking parts as well.

When the skit is complete ask the children the following questions:

- What do you think is the most amazing part of this story? (Draw the children out with this one.)
- Why didn't Jesus allow them to kill Him there? (Jesus didn't simply need to die. In order for sins to be atoned for, Jesus needed to be cursed by God and receive His justified wrath for our sin. The cross was a symbol of God's curse. In addition, God Himself would determine the time and method of His sacrifice; that time had not come.)
- How could the people love Jesus one minute but try to kill him the next? (They didn't truly love Jesus. They simply said nice things about Him. When He told them things they didn't like, their true character came out. It is easy to say we will follow Jesus or to say that we love Him. It is not hard until we are called to follow Him by doing something we don't want to do that our love and obedience are truly tested.)



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DID JESUS FULFILL HIS WORDS?

Supplies:

white board and marker

Read through Luke 4:18,19 then ask the class to help you list all the ways Jesus fulfilled this prophecy.

Write each part of Isaiah's prophecy on the left with the corresponding fulfillment on the right. Then ask the class the following questions:

- What did we learn by doing this exercise? (God's Word is true, Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus' actions back up His words, etc.)
- What is the most meaningful part of this promise to you? (There is no one correct answer but it may be good to mention that we are all captive to sin and that Jesus set us free when He took our penalty on the cross.)

PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

AN ACTIVITY

Supplies:

pencil and paper

Draw a picture of Jesus preaching to the crowd.



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FOR THE OLDER GRADES

DEFINING THE GOOD NEWS

Supplies:

- paper and pencil

After reading through Luke 4, ask the students to each write their own answer to the following question:

What is the "good news?"

Review their answers then have them turn to Acts 10:34-43. Now ask them to see if they would like to amend their definitions of the good news. See if they can come up with the four main components of the Gospel. The four components are:

- Jesus' life
- Jesus' substitutionary death
- The resurrection of Jesus
- The resulting forgiveness of sins for those who believe.

The good news is another name for the Gospel.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

The title Christ -- Jesus rebuked the demons (see Luke 4:41) because they knew He was "the Christ." Christ means "anointed one." Eventually Jesus allowed the title to be used. Jesus commended Peter when he declared that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God (see Mark 16:16).

