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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning about when Jesus healed a leper. Now, don't confuse words here. Jesus didn't heal a leopard. He healed a leper. A leper was a person who was suffering from a terrible skin disease. It made big sores all over the body that were probably itchy and they were definitely gross to look at. So, if a person had leprosy, they were banned from town. They had to live off on their own because other people didn't want to get the disease. Imagine how awful that would've been. You get a terrible disease, and instead of people taking care of you, everyone just ignores you. Well, Jesus didn't respond that way. In fact, one day when Jesus was teaching, a leper approached him. The leper knew that Jesus could heal him so he took a chance by asking him for help. Now, the people with Jesus were probably running away from the guy but not Jesus. He looked right at the guy and said, "I'll heal you." And, guess what? The leper was healed instantly! Jesus is so cool. Kids, this story teaches us an important lesson. Jesus cares about everyone, even the people who feel left out or unimportant. Let's remember that in our own lives and be kind to everyone, no matter who they are.

Big Idea

Jesus cares about everyone, especially those who feel left out.

Key Question

How should we treat others?

Memory Verse

Matthew 8:3 "Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' And instantly the leprosy disappeared."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
 2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Share a time you felt left out. How did that make you feel?** (Tip: Being left out is the worst. It feels very lonely. Jesus never wants people to feel left out.)
 3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
 4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
 5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
 6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We should treat others the way we want to be treated.** (This should sound familiar to us. It's the Golden Rule. Jesus tells us that we should treat others the way we want to be treated. So, do you want to be left out? NO! Do you like feeling unimportant? NO! Then, don't treat others that way. Be kind, patient and include everyone.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** What is the Golden Rule? How do you like to be treated by your friends? **4-5th** What are some things you can do for your friends this week to make them feel special?
 7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read 1 Peter 3:8-9. What does this passage say about how we should be and what we should do?** (Answer: We should be kind, gentle, humble, loving and choose not to be mean to a friend who is mean to us. Even though this is hard to do, we should always be kind and treat others the way Jesus treats us.)
 8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: JESUS HEALS THE LEPER CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Bandaid template (page 5). Have them cut out all the items. Give them a half sheet of construction paper.
- Have them color their bandaid. Have them glue the items in the following order on the construction paper: Jesus at the top, Bandaid, Phrase and then Verse.
- As they work, read the story of when Jesus healed the leper from Matthew 8:1-4. Remind the kids that Jesus cares about everyone, even those that feel left out. We need to remember this, too. We should be kind to everyone, no matter who they are.

Supplies needed: Bandaid template (pg. 5, 1 set per kid), Scissors, Half sheets of construction paper (1 per kid), Crayons, Glue

OPTION 2: LESSON REVIEW JEOPARDY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a bell or ringer.
- Read a question from below. First team to ring in gets a chance to answer. If correct, they get a point. If wrong, the other team gets a chance to answer for a bonus point. Team with the most points, wins.

Questions:

1. What book is full of God's truth? (Bible)
2. What was the name of the skin disease in the story? (leprosy)
3. Why did lepers feel left out? (people didn't want to get what they had)
4. T or F: Jesus died for our sins. (T)
5. From what book is our Memory verse found? (Matthew)
6. What did Jesus do for the leper? (healed him)
7. What's the Big Idea today? (See board)
8. Is this story from the OT or NT? (NT)
9. T or F: It's okay to leave others out. (F)
10. What's the Golden Rule? (treat others the way you want to be treated)

Supplies needed: Bells/Ringers

Q3

LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus Heals a Leper

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Getting left out isn't a new thing at all. It was happening to people way back in Jesus's day, and it's what today's lesson is all about.

Key Points:

- _____ had a disease that made them feel left out.
- One leper was desperate enough to walk up to _____.
- Jesus was willing to _____ the leper.
- Jesus cares about everyone, especially people who feel _____.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 8:3 Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *Share a time you felt left out. How did that make you feel?*
3. *What was leprosy? Why did lepers have to live outside of town?*
4. *What happened when the leper approached Jesus?*
5. *Read 1 Peter 3:8-9. What does this passage say about how we should be and what we should do?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

JESUS CARES
ABOUT EVERYONE,
ESPECIALLY THOSE
WHO FEEL LEFT OUT

Key Question

How should we treat others?

Memory Verse

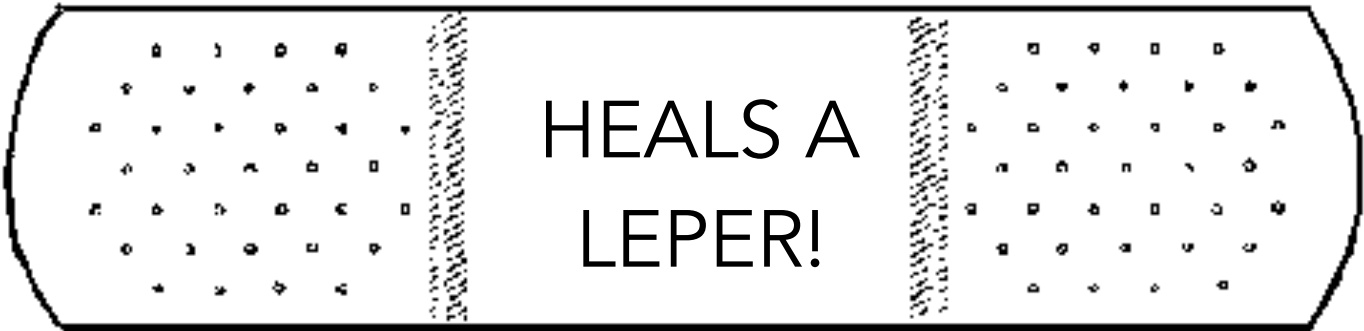
Matthew 8:3 "Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' And instantly the leprosy disappeared."



Jesus Heals a Leper

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JESUS



JESUS HEALED A LEPER TO SHOW THAT HE CARES ABOUT EVERYONE, EVEN THOSE WHO FEEL LEFT OUT.

Matthew 8:3 "Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' And instantly the leprosy disappeared."