



Mark

Jesus' Early Miracles

Lesson Objective: When we trust in Jesus, He heals us.

Activity: *Are You Willing?*

Take turns asking one another, “Are you willing to do?” questions.

Sample tasks: Sing the happy birthday song in the middle of a store. Pretend you are a cat for 10 mins. Do 100 jumping jacks. Show your best dance moves in your front yard. Pretend that you are underwater for 30 seconds. Say your alphabet backwards.

Connect To activity to the lesson:

In today’s Bible story, a man believed Jesus could help him if Jesus was willing. Do you think He was?

WORSHIP - Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

Prayers: How can I pray for you?

Introduction:

Early in His ministry, Jesus and His disciples traveled to Capernaum, a town on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum became Jesus’ home and headquarters. (See Matt. 4:13.) He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, when people would gather to hear and learn from the Scriptures.

Jesus quickly set Himself apart from the scribes and other religious teachers. Unlike the scribes, who relied completely on traditional interpretations of the Torah from other teachers, Jesus spoke with authority. His teaching came from His own authority as the Author of truth, and it had a profound effect on His listeners— they were astonished!

Video: “ Jesus’ Early Miracles” (Video Transcript)

Jesus traveled to Capernaum (kuh PUHR nay uhm) with His disciples Simon, Andrew, James, and John. He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. The people there were very surprised. Jesus’ teaching was not like the scribes’ teaching. He spoke with authority.

Just then, a man with an unclean spirit shouted, “What do You have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” Jesus commanded the spirit to be quiet and come out of the man. The spirit yelled again and then came out. Everyone was amazed! “Who is this Jesus?” they asked. “He teaches with authority, and the unclean spirits obey Him!” News about Jesus spread quickly throughout all of Galilee.

Next, Jesus and His disciples went to Simon and Andrew’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her, took her hand, and healed her. She got up and began to serve them. That evening, large crowds of people came to the house with others who were sick or bothered by evil spirits, and Jesus healed them.

Early the next morning, Jesus went out by Himself to pray. Simon and the other disciples found Him and said, “Everyone is looking for You.” Jesus said, “Let’s go on to the nearby villages so I can preach there too. This is why I have come.”

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee. He preached and drove out demons. A man with a skin disease came to Jesus. He got on his knees and begged: “If You are willing, You can make me clean.” Jesus was willing, and He healed the man.

Christ Connection: Jesus’ miracles proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. They strengthened people’s faith and met their needs. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

Read - Mark 1

Debrief

Why was the crowd amazed by Jesus? *(Jesus wasn't like other teachers, who taught things they had learned from others. Jesus taught with authority. He even had authority over unclean spirits.)*

How did Jesus' miracles show His care for creation? *(Jesus' miracles restored parts of creation that were affected by sin coming into the world. Jesus cast out unclean spirits, made sick people well, and healed skin diseases. Later in His ministry, Jesus also raised people from the dead, gave sight to people who were blind, and ultimately brought the greatest healing—forgiveness of sins— through His death and resurrection.)*

Do we need to see miracles to believe in Jesus? *(Many people saw Jesus' miracles and believed, but Jesus said those who do not see and still believe are blessed. John 20:29-31 is talking about us today! Isn't it wonderful that Jesus thought of us when He said those words? The Bible tells us everything we need to know to believe in Jesus.)*

Apply the Story:

The early miracles recorded in Mark 1 demonstrate Jesus' power and authority as the Son of God. Jesus drove an unclean spirit from a man in the synagogue; even the demons obey His commands. Then Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, and that evening the people in the town brought to Jesus all those who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits. What did Jesus do? He healed them! (Mark 1:34) Jesus' miracles continued, and He healed a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a skin disease that would have marked a person as "unclean," requiring him to be separated from the community. Jesus had compassion on the man and healed him immediately.

Jesus' miracles brought many people to faith in Him. They also proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. These miracles strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Isaiah prophesied that the promised Messiah would bear our sickness and carry our pain. (Isa. 53:4) Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He healed people. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life for all who would trust in Him.

Momentum Moment *Get-well-soon Cards*

Supplies: construction paper; envelopes; crayons, markers, or colored pencils; adhesive bandages; googly eyes; glue; permanent marker

Provide supplies for kids to make get-well-soon cards. Suggest kids use the adhesive bandages like stickers. They can turn the bandages into people by gluing on googly eyes and adding arms, legs, and a smile with a permanent marker. Encourage them to write a message such as Get well soon! or Praying for you!

If someone you know is ill or injured, consider making cards for that person. Otherwise, kids can leave the cards blank and give them to friends who get sick in the future.

Emphasize that one day, Jesus will take away all sickness and pain. When we trust in Him, we have forgiveness, salvation, and life with Him forever.

Close with a prayer: Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.