

Use Week of:

## Unit 22 • Session 4

# Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

John 9

### STORY POINT:

Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:4-5

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.



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Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [ministrygrid.com/thegospelproject](http://ministrygrid.com/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

In the Old Testament, Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah. Isaiah 35:5-6 tells about a time when “the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.” When God the Son came to earth, He came as a Healer—removing skin diseases, raising the dead to life, making the lame walk, and giving sight to the blind.

John 9 gives us a glimpse of the kingdom of God, where creation is redeemed, and opens our eyes to the greater purpose of suffering in our lives. The disciples asked Jesus a question that many still wrestle with today: Why is this person suffering? (In this case, why was this man born blind?) Was it because of sin?

Jesus’ answer gives hope to anyone facing suffering: “Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him” (John 9:3). Because Jesus is Lord over everything, all suffering in this life has meaning and purpose.

Miraculously, Jesus gave sight to the man who was blind. The man’s neighbors noticed the change, and he told them what Jesus had done for him. But the reaction of the religious leaders—skepticism and unbelief—reveals a different kind of blindness: spiritual blindness. Sin keeps us from seeing what is true about God. Jesus came as light into a dark world. He helps us see what is true so we can know God.

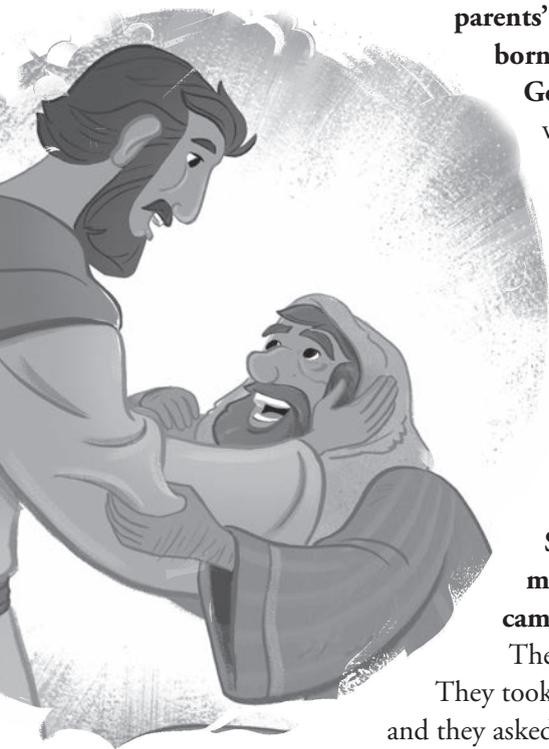
Those who trust in Jesus are freed from sin and worship Jesus as Lord. We can live fully in the light of Jesus as we seek to make Him known to others so that their eyes might be opened to the truth of the gospel as well.

# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind

*John 9*

Jesus was walking with His disciples when He saw a man who had been born blind. The disciples asked, “Teacher, why was this man born blind? Did this happen because of his sin or his parents’ sin?”



Jesus answered, “Neither his sin nor his parents’ sin caused this. This man was born blind so that people could see God’s power through him.” Jesus would be on earth for a short time so He healed people to show what God is like. **Jesus said, “While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”**

Then Jesus spit on the ground and made mud. He put the mud on the eyes of the man who was blind. “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam,” Jesus instructed. The man went and washed. When he came back, he could see.

The man’s neighbors were amazed. They took the man to the religious leaders, and they asked him how he was healed. “A man put mud on my eyes. I washed, and now I can see,”

he said.

**The religious leaders were upset because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath again.** They did not want to believe that Jesus could give

sight to people who were blind. **Over and over again, the man who was healed told the religious leaders what happened. The man believed Jesus must have come from God. But the religious leaders threw the man out of the synagogue.**

**Jesus came to the man again and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”**

**The man answered, “Tell me who He is so I can believe in Him.”**

**“You have already seen Him,” Jesus replied. “The Son of Man is talking to you now.”**

**The man said, “I believe, Lord!” and he worshiped Jesus.**

*Christ Connection: Our sin makes us unable to see the truth about God. Jesus came as a light in a dark world. He came to give us sight—true understanding of God and His kingdom. Those who trust in Jesus see who He is and worship Him.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Show a demonstration:** As you tell the story, mix dirt and water to make a muddy paste.
- **Display art:** Show the Bible story picture and point out Jesus and the man who was healed.

# INTRODUCE the Story



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**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 53:4-5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about a time they saw something amazing.

**SAY** • The ability to see is a wonderful gift from God. We best enjoy many parts of God's creation by seeing them, like beautiful sunsets, majestic mountains, or all the glorious stars in the sky. Today, we will learn about a time Jesus encountered a man who couldn't see any of those things. He was blind. What do you think Jesus did for this man? We'll find out.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Blind Draw" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Blind Draw" activity page. Ask the kids to use the space provided to draw pictures with your eyes closed. Consider drawing a dog, a house, and a flower. In the fourth spot, kids may draw whatever they wish to draw.

**SAY** • Drawing can be very difficult when you cannot see, especially if you are used to being able to see. Today, we will learn about a time Jesus helped a man see.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

**LOW  
PREP**

### OPTION 1: Partner peering

Help the kids form pairs. Instruct each pair of kids to stand face to face and study one another's features for one minute. Then, instruct the pairs to turn back to back. Call out different features. Challenge the kids to answer as quickly as they can what their partner's features look like.

Suggested features: eye color, hair color, shirt color, hair texture (straight or curly), and so forth.

**SAY** • It can be hard to remember details about someone even if you see him or her often. Today we will hear about a man who had been blind all his life. What features do you think he might have been most interested to look at when Jesus gave him sight?

### OPTION 2: Eye test

Before the session, make an eye chart by drawing letters on a poster board decreasing in size after each row. During the session, instruct the kids to stand about 10 feet away and cover one eye. Can the kids read aloud all the letters, even those that are written in the smallest print?

**SAY** • This kind of eye chart is often used by eye doctors to figure out how good or bad a person's eyesight might be. Today we will hear a story about a man who had no eyesight at all. What do you think Jesus did for the man who was blind?

• poster board  
• markers

Tip: You may choose to search the Internet for free eye charts to print.

## Transition to teach the story

# TEACH the Story



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## Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

*[Leader enters wearing safety glasses and casual clothing under a greasy apron or coveralls.]*

**LEADER** • Welcome back to my workshop, friends. I'm an inventor. I don't actually have any patents yet, and none of my inventions are particularly famous, but I still enjoy the process. Inventors like me look at the world and seek out problems we think we can solve. One great example is whoever invented eyeglasses.

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

I say "whoever invented them" because the truth is, we don't know for sure who it was. Eyeglasses have been in use for around 800 years! Though we don't know for sure who invented eyeglasses, we do know that certain improvements, like bifocal lenses— invented by Benjamin Franklin—have drastically changed and improved the way we use glasses.

Sometimes I like to imagine the first person to ever put on glasses. He must have felt so much better

when he could finally see clearly after a lifetime of blurry vision. It actually reminds me of a story about a time Jesus healed a man's vision. But Jesus didn't just make blurry vision clearer, He healed a man who was completely blind! Let's get to it.

### **Big picture question (1 minute)**

**LEADER** • Remember that we have been studying a big picture question and answer: ***Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.*** God did not need us to love or worship Him; He is perfect and needs nothing. Creating us so we could experience His love and celebrate His greatness was just one way God shows His goodness. When we do what we are created to do, it glorifies God and blesses us.

### **Giant timeline (1 minute)**

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

· Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • Three weeks ago, we learned that **Jesus healed ten men, and one was saved**. Then we talked about a time **Jesus healed a woman and raised a girl from the dead**. Last week, we learned that **Jesus healed a man who could not walk**. This week, we will look at one more story in which Jesus worked a miracle to heal a person. This time, our story is about Jesus' healing a man who had been born blind.

· Bibles  
· "Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind" video  
· Big Picture Question Poster  
· Bible Story Picture Poster  
· Story Point Poster

### **Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)**

Open your Bible to John 9. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show

the Bible story video “Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind.”

**LEADER** • This story gives us some wonderful news about the pain, sickness, and brokenness of the world. It is fairly common to think that if something sad or difficult happens to you, it is because God is punishing you. This story helps us see that sad or difficult circumstances are not God’s punishment, but ways that God can show His glory.

The world is broken by sin. That means that we all face sad or difficult situations sometimes. Our actions have consequences too, so there are times when our sinful choices cause pain and suffering to us and those around us. But the natural consequences of foolish choices are not the same as God’s choice to punish us.

Jesus’ disciples thought the man born blind must have either had wicked parents, or perhaps he was wicked himself. But his blindness was not punishment; it was God’s way of showing His power and glory in the world. Afterward, the man who had been blind had faith that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Pharisees refused to believe the truth. Jesus said that, even though they could see, they were the blind ones! As you can imagine, they didn’t like that at all. But Jesus wasn’t talking about physical sight. He was talking about the ability to understand and believe the truth.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

## **Christ connection**

**LEADER** • Our sin makes us unable to see the truth about God. Jesus came as a light in a dark world. He came to give us sight—true understanding of God and His

kingdom. Those who trust in Jesus see who He is and worship Him.

In a way, we are all born blind because we are born dead in sin. We cannot understand God's Word. We cannot see the truth of the gospel. Thankfully, God reveals Himself to us in the Bible so that we can have faith and live forever with Him.

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 22, Session 4" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about a time they felt lonely during a difficult situation. Guide them to discuss how they could encourage a person who feels alone or hopeless.

· "Unit 22, Session 4"  
Questions from Kids  
video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Print and display the "Dohnavur Fellowship Photos" printable.

· "Dohnavur Fellowship  
Photos" printable

**LEADER** • **Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind**, and in a similar way, the Christians working with the Dohnavur (don-AH-vur) Fellowship are helping children in South India gain "spiritual sight" through faith in Jesus. The Dohnavur Fellowship is an orphanage that missionary Amy Carmichael started.

Today, the fellowship is more than a home for children who do not have a family. It is also a farm, a hospital, a church, a dairy, and a school for children of all ages. God has grown the work that "Amma" started so that many generations of kids have felt the love of Jesus.

### Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read

· Key Passage Poster  
· "By His Wounds  
(Isaiah 53:4-5)" song

together Isaiah 53:4-5. Then sing the key passage song.

**LEADER** • Jesus died on the cross and rose again to give us eternal life with God and to heal us from the damage sin causes.

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

• “Miracle Maker” song

**LEADER** • Jesus did many wonderful things to show His love and help people worship God. He is a miracle maker.

Sing together “Miracle Maker.”

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Father, thank You that we can gain spiritual sight by faith in Your Son. Help us see the truth of the gospel and have courage to tell others about You. Open the eyes of those we interact with so they can see You and have a relationship with You through Jesus. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# APPLY the Story



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**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did God create people? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- paper
- pen
- blindfold

Before the session, write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate sheet of paper. Ask for volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Thank each kid for his efforts and encourage all the kids to continue working to memorize the passage. Select a volunteer to wear a blindfold. Give her all the key passage papers. Encourage the other kids to help her put the key passage in order.

**SAY** • Our key passage tells us that Jesus took on our sickness and sin to heal us from sin and death. Only Jesus is able to save us from sin and heal the damage sin causes in our lives. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives all our sin and gives us eternal life.

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find John 9. Remind the kids that they can search the table of contents to figure out which page John starts on. Help them understand that Bible scholars added the large chapter numbers and the small verse numbers to help us organize and study God's Word.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why was the man born blind? (*so God's works might be displayed in him, John 9:3*)
2. How did Jesus heal the man? (*Jesus mixed spit and dirt, put the mud on the man's eyes, and told him to wash it off; John 9:6-7*)
3. What did the religious leaders do to the healed man? (*threw him out of the synagogue, John 9:34*)
4. In what ways are we like the man born blind? *Guide kids to consider what it means to be born in sin. Help them see that spiritual blindness prevents us from being able to pursue God on our own. Guide kids to discuss what it feels like to be in darkness. Point out both the fear of the dark that some have and also the practical limitations of doing things in the dark.*
5. Why do you think Jesus calls Himself the Light of the world? *Help them understand the ways in which Jesus "lights up" our life, such as helping us see and understand God's truth, giving us joy, and helping us walk in obedience to God. Point out that, while it is difficult to do things in the dark, light helps us work.*
6. How can we be given "spiritual sight"? *Direct kids to think about the message of the gospel. Help them see that they cannot earn salvation, but it is given freely to those with faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. Remind them that with salvation comes new life and the Holy Spirit's help to love and obey God.*

**SAY** • **Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind.** In a similar way, Jesus gives us spiritual sight when we trust in Him. God forgives our sins and opens our eyes to see the truth of His Word. The Holy Spirit helps us love and obey God.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

## LOW PREP

• "Dohnavur Ministry Activity Sheet" printable, 1 per kid  
• pencils

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

• masking tape  
• blindfolds

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Dohnavur ministry

Print and distribute one activity sheet per kid. Provide pencils and use the activity sheet to review the story of Amy Carmichael. Help younger kids fill in the blanks to complete each word. Ask volunteers to tell what they remember from each ministry and how they think that ministry helps kids today.

**SAY** • When Amy Carmichael needed something, like money to build a new nursery, she prayed for God to provide the money she needed. She also wrote letters to other Christians to tell them what she needed. God used other Christians to provide for the needs of the orphanage. God grew the ministry Amy started!

When missionaries need something today, they also pray and tell people about that need. We can be a part of God's mission all around the globe when we pray, give, or go.

#### OPTION 2: Blind leaders

Use tape to make a simple but winding path on the floor. Select kids to wear blindfolds and attempt to navigate the path. Play additional rounds where other kids can call out instructions to get through the path and rounds where the blindfolded kids are led by a kid who grasps their shoulders to gently steer them.

**SAY** • That was pretty hard to navigate such a winding path. If the kids leading you were also blindfolded, it would have been impossible. **Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind.** In John 9:39-41, Jesus told people that He came to give sight to those who are blind and make those who can see become blind.

Jesus was speaking about the Pharisees. They were spiritually blind. They thought they understood everything there was to know about God, but they did not believe in Jesus, God's own Son. We are all born spiritually blind—dead in sin. When we trust in Jesus, our hearts are able to understand who Jesus is and worship Him.

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.