

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS



SUPERNATURAL

UNIT 1- SUPERNATURAL: THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

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MONTHLY PREPARATION GUIDE

UNIT 1-PRE-K

In the Supernatural unit, we focus on four major miracles Jesus performed while on earth. Each week, the kids will be learning that Jesus has the power to do the supernatural in everyone's life—including their own! The verse the class will be memorizing is found in Luke 18:27—"What is impossible with man is possible with God." Be sure to emphasize that Jesus is our powerful, miracle-working God. Join in with the children as they discover how supernatural Jesus really is!

WEEK 1

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Red Dot Stickers (at least 40 per class), Adhesive Bandages (1 box per class), *Story Strip* (1 per child), Crayons

WEEK 2

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Large Parachute or Blanket (1 per class), Small Ball (1 per class), Small Plastic Cups (2 per child), Rice or Beads (2 Tablespoons per child), Tape (1 roll per class)

WEEK 3

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), *Supernatural Shades* Page (1 shade cut out per child), Hole Punch (1 per class), Pipe Cleaners (2 per child), Crayons

WEEK 4

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Slice of Bread (1 per class), Can of Fish (1 per class), Small Basket (1 per class), Nontransparent Bag or Pillowcase (1 per class), Paper Plates (1 per child), Fish & Bread Cutouts (1 set cut out per child), Glue Sticks, Crayons

JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH LEPROSY

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 8:1-4 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.

FOCUS VERSE

"What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Red Dot Stickers | Adhesive Bandages | Story Strip | Crayons |

GREET – 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What do you like to do when you're not at church?
- Tell me about your family. Do you have brothers or sisters? Pets?



WORSHIP – 10 MINUTES

Learning to sing in corporate worship is a spiritually formative practice. If possible, provide some sort of worship time for your kids.

PRAY - 5 MINUTES

Gather everyone for prayer. Allow a willing child to pray. If no one volunteers, you can pray instead.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, we thank You for being with us today. Please help us understand more about You as we hear from Your Word, the Bible. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."



REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |



WE CHOSE A PUZZLE PIECE TO ILLUSTRATE HOW ALL OF GOD'S STORIES FIT TOGETHER. YOU CAN SAY, "THESE PUZZLE PIECES REMIND US THAT ALL OF THE STORIES IN THE BIBLE FIT PERFECTLY TOGETHER INTO ONE BIG STORY ABOUT GOD/JESUS."

BACKGROUND: Say, "This month, we are starting a brand-new unit called *Supernatural*. 'Supernatural' means an impossible act that can only be done by the power of God. Over the next four weeks, we will be learning about some of the supernatural or impossible things Jesus did when He was on the earth because **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**. Our first puzzle story piece looks like this! Let's put it on the wall together."

TRANSITION: Say, "Alright, let's get ready for today's story with a game."

ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Red Dot Stickers (at least 40) | Adhesive Bandages (1 box per class) |

Say, "Our game is about making sick people better. Who has the job of making sick people well? Right! Doctors! Let's get ready to pretend to be doctors."

GAME GOAL: The class will work together to "heal" the "sick" person.

HOW TO PLAY:

- 1. Choose one person to be "sick." The rest will be "doctors."
- 2. Next, stick about 10 dot stickers on the "sick" person and tell all the "doctors" that they will have to fix all the "sick" person's "injuries" (red dot stickers) by covering the dots with adhesive bandages.



- 3. Put the "sick" person on one side of the room and the "doctors" on the opposite side. The teacher will let the "doctors" fix the "sick" person by running to them one at a time to put on adhesive bandages until all the dots have been covered.
- 4. Once all of the "injuries" are covered with bandages, replay and choose a different person to be "sick."

TRANSITION: Say, "You did a great job being doctors! Like the game we just played, the man in today's lesson was sick and needed to be healed, but he didn't need a doctor; He needed someone better than a doctor. Let's find out who the sick man needs most!"

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Have you ever fallen and skinned your hands or knees? Yeah! Me too! That hurts, doesn't it? Well, today we will read about a man with wounds (hurt places) all over his body (leprosy). Wouldn't that be terrible? Well, Jesus does something pretty amazing to help this man get better. In fact, Jesus was doing so many amazing things that huge crowds of people were following Him. Let's see what happens next." Read Matthew 8:1-4 (ICB).



TELL THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THE PASSAGE BELOW.

1 "When Jesus came down from the hill, great crowds followed him. ² Then a man sick with a harmful skin disease came to Jesus. The man bowed down before him and said, "Lord, you have the power to heal me if you want." ³ Jesus touched the man and said, "I want to heal you. Be healed!" And immediately the man was healed from his skin disease. ⁴ Then Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anyone about what happened. But go and show yourself to the priest (church leader)... This will show people that you are healed."

Say, "What a supernatural story! **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.** Can everyone say that with me?"

Ask, "Can I have everyone share one thing that 'wowed' you from this story? Great! Jesus is better than any doctor because He doesn't need bandages to cover up our sickness and wounds. He heals us completely! Isn't Jesus amazing? **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**."

TRANSITION: Say, "I can't wait to learn more about our story."

DISCUSS – 5 MINUTES

Say, "Let's talk about it."

1. In this story, who has the power to do the supernatural?

Response: Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.

2. What supernatural thing did Jesus do?

Response: He healed a man from a terrible skin disease (leprosy).

3. How long did it take Jesus to heal the man?

Response: He healed him immediately.

4. What was one new thing you learned today?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. What do you think this man was thinking after he was healed?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. What did we learn about Jesus today?

Response: **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**, Jesus is powerful, Jesus is kind, Jesus helps us, Jesus is loving, Jesus heals us, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job answering the questions!"

RESPOND – 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Story Strip (1 per child) | Crayons |

Say, "We are going to do an activity with the parts from our story to help us remember what happened. Who is ready?"

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Give each child a *Story Strip*. Each picture displays a different portion of the story.
- 2. Have the children color the images, one at a time, talking about each part as they are coloring it.
- 3. When their crafts are done, have each kid take turns retelling the story to a partner using their *Story Strips*.

TRANSITION: Say, "Awesome job! Now, we can use our *Story Strips* to help us remember that **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**. Let's practice this month's memory verse."

MEMORIZE – 5 MINUTES

Explain to the class that they will be learning a memory verse to help them remember that God can do anything – even if it seems impossible. First, say the verse by yourself as you demonstrate the actions. Then, have the kids practice it with you. Finally, ask for volunteers who would like to try it by themselves.

"What is impossible (do a crossing out motion with arms) with man is possible (make a fireworks motion looking up to the sky) with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV) (hold hands open like a book)

CHALLENGE: Practice saying the verse really SLOW, and then practice saying it really FAST. The more ways you recite the verse, the better the memorization will be.

REFLECT – 5 MINUTES

Say, "We have a lot to thank God for today. After all, **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural!** Jesus can still heal us just like He did for the man with the skin disease. In fact, the Bible tells us to pray and ask God to heal us when we are sick (Jeremiah 17:14). Have you ever asked God to heal you from being sick? If you haven't, you can start today!" Take prayer requests.



SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, You are able to do supernatural things that seem impossible to us. Would You please heal <u>student's name</u> like You healed the man in our story? We believe You have the power to heal. Help us see Your supernatural power this week. In Jesus' name, Amen."

RELEASE -

If there is extra time before parents arrive, have the children practice their memory verse again, replay the ENGAGE game, or work on unfinished *Story Strips*. When parents come to pick up their children, give them a copy of the monthly Parent Guide (downloadable).

PARENT GUIDE GOALS:

- 1. To provide engaging questions and activities for family discipleship.
- 2. To review what the children are learning each week.

JESUS HEALS SKIN DISEASE STORY STRIP





JESUS CALMS THE STORM

BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 4:35-39, 41 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.

FOCUS VERSE

"What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Large Parachute or Blanket | Small Ball | Small Plastic Cups | Rice or Beads | Tape |

GREET – 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Are you going to do anything exciting this week?
- If you could choose your own name, what would you name yourself? Why?



REMEMBERING EACH CHILD'S NAME GOES A LONG WAY IN SHOWING HOW MUCH THEY MATTER TO YOU. THE SIMPLE ACT OF CALLING A CHILD BY THEIR NAME COMMUNICATES VALUE.

WORSHIP - 10 MINUTES

Corporate worship is a wonderful time to teach children how to connect with God. Say, "There is more than one way to worship God. For example, we might worship by standing, sitting or kneeling. The most important thing is for the worship to be for and about God. Let's try kneeling now in worship."

PRAY - 5 MINUTES

Gather the children in a circle for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, we love You! Thank You for always listening when we talk to You. Help us understand our Bible story for today. Show us Your supernatural power in our own lives. In Jesus' name, Amen."



IF NO ONE VOLUNTEERS TO PRAY, STOP AND EXPLAIN HOW TO PRAY. SAY, "PRAYER IS A CONVERSATION WITH GOD WHERE WE TALK TO HIM AND ASK HIM TO HELP US WITH ANYTHING WE NEED. IT IS ALSO A GREAT TIME TO TELL HIM HOW MUCH WE LOVE HIM."

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, "This month, we are learning about some of the supernatural things Jesus did. Does anyone remember what 'supernatural' means? 'Supernatural' means something that's impossible without the power of God. Last week, we learned about a time when Jesus healed a man with bad sores on his skin. Wasn't that amazing? Well, today we are going to read another story about how **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**. But first, let's put up our second puzzle piece."

TRANSITION: Say, "Before we read from God's Word, we are going to play a game to get us thinking about today's story."

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Large Parachute or Blanket (1 per class) | Small Ball (1 per class) |

Say, "Our game is going to require a lot of teamwork because there is going to be lots of shaking! Let's find out how to play."

GAME GOAL: To prevent the ball from falling to the ground.

HOW TO PLAY:

- 1. Instruct the children to spread out around the outside of the parachute or blanket and take hold of the outside edges. Make sure everyone is evenly spaced around the parachute.
- 2. Place a ball on the middle of the parachute.
- 3. On your count, have the children vigorously shake the parachute while also working together to prevent the ball from touching the ground.
- 4. Replay as time allows.

TRANSITION: Say, "That was a lot of shaking and rocking, wasn't it? Well, the story we are about to read has lots of shaking and rocking too! Are you ready to find out what I mean?"

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Today, we will be reading about a really bad storm. Have you ever been in a storm that scared you? Yes! Storms can be scary, right? Our story is about a scary storm like that, but this storm is on a boat in the middle of water, wind, and waves. Let's see what supernatural thing Jesus does to this storm." Read Mark 4:35-39, 41 (ICB).

TELL THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THE PASSAGE BELOW.

He and the followers left the people there. They went in the boat that Jesus was already sitting in. There were also other boats with them. ³⁷ A very strong wind came up on the lake. The waves began coming over the sides and into the boat. It was almost full of water. ³⁸ Jesus was at the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The followers went to him and woke him. They said, "Teacher, do you care about us? We will drown!" ³⁹ Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the waves to stop. He said, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind stopped, and the lake became calm. ⁴¹ The followers were very afraid and asked each other, "What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"



Say, "What a supernatural story! Jesus has the power to do the supernatural, doesn't He?"

Ask, "Who can tell me one thing from the story today that seemed CRAZY!? Right! Only Jesus can make stormy winds and giant waves stop. That is why this miracle was so amazing! Only God has the power to stop a storm. Jesus is God, and Jesus has the power to do the supernatural."

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job! Let's see what we can remember about our story!"

DISCUSS – 5 MINUTES

Say, "Isn't Jesus awesome for calming that storm? **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.** Let's talk about the story."

1. In this story, who has the power to do the supernatural?

Response: Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.

2. Who was sleeping in the boat?

Response: Jesus.

3. How long did it take for the storm to be quiet and calm down?

Response: The storm stopped immediately after Jesus' command.

4. How do you think you would have felt if you had been in that boat with the storm?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. I wonder how big the waves were. How big do you think they were?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. What did we learn about Jesus today?

Response: **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**, Jesus is a miracle-worker, Jesus is powerful, Jesus is in charge of the wind and the waves, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job answering the questions! **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural,** doesn't He? Let's do an activity to help us understand our supernatural story better!"

RESPOND – 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Small Plastic Cups (2 per child) | Rice or Beads (2 tablespoons per child) | Tape |

Say, "We will be creating *Storm Shakers* to remind us of our story. Who is ready to learn how?" **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Give each child two small plastic cups and two tablespoons of rice or beads.
- 2. Scoop the rice or beads into one of each kids' cups.
- 3. Help the kids tape the tops of both cups together to make a shaker (similar to a maraca).
- 4. Retell the story while the kids use their *Storm Shakers* to make the sounds of the storm and the waves. When the storm is raging, have the kids shake their shakers. When Jesus calms the storm, have the kids hold their own *Storm Shakers* still.

TRANSITION: Say, "Awesome job! You can use your *Storm Shakers* to remember that Jesus calmed the storm, and He can calm our storms too. **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural!** Let's practice this month's verse."

MEMORIZE – 5 MINUTES

Say, "We will be memorizing a verse that reminds us that God can do the impossible, just like our story from today!" Say the verse yourself first (with actions) and then have the kids practice with you.

"What is impossible (do a crossing out motion with arms) with man is possible (make a fireworks motion looking up to the sky) with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV) (hold hands open like a book)

CHALLENGE: Discuss the meaning of the verse with the children. Ask the following questions:

- 1. What do you think this verse means?
- 2. Have you seen God do anything impossible in your life?

REFLECT – 5 MINUTES

Say, "We have a lot to thank God for today! Jesus can do amazing things in our lives just like He did when He made the storm stop for His disciples. **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.** Do you believe that? Who needs God to do something impossible or supernatural for them?"



SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, we praise You for being able to do supernatural things. We know You love us and hear our prayers. Help us see Your supernatural power this week. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen."

RELEASE –

If there is extra time before parents arrive, have the children go back through their memory verse, finish any incomplete *Storm Shakers*, or play the parachute ENGAGE game again.



JESUS HEALS THE BLIND MEN

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 9:27-30 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.

FOCUS VERSE

"What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Supernatural Shades Page | Hole Punch | Pipe Cleaners | Scissors | Crayons |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your favorite food?
- Tell me about your weekend. Did you do anything fun?

WORSHIP - 10 MINUTES

Worship is a beautiful way of showing God, with our whole selves, how much we love Him. Practice praising God by shouting, jumping, raising your arms, etc.



BE SURE TO CLARIFY THAT WHILE GOD INTENDS FOR US TO ENJOY WORSHIP, IT IS SINGULARLY FOR AND ABOUT HIM.

PRAY – 5 MINUTES

Gather everyone for prayer.



SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, we love You! Thank You for loving us so much that You sent us Your Son, Jesus. Help us learn more about Jesus today. In Jesus' name, Amen."

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, "We are in the third week of the unit, *Supernatural*. Who remembers what the word 'supernatural' means? It means something impossible that can only be done by the power of God. Has anyone ever seen something supernatural? At the beginning of this month, we learned how Jesus did the impossible by healing a man with a terrible skin disease. Then, last week, we discussed how Jesus supernaturally calmed a very scary storm. Before we hear another story about Jesus' supernatural miracles, let's put up this week's puzzle piece."

TRANSITION: Say, "Who's ready to play a game?"

ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

Say, "We are going to complete a challenge called *Heads Up, Three Up*. It is played just like *Heads Up, Seven Up*, but instead of seven people, we will only have three people up and the rest of you will cover your eyes! Let me show you how to play."

GAME GOAL: The three people that are up will quietly try to touch one person's thumb without them knowing.

HOW TO PLAY:

- 1. Choose three people to be "up." Everyone else will close their eyes, put their heads down, and put a thumbs up in the air.
- 2. When everyone's thumbs are up and eyes are closed, the three people who are "up" will QUIETLY go around and put one person's thumb down in the room.
- 3. Everyone continues to keep their eyes closed for the remainder of the time until all three people put someone's thumbs down and then go back to where they started.
- 4. Next, everyone opens their eyes. The three people with their thumbs down will take turns trying to guess which person touched them.
- 5. If the kids guess right, they will be the new tagger who is "up." If they guess wrong, the tagger will remain a tagger, and the guesser will sit back down, close their eyes, and get ready to start the next round.
- 6. Play as many rounds as time allows for.

TRANSITION: Say, "You guys did a great job keeping your eyes closed and guessing who touched you. Can you imagine having to keep your eyes closed your whole life? Wow! That would be hard! Well, the men in today's Bible story had to keep their eyes closed forever because they were blind (unable to see)! Let's listen to learn more about how Jesus did something supernatural for them!"

LEARN - 10 MINUTES

Say, "As Jesus traveled, people from all over followed Him. Every day, the crowds kept getting bigger and bigger and BIGGER. We will be reading about what all those crowds saw Jesus do for two blind men. Let's listen to our story to see what's going to happen next." Read Matthew 9:27-30 (ICB).



TO KEEP YOUR STUDENTS ENGAGED, HAVE THEM INTERACT WITH YOU WHILE YOU READ THE STORY. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN HAVE THEM POINT TO THEIR EYES EVERY TIME YOU SAY "EYES," "SEEING," OR

TELL THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THE PASSAGE BELOW.

²⁷ When Jesus was leaving there, two blind men followed him. They cried out, "Show kindness to us, Son of David!" 28 Jesus went inside, and the blind men went with him. He asked the men, "Do you believe that I can make you see again?" They answered, "Yes, Lord." ²⁹ Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "You believe that I can make you see again. So this will happen." 30 Then the men were able to see.

Say, "What a supernatural story! The men in our story were blind their whole lives until they met Jesus."

Ask, "Do you see why we had to cover our eyes in the game we played today? We covered our eyes because the men from our story were blind! No doctor could have healed these men. That is why this miracle was so amazing. Only God had the power to heal blind eyes, and Jesus has the power to do the supernatural."

TRANSITION: Say, "Isn't Jesus awesome for healing the blind? Can everyone say, 'Jesus has the power to do the supernatural'?"

DISCUSS – 10 MINUTES

Say, "Let's discuss our story together."



AVOID USING THE TERM "CHARACTERS" WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE BIBLE. "CHARACTERS" SOUNDS FICTIONAL. USE MORE SPECIFIC TERMS LIKE "THE MEN," "THE WOMEN," OR "THE PEOPLE."

1. Who has the power to do the supernatural?

Response: Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.

2. How did Jesus supernaturally heal the blind men?

Response: He touched the men's eyes.

3. Why was the crowd amazed when Jesus' healed the blind men?

Response: Healing people the way Jesus did was not normal. In fact, it would have seemed impossible. Eyes can't go from blind to seeing without a doctors help, and they didn't have doctors who knew how to fix that in Jesus' time.

4. Jesus can do the impossible! What else do you think Jesus has the power to heal?

Response: There is no right or wrong answer. It can be big or small things (Ex. fever, flu, broken ankle, headache, stubbed toe, broken arm, runny nose, bruises, sad feelings, broken relationships, etc.)

5. I wonder how long the men were blind. How long do you think they were blind for? Response: Answers will vary.

6. What did we learn about Jesus today?

Response: Jesus has the power to do the supernatural, Jesus is kind, Jesus is a miracleworker, Jesus is powerful, Jesus is loving, Jesus is healer, Jesus opens blind eyes, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job! **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**, doesn't He? Now, let's do an activity to help us remember this incredible story!"

RESPOND – 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Supernatural Shades Page (1 cut out shade per child) | Hole Punch (1 per class) | Pipe Cleaners (2 per child) | Crayons |

Say, "Today, we are going to make some *Supernatural Shades*. These glasses are going to remind us that **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**, like healing blind eyes."



PRINT THE SUPERNATURAL SHADES PAGE ON CARDSTOCK FOR STURDIER SHADES. ALSO, BE SURE TO CUT OUT A SUPERNATURAL SHADE FOR EACH CHILD.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Each person will get two pipe cleaners and a Supernatural Shades Page.
- 2. Let the children color in their shades.
- 3. Go around and punch two holes in each pair of sunglasses—one on the outside of each rim (on the white oval).
- 4. Help the children string one pipe cleaner through each of the holes.
- 5. Bend the end of the pipe cleaners to make them wrap around the tops of their ears like glasses.
- 6. Be sure to read the lenses to the class before wearing the shades.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job with your *Supernatural Shades*. Why do you think we would make *Supernatural Shades* after reading today's story? Right! To help us remember that God can do anything! He can even make the blind see! **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**, doesnt He? Let's practice this month's memory verse."

MEMORIZE – 5 MINUTES

Say, "We will be practicing this month's memory verse again. It reminds us about God's great power and that He can do anything." Recite the verse by yourself first, and then have the kids practice it with you.

"What is impossible (do a crossing out motion with arms) with man is possible (make a fireworks motion looking up to the sky) with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV) (hold hands open like a book)

CHALLENGE: Practice the verse again, but this time have the students offer suggestions for different hand motions.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We have a lot to thank God for. Did you know that Jesus actually told the people that God was in Him to heal the blind (Luke 4:18)? Isn't that good news? Jesus heals blind eyes because **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural!** He really does the impossible. Before we pray, does anyone need God to do something supernatural for them? Let's pray for <u>child's name</u>." Close the prayer by thanking Jesus for being a supernatural God who is able to do the impossible.



SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, You are so powerful and loving. Thank You for all the times You have healed us without us even knowing. Help us remember to come to You first. We believe that You, Jesus, have the power to do supernatural things. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

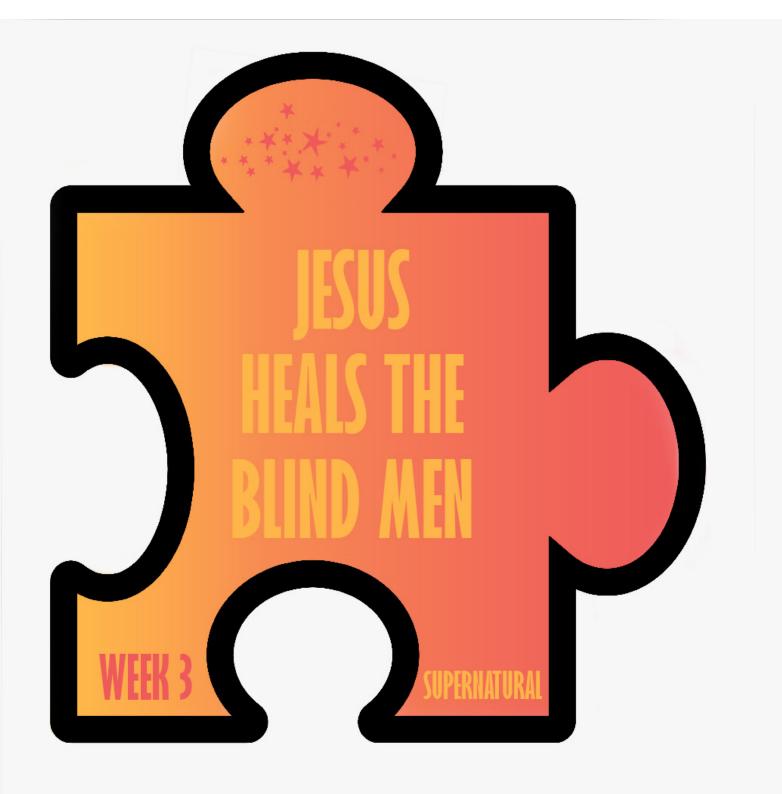
RELEASE -

If there is extra time before parents arrive, have the children practice their memory verse again, work on unfinished crafts, or replay *Heads Up, Three Up*.

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JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 14:14-21 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.

FOCUS VERSE

"What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Slice of Bread | Can of Fish | Small Basket | Nontransparent Bag or Pillowcase |
Paper Plates | Fish & Bread Cutouts | Glue Sticks | Crayons |

GREET – 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your favorite movie?
- If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be and why?

WORSHIP - 10 MINUTES

In worship, we express our love for God. Show the kids that we can worship in various ways like raising our hands, jumping, and dancing. At other times, though, worship can be thoughtful and contemplative. For example, we can sit quietly, thinking about how great God is and praise Him in our minds. Sometimes we even kneel in worship.



TEACH THIS TYPE OF WORSHIP. MODEL HOW ONE COULD WORSHIP WHILE KNEELING.

PRAY - 5 MINUTES

Gather everyone for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, thank You for bringing our friends here today. Teach us more about You as we read the Bible together. Will You show us something new about Yourself. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."



IF YOU ARE HAVING A HARD TIME GETTING THE KIDS TO FOCUS IN PRAYER, SWITCH IT UP. INSTEAD OF SITTING, TRY LAYING DOWN ON YOUR STOMACHS OR BACKS TO PRAY.

REVIEW – 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, "We are in the last week of our *Supernatural* lessons. Remember, the term 'supernatural' means something that is impossible without the power of God. In the first week, we learned about Jesus supernaturally healing a man with a skin disease. The next week, we talked about Jesus calming a dangerous storm. Finally, last week, we talked about how Jesus healed two blind men. WOW! Jesus has the power to do the supernatural, doesn't He? We have one more supernatural story to share. Let's put up another puzzle piece. It looks like this!"

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's do a game to help us get ready for our story."

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Piece of Bread (1 per class) | Can of Fish (1 per class) | Small Basket (1 per class) | Nontransparent Bag or Pillowcase (1 per class) |

Say, "Today, we are going to do a new activity. The game is called *Feely Bag*. You will have to feel the mystery items in the bag and guess what you think they might be. Are you ready to try it?"

GAME GOAL: To use their sense of touch to determine the identity of hidden items.

HOW TO PLAY:

- 1. Before the children arrive, put the bread, fish, and basket into the bag so they cannot see what is inside.
- 2. Show everyone the outside of the bag containing the bread, fish, and basket.
- 3. Have everyone come up one-by-one and put their hand in the bag to see if they can guess what is in it.
- 4. Instruct the children to keep their guesses a secret until everyone has had a chance to touch the items.
- 5. Then, let the children raise their hands, guessing what they think the items are.
- 6. Finally, reveal the bagged items to everyone.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job guessing! Now, let's use the items in the bag to help us tell our Bible story."

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Today, we will be reading about bread, fish, and baskets. Hmmm... what story from the Bible has all of these things? Great guesses! Let's listen closely to discover what supernatural thing Jesus does this time." Read Matthew 14:14-21 (ICB).



DON'T FORGET TO USE THE ITEMS FROM THE FEELY BAG ACTIVITY TO HELP YOU TELL THE STORY. USING PROPS WILL HELP THE KIDS REMEMBER THE STORY BETTER.

TELL THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THE PASSAGE BELOW.

¹⁴ [Jesus] saw a large crowd. He felt sorry for them and healed those who were sick. 15 Late that afternoon, his followers came to Jesus and said, "... Send the people away so they can go to the towns and buy food for themselves." 16 Jesus answered, "They don't need to go away. You give them some food to eat." 17 The followers answered, "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish." 18 Jesus said, "Bring the bread and the fish to me." 19 Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. Then he looked to heaven and thanked God for the food. Jesus divided the loaves of bread... ²⁰ All the people ate and were satisfied (were full). After they finished eating, the followers filled 12 baskets with the pieces of food that were not eaten. ²¹ There were about 5,000 men there who ate, as well as women and children.

Say, "What a supernatural story!"

Ask, "Did anything surprise you from our story today? That story was so surprising! Jesus multiplied the food so that it fed EVERYONE with leftovers to spare. He ended up feeding over 5,000 people! WOW! Only God has the power to make food supernaturally appear. Jesus has the power to do the supernatural."

TRANSITION: Say, "Isn't Jesus awesome for feeding 5,000 people? **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural."**

DISCUSS - 10 MINUTES

Say, "Let's talk about our story for today."



I / WE MAKE TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO DEEPEN THE CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE STORY AND OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD. DIALOGUE CAN HELP LAY A FOUNDATION OF GOD'S WORD IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF CHILDREN.

1. Who has the power to do the supernatural?

Response: Jesus has the power to do the supernatural.

2. What miracle did Jesus perform in this story?

Response: Jesus supernaturally took five loaves and two fish and turned it into enough food to feed thousands of people.

3. How many loaves and fish did Jesus and His disciples start with?

Response: Five loaves and two fish.

4. Why do you think Jesus prayed before He passed out the food?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. I wonder what God's supernatural food tasted like. What do you think the food tasted like? Response: Answers will vary.

6. What did we learn about Jesus today?

Response: **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**, Jesus is Provider, Jesus is a miracle-worker, Jesus is kind, Jesus is loving, Jesus is God, Jesus is compassionate, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job answering the questions! **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**. Let's do an activity to help us remember our story!"

RESPOND – 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Paper Plates (1 per child) | Fish & Bread Cutouts (1 cut out set per child) | Glue Sticks | Crayons |

Say, "Today, we will be making a basket (paper plate) with fish and bread on it to remind us of our story."



CHILDREN THIS AGE ARE NOT SKILLED WITH SCISSORS. BEFORE BEGINNING, CUT OUT THE FISH & BREAD IMAGES AND GIVE ONE SET (FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH) TO EACH CHILD.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Give each child one paper plate, one set of Fish & Bread Cutouts, a glue stick, and crayons.
- 2. Have the children color the "basket" (paper plate) and Fish & Bread cutouts.
- 3. Lastly, the children will glue their Fish & Bread cutouts to their "baskets" (paper plates).

TRANSITION: Say, "Awesome job with your baskets! Remember, **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**, even make food for 5,000 people appear - with leftovers!"

MEMORIZE – 5 MINUTES

Practice the monthly memory verse with the children. Say, "This is the last day we get to practice this month's memory verse. Who enjoyed learning about God doing the impossible? I know I did! Let's say the verse all together."

"What is impossible (do a crossing out motion with arms) with man is possible (make a fireworks motion looking up to the sky) with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV) (hold hands open like a book)

CHALLENGE: Have the children partner up and practice saying the verse back and forth to each other.

REFLECT – 5 MINUTES

Say, "We have a lot to praise God for. For example, we can praise God because He is able to do ANYTHING! Remember, He healed people with skin sores and people with blind eyes. Jesus also calmed a dangerous storm and fed thousands of people with only five loaves and two fish. Jesus is pretty amazing, isn't He? Do you think it is important that God can do anything? Yes! **Jesus has the power to do the supernatural**. Does anyone need some supernatural help from God today? We would love to pray for you!"

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Heavenly Father, we praise You because You are able to do supernatural and impossible things. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to earth to save us. Thank You for always hearing our prayers. Help us remember to pray whenever we need Your help. In Jesus' name, Amen."

RELEASE -

If there is extra time before parents arrive, the children can practice their memory verse again, act out the story together using the story props from the ENGAGE section, or finish their crafts.

FISH & BREAD

