

MIRACLES

JESUS HEALS THE SICK



MIRACLES

MONTHLY PREPARATION GUIDE

UNIT 2 - ELEMENTARY

In the *Miracles* unit, we focus on four major healings Jesus performed while on earth. Each week, the kids will be learning that **Jesus does miracles** of healing in the Bible but also in their own lives. The verse the class will be memorizing is found in Job 5:9—“He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles.” Be sure to emphasize that Jesus is our powerful, miracle-working God; no sickness is too big or too small for Jesus to heal! Join in with the children as they discover how miraculous Jesus really is!

WEEK 1

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (one per class), *Get Well Bingo* Activity Pages (5 versions/1 per child), *Get Well Bingo Calling Cards* Activity Page (1 per class), Bingo Counters (16 counters per child), *Thermometer Activity Pages* (1 per child printed on Cardstock), Red Pipe Cleaners (2 per child), Scissors, Liquid Glue, Crayons or Markers

WEEK 2

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Wall Tape (1 roll per class), Permanent Marker (1 per class), *Jesus Heals Woman* Activity Page (1 per child), *Jesus' Robe Template* Activity Page (1 template per 2-3 children on Cardstock), Fabric (1 6"x 4" piece per child), Pens, Scissors, Glue Sticks, Crayons or Markers

WEEK 3

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), *Points* Activity Pages 1-5 (1 set per class), Inflatable Pool Tubes (5 per class), Throwing Balls (3 per class), Floor Tape, Clear Bowl with Water (1 medium sized bowl per class), *Healing at the Pool Book* Activity Page (1 per child), *Story Images* Activity Pages 1-2 (1 set per child), Glue Sticks, Crayons or Markers

WEEK 4

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Toilet Paper (1 roll per pair), Timer (1 per class), Paper Plate (1 per child), Brown Construction Paper (1/2 piece per child—Optional), White Yarn or Ribbon (about 8 feet per person), Glue Sticks, Hole Punch, Crayons or Markers

MIRACLES

UNIT 2 - JESUS HEALS THE SICK

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JESUS HEALS A FEVER

BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 1:29-31 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus does miracles.

FOCUS VERSE

“He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles.”

Job 5:9 (NLT)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | *Get Well Bingo* Activity Pages | *Get Well Bingo Calling Cards* Activity Page |
Bingo Counters | *Thermometer* Activity Pages | Cardstock Paper | Red Pipe Cleaners | Scissors |
Liquid Glue | Crayons or Markers |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Have you ever been really sick? Tell me about it.
- If you could give one gift to every kid in the world, what would you give? Why?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Singing worship songs is one of my favorite things to do! Did you know, though, that there are other ways to worship God? We also worship with our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Can you give me an example of how you could worship God with your thoughts? Your words? Or your actions? [Wait for responses.] Those are great ideas! For now, let’s worship with our voices by singing, but I hope you’ll remember that we can worship God in other ways too.”

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather your class together for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“God, help us learn Your Word today. Thank You for showing us who You are and who Jesus is. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, "Today marks the start of our new lessons called Miracles. We are learning about the miraculous and impossible acts of Jesus. Each week, we will look at a different miracle that Jesus performed while He lived on Earth. There may be some stories you have never heard before, so listen closely. It is going to be great! Who wants to put up this week's puzzle piece to get us started?" Have a child put the puzzle piece on the wall.

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's play a game together to begin!"

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Get Well Bingo Activity Pages* (5 versions/1 per child) | *Get Well Bingo Calling Cards Activity Page* (1 per class) | *Bingo Counters* (16 counters per child) |

Say, "Being sick is no fun, is it? Well, for today's game, we are going to play *Bingo*. This isn't ordinary *Bingo*, though. These *Bingo* boards are full of pictures of things that make us feel better when we are sick. Let's play *Get Well Bingo!*"



CUT THE *GET WELL BINGO CALLING CARDS* ACTIVITY PAGE ALONG THE SOLID LINES BEFORE PLAYING. *BINGO* COUNTERS CAN BE COINS, COTTON BALLS, POM-POMS, ETC.

GAME GOAL: To place counters on the *Bingo* boards until a person/pair gets four-in-a-row.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Give each child a *Get Well Bingo Activity Page* and several counters.
- Mix up all of the *Get Well Bingo Calling Cards* and draw one at random. Show and name the symbol to the children.
- After you announce each calling card, have the children place a counter on the corresponding symbol. (Continue this process until someone gets four-in-a-row.)
- The first child/children to get four symbols in a row wins. Play again as time remains.

MODIFICATION: If some of your children find this game too difficult, pair the children up so they can help one another.



IF YOUR CLASS IS STRUGGLING WITH HOW TO PLAY, MODEL WHAT YOU DO AS THE CALLING CARDS ARE BEING READ.

TRANSITION: Say, "What a fun game of *Get Well Bingo!* We are getting ready to read about someone who is very sick and needs something more than medicine to get well. Let's find out what Jesus does!"

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Did you know that **Jesus does miracles?** We are about to read an amazing miracle that Jesus does for a woman who is very sick. Let's read it together." Read Mark 1:29-31 (ICB).

²⁹ Jesus and his followers left the synagogue. They all went at once with James and John to the home of Simon[c] and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. The people there told Jesus about her. ³¹ So Jesus went to her bed, took her hand, and helped her up. Immediately the fever left her, and she was healed. Then she began serving them.

Say, "Wow! **Jesus does miracles!** What an amazing story!"

Ask, "Why do we call what Jesus did for this woman a miracle? [Wait for responses.] Typically, if someone has a fever, it takes at least a couple of days and some medicine for the body to heal and feel better. But Jesus is more incredible and more powerful than any fever; **Jesus does miracles!** Because Jesus is God, Jesus is omnipotent! Omnipotent means all-powerful. This means that our God [Father, His Son, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit] is all-powerful and can do anything!"

TRANSITION: Say, "The passage says, 'Immediately the fever left her' because **Jesus does miracles.** Jesus can heal sick bodies immediately, even today! Isn't it amazing that **Jesus does miracles?** What a miraculous story!"



THE MORE YOU STICK TO YOUR ROUTINE, THE BETTER YOUR KIDS WILL FOLLOW THE LESSON.

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "I need everyone's help to talk about what we learned in our story together."

1. Who does miracles?

Response: **Jesus does miracles.**

2. Does Jesus only do miracles for His disciples or really important people?

Response: No! This woman was Simon's mother-in-law. He healed her because He loves her.

3. What miracle did Jesus do for Simon's mother-in-law?

Response: Jesus healed her of a fever.

4. Did Jesus need to give Simon's mother-in-law medicine to heal her?

Response: No! Jesus didn't need to use medicine. He healed her miraculously because **Jesus does miracles.** Jesus is omnipotent (all-powerful).

5. Can you think of any other miracles Jesus performed while He lived on Earth? How are they like this miracle? How are they different?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. Do you have a friend or family member you want Jesus to heal?

Response: Answers will vary. (Either stop and pray for these needs now or write them down and remember to pray for them during the REFLECT section at the end.)

7. What do we learn about Jesus from our story?

Response: **Jesus does miracles,** Jesus heals fevers, Jesus takes care of us, Jesus is our Healer, Jesus is omnipotent (all-powerful), etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great discussion! Remember, **Jesus does miracles** just like He did for Simon's mother-in-law. He can do miracles in your life too."

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Thermometer Activity Pages* (1 per child printed on Cardstock) | Red Pipe Cleaners (2 per child) | Scissors | Liquid Glue | Crayons or Markers |

Say, "Today, we will make a craft to remind us that Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law from a fever. Did you know that the best way to tell if you have a fever is to take your temperature? We do that with a thermometer! Our thermometer craft will help us remember that **Jesus does miracles** and heals fevers."



PRINT THE TWO *THERMOMETER* ACTIVITY PAGES DOUBLE-SIDED ON ONE PIECE OF CARDSTOCK. ONE SIDE OF THE CARSTOCK WILL READ "**JESUS DOES MIRACLES**" AND THE FLIP-SIDE WILL READ "FEVER." BE SURE TO PROVIDE ONE FOR EACH CHILD.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give each child a *Thermometer Activity Page* (printed double-sided on cardstock), two red pipe cleaners, and scissors. Provide one bottle of glue for every table.
- One side of the thermometer will say "Fever," and the flip-side will say, "**Jesus does Miracles.**"
- Instruct the children to color the title words on each side of the cardstock.
- Next, flip to the thermometer that says, "Fever." Measure, cut, and glue a red pipe cleaner to extend over the 102 degrees line.
- Next, have everyone flip to the side of the thermometer that says, "**Jesus does Miracles.**" On this side of the thermometer, measure, cut, and glue the second red pipe cleaner to align around 98 degrees to show that the temperature is normal.
- Retell the story and have the kids act it out using their thermometers.



IF YOU HAVE YOUNGER ELEMENTARY KIDS, YOU CAN MEASURE AND CUT THE RED PIPE CLEANERS IN ADVANCE.

TRANSITION: Say, "**Jesus does miracles**, doesn't He? Now, we can use our crafts to remember our story. Make sure you retell our story to an adult or sibling using your *Thermometer Activity Pages*! Tell them what you learned about Jesus today!"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "**Jesus does miracles**, which means He is a miracle-worker. Our memory verse this month talks all about how amazing Jesus' miracles are. Jesus never gets tired of performing great miracles for those He loves."

"He does great things [give two thumbs up] too marvelous [open eyes really wide] to understand [point to head]. He performs countless [count on fingers] miracles." Job 5:9 (NLT) (hold your hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: Engage your kids in the memory verse by asking a few questions:

1. What kind of marvelous/amazing miracles does Jesus do?

2. Why can it be hard for us to understand Jesus' miracles?
3. The verse says, "He performs countless miracles." What does that mean?

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Jesus did an amazing miracle for Simon Peter's mother-in-law. He healed her fever because **Jesus does miracles**. The good news is that Jesus can heal anything! He is omnipotent [all-powerful]! There is no limit to what Jesus can do."



USE THIS MOMENT TO PRAY FOR SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR HEALING. TEACH YOUR KIDS AND BELIEVE WITH THEM THAT JESUS CAN DO MIRACLES IN THEIR LIVES.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Jesus, we are grateful that You love us so much. You can heal things from the smallest paper cut to the worst sickness. You are amazing and all-powerful [omnipotent]. Today we want to pray for [insert the children's requests here]. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

If there is extra time before parents arrive, use the spare time to drive home the Big Idea, **Jesus does miracles**. You could also use this time to sing songs about Jesus' power. (Hillsong Kids' song "Supernatural" is an excellent fit for this month. Find it on YouTube.) If our kids learn nothing else except how powerful and loving our God is, your goal will be accomplished.

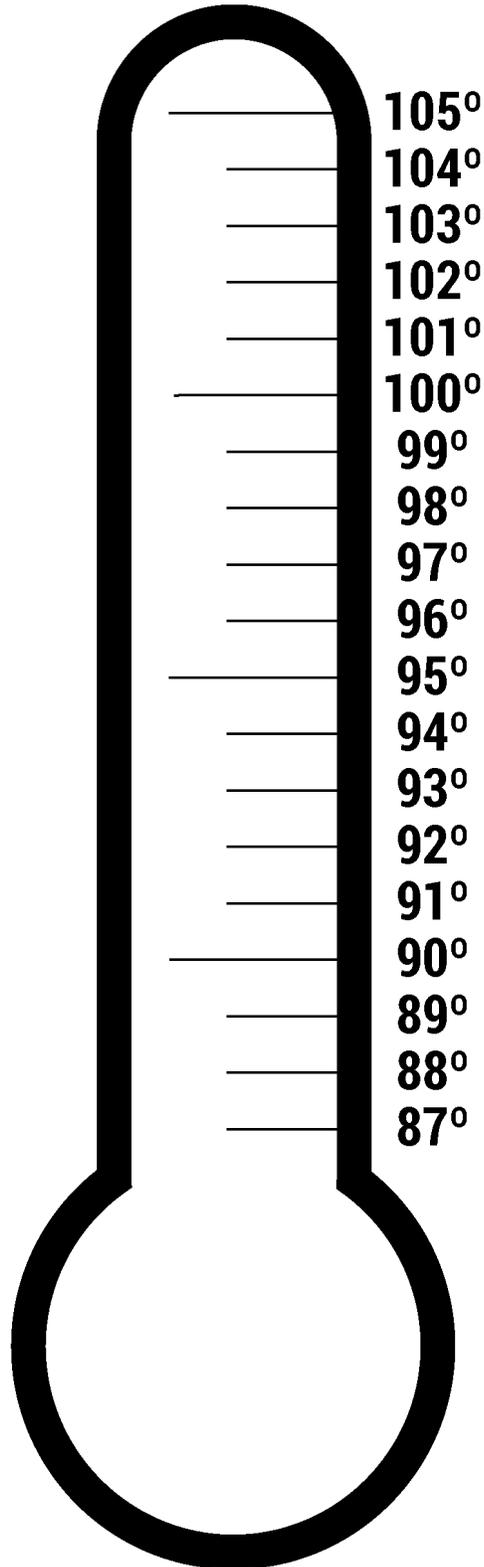


JESUS HEALS A FEVER

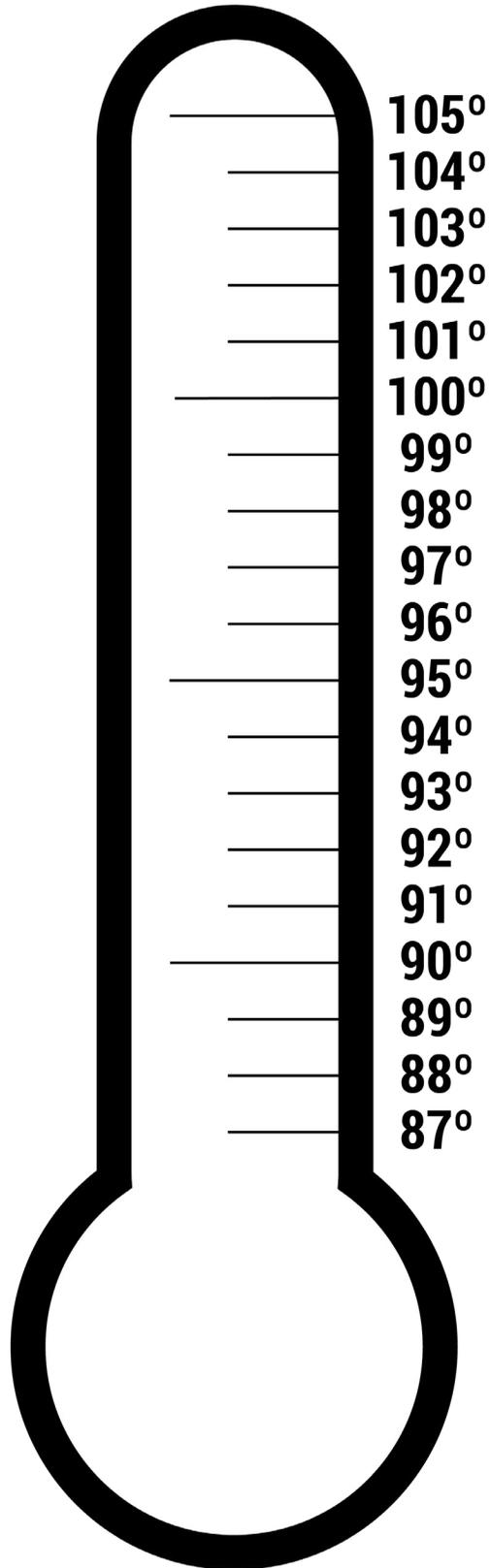
WEEK 1

MIRACLES

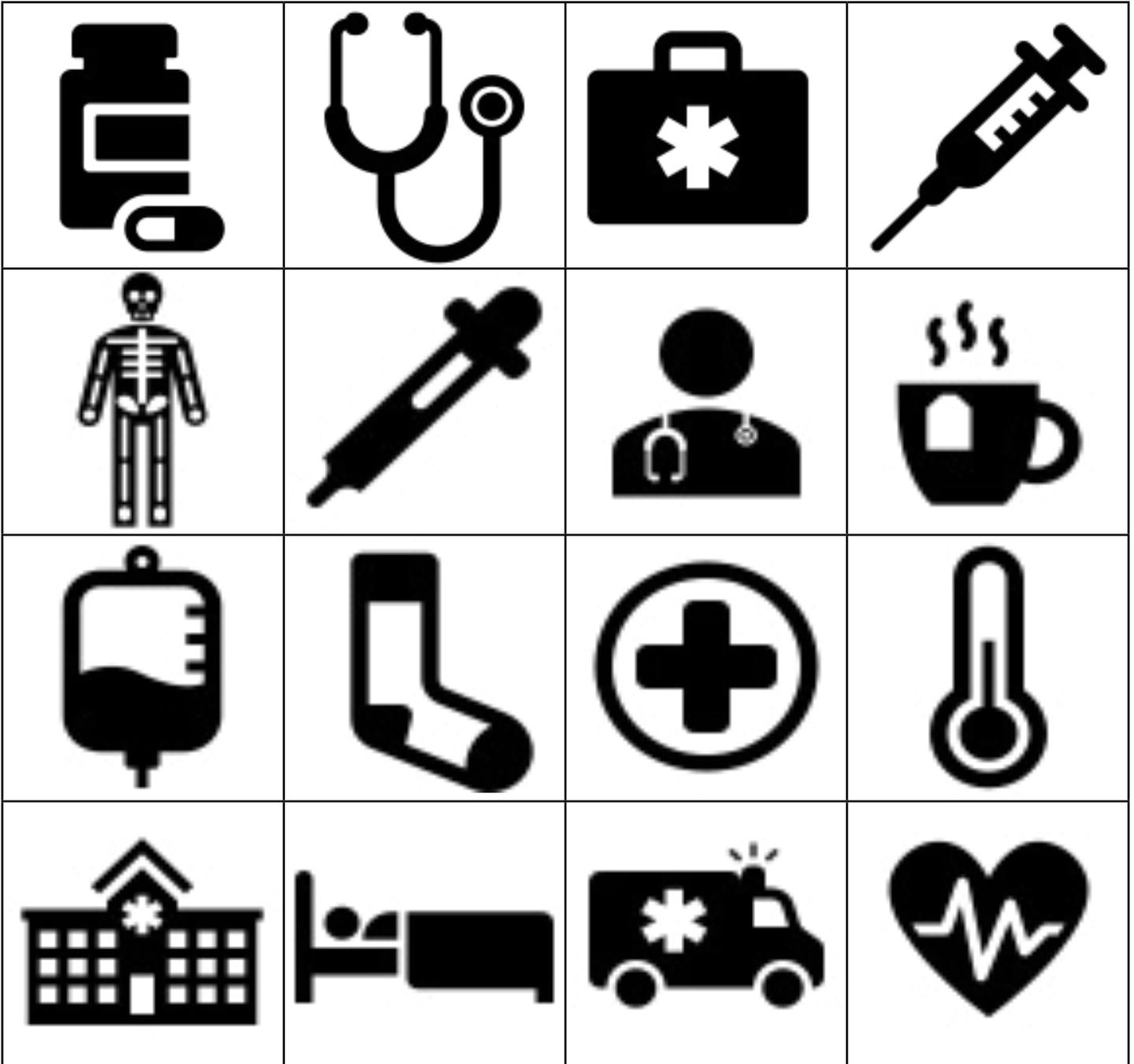
JESUS DOES MIRACLES



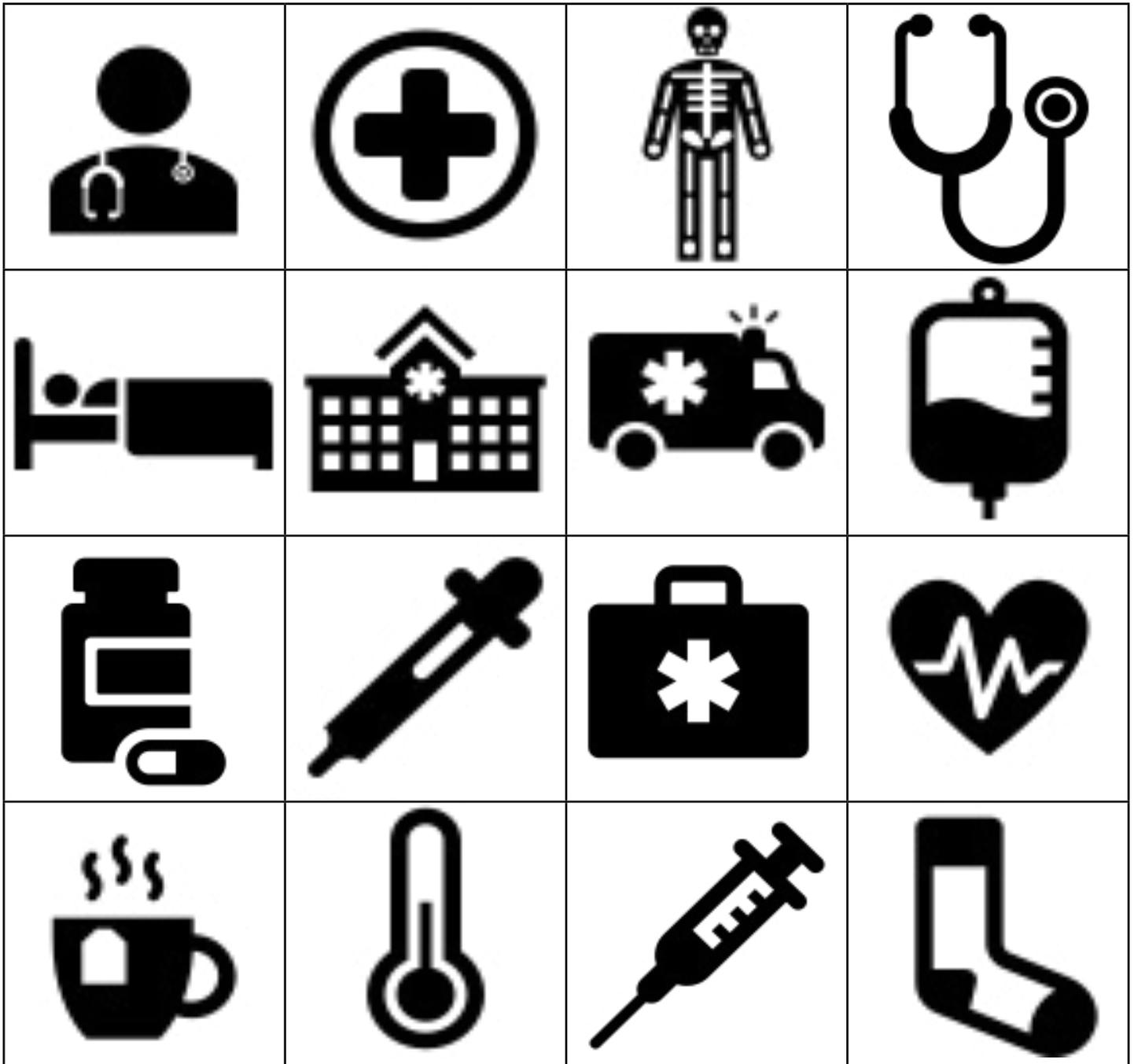
FEVER



GET WELL BINGO



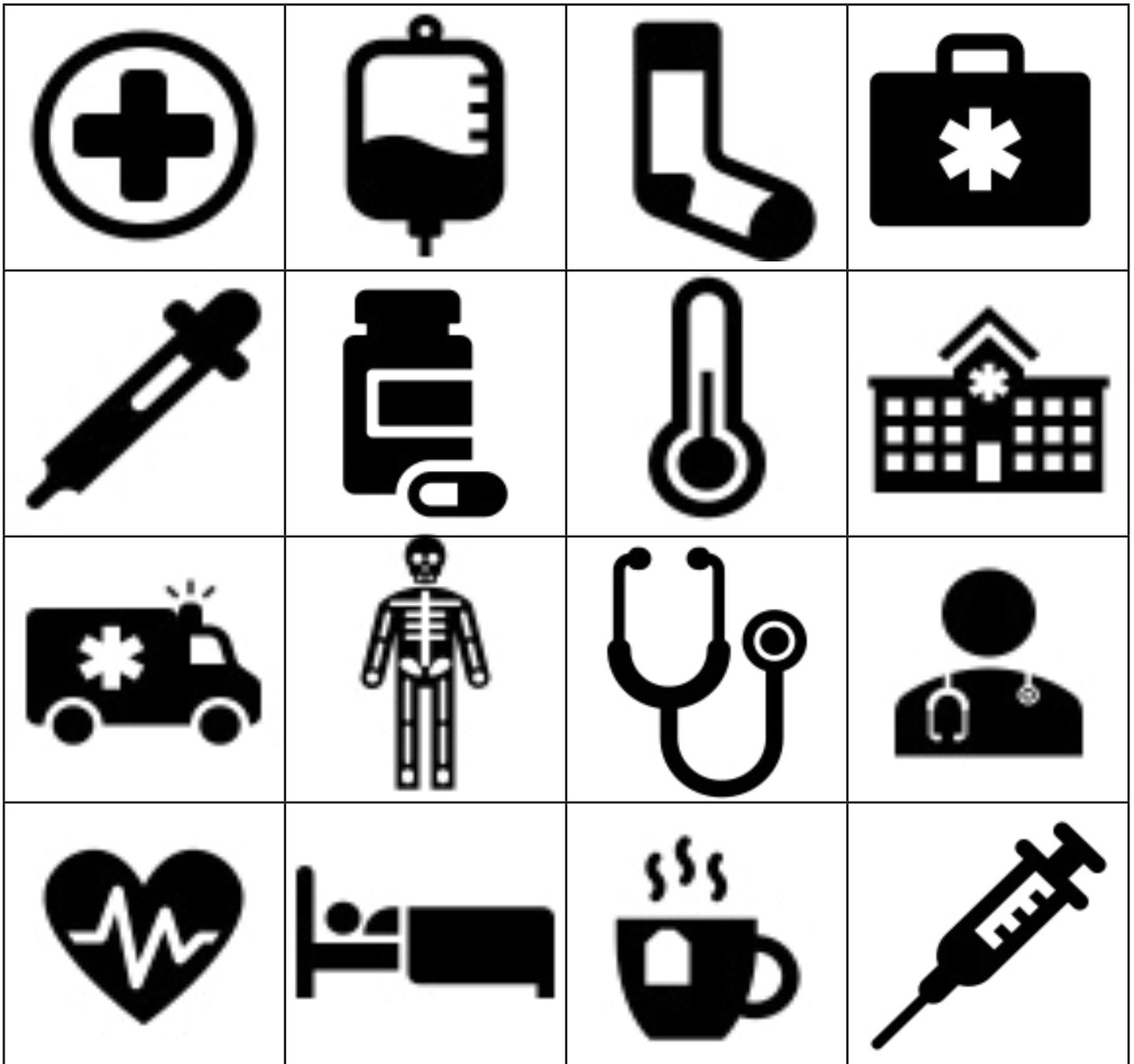
GET WELL BINGO



GET WELL BINGO



GET WELL BINGO



GET WELL BINGO



GET WELL BINGO

CALLING CARD

 IV BAG	 FIRST AID KIT	 BED	 CROSS
 HEART	 DROPPER	 STETHOSCOPE	 SKELETON
 THERMOMETER	 HOSPITAL	 DOCTOR	 SOCK
 PILL BOTTLE	 AMBULANCE	 HOT TEA	 SYRINGE/SHOT

JESUS HEALS A WOMAN

BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 5:24-34 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus does miracles.

FOCUS VERSE

“He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles.”

Job 5:9 (NLT)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Wall Tape | Permanent Marker | *Jesus Heals Woman* Activity Page | *Jesus' Robe Template* Activity Page | Cardstock | Fabric | Pens | Scissors | Glue Sticks | Markers or Crayons |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Would you rather have super-sight or super-hearing?
- If you could read the thoughts of any animal, which would you choose? Why?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Did you know that Jesus quoted the Old Testament when He said, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve’ [Luke 4:8]? God commands us to worship the Lord and serve Him only. Fortunately, we get the incredible pleasure and joy of doing that today and every day. We train our hearts to put God first as we worship together, so let’s sing to God now.”

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray together with your class.



DON'T SKIP THIS SECTION. EVEN IF YOU, AS A LEADER, ARE UNCOMFORTABLE PRAYING ALOUD, USE THIS TIME TO SIMPLY TALK TO JESUS. YOU CAN USE THE SAMPLE PRAYER WRITTEN BELOW TO GUIDE YOU.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “*Jesus, we are so excited to learn more about You. Show Yourself to us in a new way today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Who remembers what we are talking about this month? [Wait for responses.] Right! We are talking about Miracles—specifically miracles Jesus did while He was on earth. Last week, we talked about how Jesus healed Simon’s mother-in-law from a fever. This week, we are learning about a time when Jesus healed someone of a disease that is worse than a fever. Remember, **Jesus does miracles**—big and small. Who would like to put up this month’s second puzzle piece?” Have a child put the puzzle piece on the wall.

TRANSITION: Say, “Let’s play a game together to get us ready to hear our story.”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Wall Tape (1 roll per class) | Permanent Marker (1 per class) |

Say, “The game we will be playing challenges us to reach high! Who is ready to try it?”

GAME GOAL: To reach as high as you can by jumping.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Starting from the floor, tape a vertical line straight up the wall to about six feet high.
- One at a time, have each kid stand perpendicular to the wall beside the tape line, reach their hand up, and jump.
- The teacher will stand at the tape and mark how high each person reaches. (Mark a line on the tape with the child’s initials indicating how high they reached.)
- Whoever has the highest mark wins.

CHALLENGE: If you have the time, play the game again to see if each child can beat their own reach. Let them compete against themselves.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job reaching as high as you can! Today’s story is about reaching too, but the woman we are going to read about does not reach up high; she reaches down low! That sounds strange doesn’t it! Let’s read and see what I’m talking about.”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, “The woman in our story is desperate (or dying) for a miracle. No doctor has been able to make her better. The only thing she has left to do is to reach for Jesus. Thankfully, we will see that Jesus does miracles for this woman in need.” Read Mark 5:24-34 (ICB).

²⁴ So Jesus went with the ruler, and many people followed Jesus. They were pushing very close around him.

²⁵ A woman was there who had been bleeding for the past 12 years. ²⁶ She had suffered very much. Many doctors had tried to help her. She had spent all the money she had, but she was not improving. She was getting worse. ²⁷ When the woman heard about Jesus, she followed him with the people and touched his coat.

²⁸ The woman thought, “If I can even touch his coat, that will be enough to heal

me.”²⁹ **When she touched his coat, her bleeding stopped. She could feel in her body that she was healed.**

³⁰ **At once Jesus felt power go out from him. So he stopped and turned around. Then he asked, “Who touched my clothes?”**

³¹ **The followers said, “There are so many people pushing against you! And you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”**

³² **But Jesus continued looking around to see who had touched him.** ³³ **The woman knew that she was healed. So she came and bowed at Jesus’ feet. Shaking with fear, she told him the whole story.** ³⁴ **Jesus said to the woman, “Dear woman, you are made well because you believed [had faith]. Go in peace. You will have no more suffering.”**

Say, “Wow! **Jesus does miracles**, doesn’t He? What an amazing story!”

Ask, “Why did the woman come to Jesus to be healed? [Wait for responses.] The woman knew that her only option was to be healed by Jesus. Doctors tried to help her, but she was only getting worse. Fortunately, Jesus is more amazing and more powerful than any sickness. **Jesus does miracles!** Jesus didn’t even have to say, ‘Be healed’ to the woman. She was healed when she touched the edge of His coat. Incredibly, **Jesus does miracles**, even without saying anything!”

TRANSITION: Say, “What a miraculous story!”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Let’s take some time to discuss the details of our story.”



IT IS CRUCIAL THAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ANALYZE AND THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY HEARD. DISCUSSION HELPS WITH THIS PROCESS.

1. Who does miracles?

Response: **Jesus does miracles.**

2. Why did this woman seek out Jesus?

Response: The woman had been bleeding for twelve years, and no one (not even the doctors) could help her. Jesus was her only hope.

3. How did Jesus help the woman?

Response: Jesus healed her bleeding when she touched the edge of His coat. Jesus has the power to heal.

4. Do you reach for Jesus when you need Him to do something miraculous for you?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. If I ask God to heal someone, and nothing happens, does that mean I don’t have enough faith?

Response: No, while God does call us to have faith (even faith as tiny as a mustard seed – see Matthew 17:20), He doesn’t answer all our prayers the way we want even when we have

a lot of faith. What we can assure our children, though, is that He loves them and will never leave them. (See Deut. 31:8, Psalm 23, and Matt. 28:20.)

6. What do we learn about Jesus from our story?

Response: **Jesus does miracles**, Jesus is powerful, Jesus wants us to have faith, Jesus is with His people in their suffering, Jesus loves us, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "I love this time when we get to talk deeper about our story. Remember, **Jesus does miracles** just like He did for the woman with the bleeding disease, and He can work miracles in your life too."

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Jesus Heals Woman* Activity Page (1 per child) | *Jesus' Robe Template* Activity Page (1 template per 2-3 children on Cardstock) | Fabric (1 6"x 4" piece per child) | Pens | Scissors | Glue Sticks | Markers or Crayons |

Say, "The craft today is about the woman with the bleeding disease and how she reached out and touched the coat [robe] of Jesus. She received healing because **Jesus does miracles**. Who is ready to start our project?"



CUT OUT ENOUGH OF THE JESUS' ROBE TEMPLATES FOR 2-3 CHILDREN TO SHARE.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give each child a *Jesus Heals Woman* Activity Page, a piece of fabric, a pen, scissors, a glue stick and markers or crayons.
- Using the shared *Jesus' Robe Templates*, help the children trace a robe on the fabric and cut it out.
- Glue the fabric robe to Jesus on the *Jesus Heals Woman* Activity Page and color in the remainder of the page with markers or crayons. Prompt the children to practice retelling today's Bible Story to one another while they color.



IF YOU ARE TIGHT ON TIME OR YOU HAVE YOUNGER KIDS, PRE-CUT THE ROBES OUT OF THE FABRIC.

TRANSITION: Say, "**Jesus does miracles**, doesn't He? Now, we can use our crafts to remember that Jesus did a miracle for the bleeding woman who touched Jesus' coat. Use your project to retell our story from today to someone at home or school."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Jesus is so good to us! Let's practice the verse that reminds us of how amazing Jesus' miracles are." Recite it once with the actions, and then give the kids a chance to join you.

"He does great things [give two thumbs up] too marvelous [open eyes really wide] to understand [point to head]. He performs countless [count on fingers] miracles." Job 5:9 (NLT) (hold your hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: A unique way to “spice” up your verse memorization time is to learn the sign language for some of the keywords in this verse. Use www.handspeak.com to find the signs.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “**Jesus does miracles!** Can everyone say that with me? [Say the Bid Idea together.] Great! Who has a prayer they want God to answer? [Wait for responses.] Thank you so much for sharing that. Did you know that you showed us your faith just by telling us that you needed prayer? Let’s pray for one another and ask Jesus to help us. I’m so glad **Jesus does miracles**, aren’t you?”



REMINDE THE CHILDREN THAT IF JESUS DOESN'T HEAL THEM WHEN THEY ASK, IT DOESN'T MEAN THEY DID ANYTHING WRONG OR THAT JESUS DOESN'T LOVE THEM. WE TRUST JESUS KNOWING HE LOVES US EVEN WHEN HE DOESN'T RESPOND THE WAY WE HOPE.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “Jesus, I am so grateful I serve a God who can perform miracles. I am also thankful that You love us. Please remind us to come to You with all of our needs. Help us trust You our whole lives. Amen.”

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

One way to fill the remaining time is to keep reviewing the memory verse. Play memory games, make up songs, and more to help them learn God’s Word.

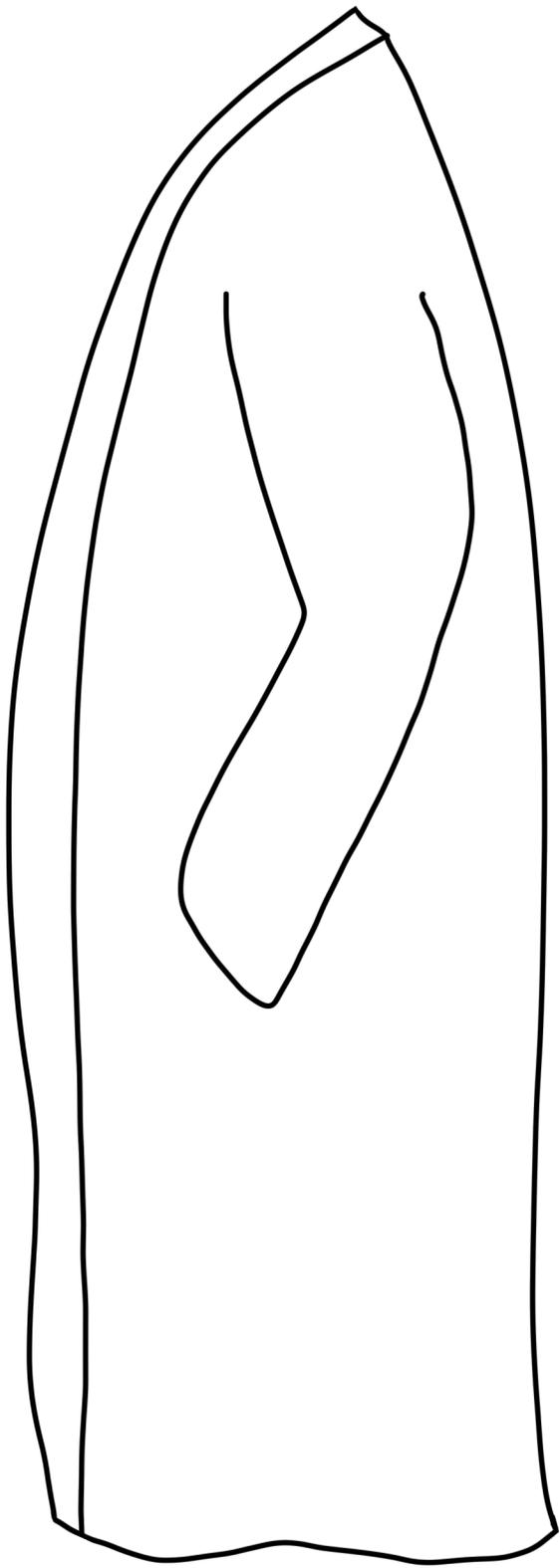


JESUS HEALS A WOMAN

WEEK 2

MIRACLES





JESUS HEALS AT THE POOL

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 5:1-15 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus does miracles.

FOCUS VERSE

“He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles.”

Job 5:9 (NLT)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | *Points* Activity Pages | Inflatable Pool Tubes | Throwing Balls | Floor Tape | Clear Bowl | Water | *Healing at the Pool Book* Activity Page | *Story Images* Activity Pages | Glue Sticks | Crayons or Markers|

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- If you saw aliens from outer space, what would you ask them?
- What's your favorite thing to do in the water?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “All of the angels in heaven worship God and sing songs declaring His holiness and glory [Revelation 5:11-14] Did you know that God wants the same from us? Worshiping God is a gift He has given us. Today, we get to worship God with fantastic songs that remind us of how great our God is. What an incredible gift! Let's worship.”

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray over your kids before starting class.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Jesus, I pray over the minds of all of our friends today. Please open their minds to understand Your Word better. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “This month, we've been talking about Jesus' Miracles! Can anyone describe one of Jesus' miracles we learned about in the last two weeks? [Wait for responses.] Great! We discussed how

Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law's fever and how Jesus healed a woman with a bad bleeding disease. **Jesus does miracles**, doesn't He? Now, who will volunteer to hang up our next puzzle piece?" Have a child put the puzzle piece on the wall.

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's get ready to play a game."

ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Points* Activity Pages 1-5 (1 set per class) | Inflatable Pool Tubes (5 per class) | Throwing Balls (3 per class) | Floor Tape |



LINE THE FIVE INFLATABLE POOL TUBES UP IN A ROW AND TAPE A *POINTS* ACTIVITY PAGE TO EACH ONE. ASSIGN THE POOL TUBES THAT ARE FARTHER AWAY FROM THE CHILDREN THE HIGHER POINT VALUES. PUT DOWN A PIECE OF FLOOR TAPE 5 FEET FROM THE FIRST POOL TUBE.

Say, "The game we will be playing today is called *Into the Pool*. You'll need to score the most points possible to win. Who thinks they can do that? [Wait for response.] Great! Let's play!"

GAME GOAL: To throw the balls into the Pool Tubes to collect as many points as possible.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Line everyone up behind the tape line and give the first child 3 throwing balls.
- Explain that each Pool Tube is assigned a specific amount of points. Each child will receive points based on which Pool Tube their ball lands in.
- One at a time, each person will throw their balls into the Pool Tubes of their choice.
- Add up the points from each person to see who received the most.

CHALLENGE: Push the tubes farther away if the game is too simple. You can also experiment with different types of balls: ping pong balls, wiffle balls, bouncy balls, etc.



IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PURCHASE INFLATABLE POOL TUBES, YOU CAN PURCHASE POOL NOODLES FROM DOLLAR TREE AND TAPE THE TWO ENDS TOGETHER TO FORM A CIRCLE.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job playing, *Into the Pool*! The great thing about today's story is that there is a miracle that happens around a pool. Are you ready to hear it?"

LEARN – 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Clear Bowl (1 per class) | Water (enough to fill the bowl halfway) |

Say, "The passage we will be reading today is about a man who has been sick for a very long time. Have you ever been sick for a long time? [Wait for responses.] It doesn't feel good at all. Well, this man was sick for 38 years! Let's read to see how Jesus helped this man. But, before we read, remember, **Jesus does miracles** because He loves us." Read John 5:1-15 (ICB). (Bethesda, Bethzatha and Bethsaida are all titles referring to this same body of water.)



HELP THIS STORY COME TO LIFE BY FILLING A CLEAR BOWL WITH WATER AND SWIRLING IT AROUND TO SHOW THE KIDS WHAT THE POOL MIGHT LOOK LIKE IF IT WAS STIRRED BY THE ANGELS.

¹ Later Jesus went to Jerusalem for a special Jewish feast. ² In Jerusalem there is a pool with five covered porches. In the Jewish language it is called Bethzatha [or Bethesda]. This pool is near the Sheep Gate. ³ Many sick people were lying on the porches beside the pool. Some were blind, some were crippled, and some were paralyzed [and they waited for the water to move. ⁴ Sometimes an angel of the Lord came down to the pool and stirred up the water. After the angel did this, the first person to go into the pool was healed from any sickness he had]. ⁵ There was a man lying there who had been sick for 38 years. ⁶ Jesus saw the man and knew that he had been sick for a very long time. So Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be well?”

⁷ The sick man answered, “Sir, there is no one to help me get into the pool when the water starts moving. I try to be the first one into the water. But when I try, someone else always goes in before I can.” ⁸ Then Jesus said, “Stand up. Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ And immediately the man was well. He picked up his mat and began to walk.

The day all this happened was a Sabbath day [the day of holy rest]. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “Today is the Sabbath. It is against our law for you to carry your mat on the Sabbath day.” ¹¹ But he answered, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” ¹² Then they asked him, “Who is the man who told you to pick up your mat and walk?” ¹³ But the man who had been healed did not know who it was. There were many people in that place, and Jesus had left. ¹⁴ Later, Jesus found the man at the Temple. Jesus said to him, “See you are well now. But stop sinning or something worse may happen to you!” ¹⁵ Then the man left and went back to the Jews. He told them that Jesus was the one who had made him well.

Say, “Wow! **Jesus does miracles**, even if it made some people angry at Him. What an amazing story!”

Ask, “Did the pool water heal the man who was sick for 38 years? [Wait for responses.] No! Jesus didn’t need to lower the sick man into the water. Instead, Jesus healed the man by just telling him to stand up. Jesus is so much more powerful than sickness because **Jesus does miracles**.”

TRANSITION: Say, “What a miraculous story of Jesus’ healing at the Pool of Bethzatha!”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “I need everyone’s help to talk about what we learned in our story together.”

1. Who does miracles?

Response: **Jesus does miracles.**

2. Why did this man need Jesus' help?

Response: The man had been sick for 38 years and couldn't get into the pool fast enough to ever be healed.

3. What do you think this man's life was like before he met Jesus?

Response: Answers will vary.

4. How was this man's healing different from the other healings Jesus did? How was it similar?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. Why do you think some of the Jews were angry that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath (a holy day)?

Response: The Jews had strict laws about what could be done on the Sabbath, and healing (or doctors' work) was considered work. The Jews felt like Jesus was breaking rules to heal someone.

6. Why did Jesus heal on the Sabbath if it broke the Jewish laws?

Response: Jesus didn't actually break the Sabbath laws because He didn't have to "work" to heal in the way a doctor would work. However, He also healed out of compassion and mercy, revealing that His call to love God and others was the most important law in His Kingdom.

7. What do we learn about Jesus from our story?

Response: **Jesus does miracles**, Jesus has compassion for the less fortunate, Jesus is powerful, Jesus is God, Jesus can heal immediately, Jesus notices every person, Jesus sees us in our pain and knows our desires (or what we need), etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "I love our talks about our stories. Remember, **Jesus does miracles** just like He did for the man at the pool, and He can do miracles in your life too."

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Healing at the Pool Book* Activity Page (1 page per child) | *Story Images* Activity Pages 1-2 (1 set per child) | Glue Sticks | Crayons or Markers |

Say, "Did the pool heal the man in today's story? [Wait for responses.] No, Jesus healed him! Today, we will make a book that will help remind us that **Jesus does miracles**. Let's paste the characters and pictures into our storybook!"



CUT OUT THE *STORY IMAGES* FROM THE *STORY IMAGES* ACTIVITY PAGES PRIOR TO CLASS. BE SURE TO HAVE ALL FOUR *STORY IMAGES* FOR EACH CHILD.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give each child a *Healing at the Pool Book* Activity Page, one of each of the *Story Images*, and crayons or markers.
- Let the children color all of the *Story Images* first.
- Next help the kids fold their *Healing at the Pool Book* Activity Page (on the dotted line) with the words "The Healing at Bethesda" on the front of the book cover.

- Underneath the words "The Healing at Bethesda," have the kids glue down their pool.
- Next, the children will open their *Healing at the Pool Book* and glue down the sick man to the left inside page, and glue down Jesus to the right inside page (to the right of the man laying on the mat).
- Finally, instruct the children to turn to the back side of the book and glue down the healed man holding his mat.
- Encourage kids to use their books to retell the story from today to someone in the class.

TRANSITION: Say, "**Jesus does miracles!** He healed the man with just one word. Jesus is so great!"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Who remembers our verse for this month? I'll give you a hint: It's all about how Jesus does amazing miracles. Let's say it together."

"He does great things [give two thumbs up] too marvelous [open eyes really wide] to understand [point to head]. He performs countless [count on fingers] miracles." Job 5:9 (NLT) (hold your hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: Try putting this month's verse to a well-known song to help the kids remember it. If you choose a popular song, the children will remember this Scripture passage when they hear it played.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Are you grateful that **Jesus does miracles**? Me too! He can heal a fever, bleeding problems, and other bad sicknesses. He can heal anything! Jesus can also heal relationships, hearts, minds, and families. In fact, Jesus wants you to come to Him any time you need help [Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 121:2, Matthew 7:7, 1 Peter 5:7]. Who needs Jesus to help them? Nothing is too small or too big for Jesus to help."



SHARE ABOUT A TIME WHEN JESUS DID A MIRACLE IN YOUR LIFE. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, thank You for being our Helper and our Healer. You know what is best for us, and You love us so much. You also hear and answer prayers better than we could ask them. So, help my friends today with their needs. We know You never let us down. We pray all of this in Jesus' name, Amen."

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

Help the kids finish crafts and clean the room before parents arrive. If you have lots of extra time, encourage the kids to play *Into the Pool* again, or give them free time that will allow you to continue building relationships with them.



JESUS HEALS AT THE POOL

WEEK 3

MIRACLES

10

pts

20

pts

30

pts

40

pts

50

pts

THE HEALING AT BETHESDA





JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 11:32-44 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus does miracles.

FOCUS VERSE

“He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles.”

Job 5:9 (NLT)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Toilet Paper | Timer | Paper Plates | Brown Construction Paper | White Yarn or Ribbon | Glue Sticks | Hole Punch | Markers or Crayons |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- How would you feel if it was summer or winter all the time? Which would you prefer?
- What does a perfect day look like for you?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Worship comes from the heart more than it comes from our mouth. We can sing songs all day without worshiping in our hearts. So, let’s make sure we are worshiping out of our love for Jesus as we sing today.”



IF SOME OF YOUR KIDS DON'T SHOW INTEREST IN WORSHIP, TAKE A MOMENT AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO PRAY AND ASK JESUS TO HELP THEM SHOW THEIR LOVE FOR HIM IN WORSHIP.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Start your lesson time with a prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “Jesus, thank You for being with us all the time. We want to tell You that You are welcome here. We love You, Jesus. In Your name, Amen.”

REVIEW – 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “So far, we have talked about three remarkable miracles of Jesus. Who remembers one miracle we have talked about this month? [Wait for responses. We learned about Jesus healing Simon’s mother-in-law from a fever, healing a woman with a bleeding disorder, and healing a sick man who had been lying by the Pool of Bethesda for 38 years.] We’re going to learn about one more miracle this month. Can you believe it? Who wants to guess the last miracle? [Wait for responses.] Good guesses! We will have to see.” Choose someone to put up the next puzzle piece.

TRANSITION: Say, “It’s time to get ready to play a game that will help us prepare our minds and bodies for the story.”

ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Toilet Paper (1 roll per pair) | Timer (1 per class) |

Say, “The miracle we will be learning about today has to do with a man who was dead! When someone died in Jesus’ time, they wrapped the body in pieces of cloth and placed it in a tomb [grave]. For today’s game, you are going to wrap up your partner in toilet paper cloth. Your job is to cover your partner completely with toilet paper cloth. Are you ready to start wrapping?”

GAME GOAL: To wrap a team member with toilet paper quickly, so their entire body is covered.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Divide the class into pairs and give each set of partners a roll of toilet paper. Each team must then decide who is going to be the wrapper and who will be wrapped.
- Set the timer for two minutes.
- When you say “Go!” give the teams two minutes to wrap one partner in toilet paper as neatly and thoroughly as possible.
- After the timer goes off, tell everyone to stop and, as a group, evaluate who did the best job covering their partner.

MODIFICATION: If you are short on toilet paper, play this game with bigger teams. Instead of having pairs, break your class into groups of three or four, with one person being the leader who looks for places the wrappers have missed.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job wrapping up your partners! The great thing about today’s story is that the dead man doesn’t stay wrapped up for long! Jesus shows up to do a miracle because **Jesus does miracles**. Let’s find out more now!”

LEARN – 10 MINUTES

Say, “The passage we will be reading is about a man named Lazarus. Now, Lazarus died and had been dead for four days [John 11:17]. He was wrapped up in cloth and laid in a tomb. But that is not where the

story ends because Jesus shows up! We know **Jesus does miracles!** Let's listen to hear what Jesus does for this man." Read John 11:32-44 (ICB).

³² But Mary went to the place where Jesus was. When she saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother [Lazarus] would not have died." ³³ Jesus saw that Mary was crying and that the Jews who came with her were crying, too. Jesus felt very sad in his heart and was deeply troubled. ³⁴ He asked, "Where did you bury him?" "Come and see, Lord," they said. ³⁵ Jesus cried. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how much he loved him." ³⁷ But some of them said, "If Jesus healed the eyes of the blind man, why didn't he keep Lazarus from dying?"

³⁸ Again Jesus felt very sad in his heart. He came to the tomb. The tomb was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Move the stone away." Martha said, "But, Lord, it has been four days since he died. There will be a bad smell." Martha was the sister of the dead man. ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they moved the stone away from the entrance. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me. But I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me." ⁴³ After Jesus said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with pieces of cloth, and he had a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take the cloth off of him and let him go."

Say, "Wow! **Jesus does miracles**, doesn't He? What an amazing story!"

Ask, "Why do you think we played the game where we wrapped our friends in toilet paper? [Wait for responses.] We played the game because when Lazarus died, he was completely wrapped in cloth! Did you notice Jesus was sad that Lazarus had died? He cried when He came to the tomb. Jesus was a man like us, but He was also God. Jesus gets sad when someone dies, and He was sad this time because He loved Lazarus' family, and they were crying and grieving. God hates the pain in our world, but that's why He sent Jesus because **Jesus does miracles!** When Jesus called Lazarus' name, he came out of the tomb alive! What an incredible miracle!"

TRANSITION: Say, "Do you believe that **Jesus does miracles?** I do!"

DISCUSS – 10 MINUTES

Say, "Let's talk about the story together."

1. Who does miracles?

Response: **Jesus does miracles.**

2. How long had Lazarus been dead before Jesus came?

Response: Lazarus had been dead for four whole days.

3. How is this miracle different from the other ones we learned about this month—healing a woman with a fever, a woman with a bleeding disorder, and a sick man at the Pool of

Bethesda?

Response: This miracle was different because Jesus healed the others, but He brought Lazarus back to life! What an amazing miracle!

4. Why did Jesus cry over Lazarus dying?

Response: Lazarus was His friend. Jesus loved Lazarus and his family. Their grief and pain made Jesus sad.

5. Did Jesus need to touch Lazarus' body to heal him?

Response: No! Jesus called to Lazarus from outside the tomb. Jesus is not limited in His power.

6. What do we learn about Jesus from our story?

Response: **Jesus does miracles**, Jesus gets sad when those He loves are hurting, Jesus loves people, Jesus is powerful, Jesus heals, Jesus raises people from the dead, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Now, let's do an activity to help us remember how amazing our story was."

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Paper Plate (1 per child) | Brown Construction Paper (1/2 piece per child) | White Yarn or Ribbon (about 8 feet per person) | Glue Sticks | Hole Punch | Markers or Crayons |

Say, "It's not hard to believe that **Jesus does miracles** after hearing about what He did for Lazarus! Remember when we read that Lazarus was wrapped in cloth as he walked out of the tomb? Well, today we are going to "wrap" Lazarus in cloth. Let me show you how we are going to do it."



BEFORE THE LESSON, PUNCH HOLES AROUND THE ENTIRE OUTSIDE RING OF THE PLATE. YOU'LL NEED ABOUT 16 HOLES.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give each child a paper plate (with holes punched around the outside), ½ piece of brown construction paper, a long strand of white yarn or ribbon, a glue stick, and markers or crayons.
- Using the construction paper, each child will cut out eyes, a nose, and a mouth and glue them to the paper plate to make it look like a face. (If this is too challenging, they can simply draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth on the plate.) If children want to color the remainder of their paper plate, they can do this after gluing on the face.
- Next, using the ribbon or yarn, have the kids weave the white string in a random pattern through the outside holes (weaving across the round plate each time).
- When the string is all used up, tie a knot in each end so the ribbon or yarn will not fall out. The craft should look like a man with cloth pieces draped over his face when it's complete.

TRANSITION: Say, "Now, you can use your craft to tell your family that **Jesus does miracles!** He raised Lazarus from the dead! This sounds like His most amazing miracle so far! What do you think?"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Let's practice our memory verse together. Some of you will remember it now because we have practiced the same verse all month!"

"He does great things [give two thumbs up] too marvelous [open eyes really wide] to understand [point to head]. He performs countless [count on fingers] miracles." Job 5:9 (NLT) (hold your hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: Provide a variety of ways for the children to show they've memorized the verse. Some children love to be center-stage, so allow those kids to say the verse in front of the class. Others will prefer to share it with you or a partner one-on-one, and others may want to show you they can write it. Be creative and allow for lots of opportunities for children to share what they're learning!

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Aren't you grateful that **Jesus does miracles**? I know I am! Jesus really does have all power to do amazing miracles. Did you know that Jesus told us, 'He who believes in me will do the same things that I do. He will do even greater things than these...' [John 14:12]? This means that, when we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, He immediately gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside us. Now, the Holy Spirit gives God's people the power to pray for miracles and see them happen—even raising people from the dead like Lazarus. The more we pray and listen for God to speak to us, the more we will know how and when to pray for people's healing. God may ask you to pray for someone to be healed too! Isn't that amazing!"

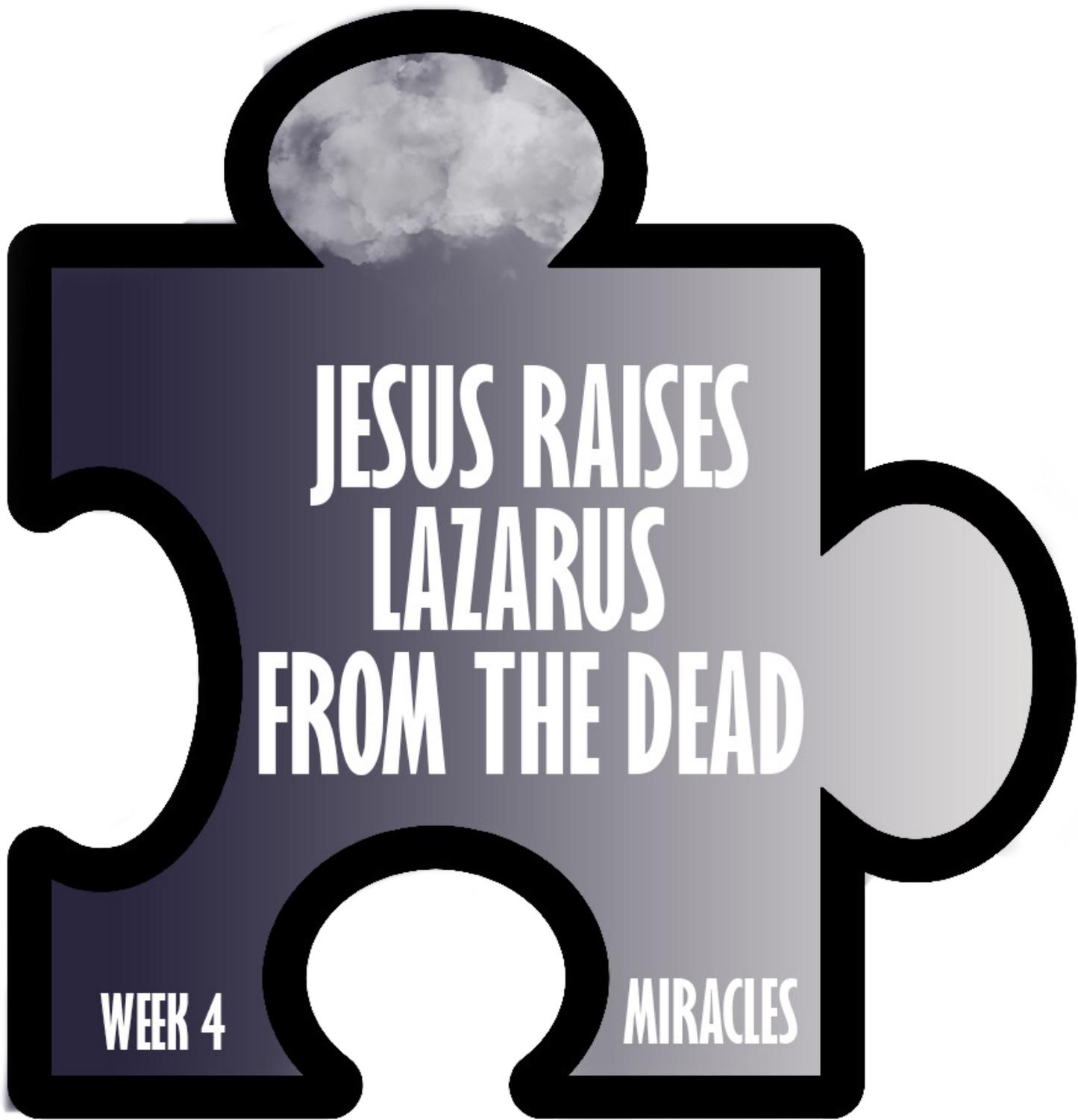


THIS IS A GREAT MOMENT TO ASK IF THERE IS SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ASK JESUS TO BE THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR FOR THE FIRST TIME. GOD WANTS ALL PEOPLE TO KNOW HIM (1 TIM. 2:3-4; 2 PET. 3:9). IF YOU ARE NOT SURE HOW TO LEAD A CHILD TO GOD, START BY READING ROMANS 10:9-10.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to live within us. Help us believe that Your power is in us and that we have the power to heal people when we call on Your name. We love You, in Jesus' name."

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

Don't know what to do with extra lesson time? Try acting out the story. Many kids are eager to role play, so give them an opportunity to do something they love while also having the bonus of higher story retention and comprehension. Keep Bible character costumes in your class for times just like this!



**JESUS RAISES
LAZARUS
FROM THE DEAD**

WEEK 4

MIRACLES