

## Children's Lesson

### Prepare to Teach

As you prepare to teach, read through Mark 2:1-12. This is the story of the friends who carried a man to Jesus. The man's sins were forgiven, and his body was healed in a display to give evidence of Jesus' divine authority and power. After the man was healed, everyone who saw him was "astounded and gave glory to God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'"

The Bible story will have application to preschoolers' lives and their need for Jesus as well as be an encouragement to share Jesus with others. You will help boys and girls focus on both reflecting on the story and how it applies to their lives as well as how they can go and help others (their ONE) learn about and apply the saving power of Jesus to their lives.

As you lead the application activities, think of ways throughout the session to mention the Reach Texas State Missions Offering and encourage your students to participate. The missions offering goes towards helping plant churches, disaster relief and clean up, evangelism training, and helping people go on mission trips throughout Texas. At the end of this lesson is a list of the different ministries of the SBTC that serve Texans and benefit from the Reach Texas Offering. Please print it out, display it, and reference it throughout your teaching session.

If students did not come ready to give financially, help them to make a plan to give money to the offering at a later meeting time and encourage them in various ministries related to Texas Missions. Finally, make sure everyone has some concentrated time in your teaching session to think about at least one person who they can identify as their "one" for whom they will pray and with whom they will ultimately share the good news of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Look over the introductory activity, group time, and application activities and gather the needed supplies in advance.

For videos related to how the Reach Texas State Missions Offering is used, please visit <http://sbtexas.com/missions/reach-texas-offering/> You may find that you want to show your students one or more short videos then discuss how you might join together to either give money, pray, or create a similar ministry effort in your town.

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### Introductory Activities (5 minutes)

#### Supplies Needed:

- Large plastic container that students can see into, such as soda bottle with the label removed or another large storage jar. Select an item that is something the students might be able to count, like candy pieces, craft sticks, small game tokens, etc. You may decide to chose something related to your area of the state, such as acorns, cotton balls, etc.
- Small pieces of paper (one per student), pencils/pens, container or envelope to hold the papers
- Select a small prize for the winner or decide if they want the contents of the container
- Map of Texas, painter's tape, sticky note or washable marker

• Print outs of pictures or papers with names of three large stadiums or auditoriums in your area or stadiums your students would know about. Do an online search to see how many people the location can hold and use the tape, sticky notes, and pens. Fill out a sticky note with the number of people that corresponds to each stadium or public venue and keep that to yourself until the conclusion of the introductory activity (optional: whistle and/or musical instrument). (For example, ATT Stadium in Arlington, Texas holds up to 100,000 people.) For each arena/stadium, calculate how many times it would need to be filled up to reach 19 million people. Students might enjoy guessing how many times different arenas would need to be filled. Do what works best to help them understand what a large number of people in Texas need to start a relationship with Jesus.

### **Introductory Activity: Guess how many!** (8-10 minutes)

As students enter, show them a container of whatever you have selected. Encourage them to guess how many of the items are in the container. Encourage students to put their names and their guesses on slips of paper and put the paper in a small box, basket or envelope. After students make a guess, encourage them to look at the three or four pictures of different arenas you have taped to the wall or whiteboard in your room. Encourage students to fill out sticky notes to indicate how many people they think each stadium will hold. The students can put their names on the back of the notes or just simply post their guesses by the stadiums. This will be something they can talk about together and do while other students are arriving and making their guesses about the items in the container.

Call all students together (optional to use a whistle or a musical instrument... whatever relates to the arenas you have selected). Walk as a group to each of the pictures of the arenas/stadiums and let boys and girls talk about the different guesses then post the correct answer. If you have a large group, then divide the students up into smaller groups and have one leader take their group of students on a tour of the stadiums then all meet back together for group time. Congratulate the closest to the correct number. Repeat for the other pictures of venues. Let the students guess how many times each stadium or venue would need to be filled to reach 19 million. After several guesses tell them the answer and say that 19 million is how many people it is estimated in Texas that do not know Jesus! That's a lot of people!! Then draw students' attention to the container and remark that you will tabulate their guesses by the end of the class session to see whose guess was closest to the number of items inside. Indicate what the prize will be.

Display a map of Texas and let boys and girls help you identify where on the map the different arenas are located. You can mark them with sticky notes or by circling a location with a washable marker.

### **Group Time** (12-15 minutes)

#### **Supplies:**

- Bibles
- SBTC tools (list of four divisions at the end of this lesson)
- Jumbo craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers (optional, dry erase board or poster board and markers)

Remark that you have looked at some different places in Texas that can get really crowded and that once in Capernaum, Jesus was speaking in a very crowded space. (For older children, locate Capernaum on a Bible times map.)

Invite students to find Mark 2 in their Bibles. Ask them to listen for two things that some friends did for a man who was not able to walk. Ask them to also listen for two things that Jesus did for the same man who could not walk. Indicate that you will read verses 1-12 and that they can follow along in their Bibles.

For older students, you may wish to ask for volunteers to help read the passage.

Read the Scripture with enthusiasm, highlighting Jesus' words.

Ask the students to recall two things that the paralyzed man's friends did for him. Give them time to think, then call on several students to respond (decided to help their friend, carried him to the crowded house, carried their friend to the roof, removed part of the roof, lowered their friend down to Jesus).

Ask the students to recall two things Jesus did for the paralyzed man. Give them time to think, then call on several students to respond (saw their faith, told the paralyzed man his sins were forgiven, healed the man [made him well] so that he could get up and walk).

Ask what the crowd's reaction was (they were amazed, they gave glory to God, they exclaimed, "We have never seen anything like this!"). Ask the boys and girls to repeat that refrain! Just saying it makes your voice grow louder and helps you smile!

Remark that after Jesus had risen from the dead, he told his disciples to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Help students find Mark 16:15 in their Bibles and let students take turns reading different translations. Challenge them to learn the verse together. You can ask one group to make up motions for the verse and another group to put it to a rhythmic chant. You may also choose to divide the verse up into five parts by printing it on a large piece of paper and cutting it up into sections (include the reference). Then you can distribute the pieces and ask the students to put it in order without speaking (you can let them use their Bibles the first time or two). Then repeat it for a speedier completion. Use whichever method seems most enjoyable to your students.

**Mark 16:15** "Then he said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

After your students have learned the verse, remark that a true sign that someone has learned something is when they can do it on their own. For example, if you have learned how to hit a baseball, you not only know the mechanics of hitting but you can also hit a pitch. If you have learned how to ride a bike, you not only know how the pedals and handlebars work, but you can also ride the bike up and down a path. Likewise, if you learn the meaning of this verse, you not only can recite the verse, but you can also share the good news of Jesus with others.

Ask the boys and girls to close their eyes in prayer and guide them in a prayer asking God to help bring to their mind someone or a group of people they know who need to know about Jesus. Then ask God to give each student an opportunity and boldness to share Jesus with that person or those people. Close the prayer then comment that in your remaining time together you will work on identifying someone specific and help the boys and girls with tools to help them share Jesus with others.

### Application Activities (20-25 minutes)

Select at least two of the following activities depending on your schedule or group size. You may want to divide the students into groups and have them take turns doing each activity then report back to the larger group about their findings/results.

#### A. So Many People!

##### Supplies:

- Cardstock and/or jumbo craft sticks
- Markers or pens
- Scissors

Mention that our focus all over Texas this year is "Who's Your One?" That means that we are encouraging everyone to think of one specific person for whom they can pray and with whom they can share the good news about Jesus. In your small group, ask boys and girls to start listing different groups from which they can find friends and make a list on a whiteboard or poster board as the students call out the different groups. (Older students may wish to take turns writing their answers themselves.) Examples might include neighbors, family members, sports team members, classmates at school, people they see in the park, etc. Ask each student to identify a group, even if it is not listed, from which they would be most comfortable or feel most led by the Lord to select a person to start praying for. Guide students as needed.

Give each student either a bookmark-size piece of card stock or a jumbo craft stick and ask the students to print the name of the person they have selected. Mention that the students can certainly pray for more than one person but for today we are just focusing specifically on one person per student. Distribute markers and allow students to decorate their bookmark or craft stick and include the name of the person for whom they will be praying.

Say that prayer is so important to knowing and following Jesus and that you want to take some time right now to join the boys and girls in prayer. If the children feel comfortable saying who they have chosen to pray for then let them share their "one" with the group. Then pray, guiding interested students to pray aloud, asking God to give each one in your group an opportunity to share Jesus with their "one." Thank God for the freedom in Texas to tell others about Jesus and remark that if millions of people join together asking God to help them share Jesus with their "one" then millions of people in Texas can come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. Thank God for the gift of Jesus and ask him to guide each of you in sharing that great news with other people.

### **B. Design your own gospel tract**

(This can be done individually or in small groups of three or four students.)

#### **Supplies:**

- Copies of different gospel tracts
- construction paper
- markers (optional butcher paper and/or whiteboard)

Display various gospel tracts. Point out the key Bible passages that are used. You may want to use LifeWay's "ABCs of becoming a Christian" as another example (do an internet search of LifeWay Kids "ABCs of becoming a Christian" or look in the front of any LifeWay Kids curriculum piece.) Guide boys and girls to select Scripture passages that explain who God is, that we are all sinners, that God sent Jesus to die for our sins, that Jesus rose from the dead, and that through faith and confession people can receive God's gift of eternal life by asking Jesus to be in charge of their lives. It is fine for boys and girls to use the same passages that they see in the tracts, the idea is for them to understand what they are and note an understandable order. Ask students to use the supplies you have provided to either work in small teams or by themselves to sketch out a tract they could use to share Jesus with their "one."

### **C. Tell a Story!**

#### **Supplies:** (optional)

- Notepaper
- Pens

Make up a story using a modern-day venue and items to imagine what the story of the friends getting a paralyzed person to Jesus might look like today. Encourage students to be sensitive to those with

disabilities, and also encourage your group to make an application/appeal to bringing friends of all kinds to Jesus. The story does not necessarily need to be about someone with a disability but make sure it focuses on someone who needs the saving and possibly healing power of Jesus. Encourage students to include bystanders who are amazed and give glory to God.

#### **D. Bonus Activity: Get Ready for Disaster Activity**

If you did not use the SBTC Missions lesson last year, if you did but have a different group of students this year, or even if you did it last year and want to do it again, here is the Get Ready for Disaster Activity from last year.

#### **Supplies:**

- Printed Signs: Prayer and Bible Distribution, Home Building, Tornado Clean Up
- Painter's tape
- Paper and pens
- A large cleaning bucket or mop pail (dry).
- Small sheets or strips of paper for each child to have one. Write one word on each strip of paper ("Prayer," "Building," "Clean-up"). After you write a word on each piece of paper, crumple up the paper and drop it in the pail or bucket.

Tell students that the men and women who work for the disaster relief team need our help. They need us to pray for them. They need us to pray that they will have enough money to do the work they need to do, and they need lots more volunteers (must be at least 18 years old to volunteer). Let's pray for them now!

#### **Ready for a Disaster**

Place the three disaster posters in three different parts of the room. Explain the disaster readiness game to the children. Tell them that in a minute they will receive their relief assignment, prayer and Bible distribution, home building or general tornado clean up. When they get with their team you will give them three minutes to think of as many things as possible that they will need to pack in a big truck to take to their disaster area. Tell them to plan for enough supplies for 500 people.

Make sure an adult can supervise each group and help with writing the list for the younger children or help with ideas. Explain that you are going to toss the paper balls that are in the bucket out into the group. Each child will pick up a piece of paper and open it to see what his/her disaster relief assignment is. If a child has "Bible" then he will move to the poster with the scene of door-to-door praying and Bible distribution on it and meet the rest of his group and likewise for the home building and clean up group. If the room is very small or if the group is fairly boisterous then you can distribute the paper balls to the group in a less "disastrous" manner. Do whatever works best for your group of children.

Make sure the children have something to use to write their list on. On your mark, get set, Disaster! Give them three minutes to think of as many things as possible then call the groups back together to share their lists.

After they share their lists let them discover what items were in common between the lists. Or if time does not allow for sharing then collect their lists and let them know what things were in common their lists and maybe note the strangest item, etc.

Collect their lists and let the students throw their strips of paper back into the pail or bucket. Lead the children in reviewing today's verse and highlight that our love for and obedience to Jesus is

why we help others in their times of need. Thank them for their good work and ask them if they might try to say a prayer for our disaster relief team every time they hear about a disaster or when they hear an ambulance or fire truck go by or if they hear about something on the news, etc.

**Here is a list of some basic supplies from the SBTC disaster relief website to help you out:**

- Water
- Food (What kind? How much? Don't forget about babies and pets.)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash
- Emergency reference material - first-aid book or resources [sbtexas.com/personal-evangelism](http://sbtexas.com/personal-evangelism)
- Sleeping bag or blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold climate.
- Clothes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- What else can you think of?

**Regroup and Review** (5-10 minutes)

Call all students back together for a brief time of sharing what they worked on. Let interested students demonstrate how to use their tract or act out the modern-day version of today's Bible passage. Challenge students to say today's Bible verse together. Encourage students who participated in application activity A to take their bookmarks or craft sticks home and put it in a prominent place. Ask them to share with their family who their "one" is and ask them to join in prayer for opportunities for that student to share Jesus. (Provide extra craft sticks or bookmarks for interested students who did not get to make one earlier.)

Conclude by reviewing some of the high and low guesses about the number of items you displayed in a container when students arrive then announce the winner. Close in prayer thanking God for the opportunities the boys and girls will have in the days ahead to pray for and share Christ with each person's "one." Encourage the students to report back on their opportunities. Celebrate successes and encourage those who might be frustrated to continue praying.

