
Preschool 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.

Introductory/Arrival Activities (5 minutes)

Supplies Needed:

- Jumbo craft sticks
- Washable markers
- Yarn
- Children's scissors
- Masking tape or glue sticks
- Tissue paper and/or light weight fabric pieces

As children arrive, offer them a jumbo craft stick and markers. Remark that today we are going to talk about someone who needs to meet Jesus. Encourage them to think of someone they know with whom they can share Jesus. If they cannot think of anyone yet, ask them to go ahead and decorate a craft stick as a person and they can name that person later.

Decorate a jumbo craft stick with markers to represent someone to be named later. Use in large group activity.

Depending on your usual schedule, you can do group time before or after the application activities. During your application activities, be sure to mention the key verse for today, Mark 16:15 "Then he said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'" Depending on the age of your preschoolers, you could ask them to learn "Go into all the world and preach the gospel" or if they are very young you could ask them to say "Tell others about Jesus." Whatever schedule you use, but especially if you do the activities before group time, be sure to tell the story briefly and use the Bible during each activity.

Group Time (8-10 minutes)

Supplies: Before class, draw simple stick figures and/or smiley faces on sticky notes and "hide" them around your room. Try to make one or two per child (optional: poster board). Locate a teaching picture of a Bible times home with a flat roof from old curriculum or an internet search and print out or bring a copy to class.

Gather Together to Learn about Jesus: Ask boys and girls to join you in group time by looking around the room for sticky notes with people's faces on them. Encourage them to bring the face they find to your gathering spot and place the sticky note on the wall beside you or on a poster board. Congratulate the boys and girls for finding the sticky notes. If you have lots left over then you can repeat this activity at the conclusion of your group time. Ask boys and girls to tell you the biggest number they can think of. Mention that there are 19 Million people in Texas who do not know about Jesus. That's a lot of people!!

Hear a Bible Story: Open your Bible to Mark 2. Tell the boys and girls that you are going to read and tell them a story from the Bible about a time some friends took someone who needed help to meet Jesus. Ask them to listen for how the man's friends took him to meet Jesus.

Read from your Bible verses 1-5 and indicate that "paralytic" meant that the man was not able to walk so that is why his friends were carrying him. If you have a picture of a Bible times house to show to the children, show it now and remark that the roofs were usually flat and probably had stairs outside that went up to the roof.

Continue with the story and say, "Jesus knew that some of the men did not believe that he was able to forgive the man's sins, so he showed him that he was really God's son by telling the man, (verse 11) "I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home." Now go back to reading directly from the Bible, verse 12. Animate your voice when you say, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Ask the boys and girls how the man's friends took him to meet Jesus (carried him on his mat, carried him up some stairs and dug through the roof so they could lower him down to see Jesus). Ask the boys and girls if they think the man's friends loved him and wanted him to get to see Jesus (Yes! They worked very hard to make sure the man got to meet Jesus).

Remark that today we cannot meet Jesus face to face like when he was on earth, but that He still wants us to share his love for others with people who don't know him.

Learn a Bible Verse Ask for a volunteer to help you find the verse for today's lesson (place a marker in Mark 16). When the child selects the marker, read verse 15 and ask the children to help you say the verse. Assign half of the group the word "preach" and the other half "creation." Say the verse and point to each group when it is time to say their word in the verse. Switch groups and repeat the verse activity.

Mark 16:15 "Then he said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'" Depending on the age of your preschoolers, you could ask them to learn "Go into all the world and preach the gospel" or if they are very young you could ask them to say, "Tell others about Jesus."

You can adjust the activity based on the verse or paraphrase you want to use for your group, but for any selection, be sure to read the full verse through once from your Bible.

Sing Together Lead the children in singing the song, "My Best Friend is Jesus." Use the choruses of "love him, serve Him, thank him." On the last verse sing:

My best friend is Jesus, share him, share him.

My best friend is Jesus, tell a friend!

Encourage the boys and girls to think about who their friends are. Give each child a chance to name one or two friends. Mention that Jesus wants us to tell others about him. Help categorize where the children have friends: at preschool, at church, in their neighborhood, at dance class, at soccer, etc. Direct the children to go and get their craft stick person and bring it to the group. Mention that this month we are all trying to think of at least one person that we can pray for every day and who we can share Jesus with.

Pray Together Guide a time of prayer for each person's "one" and allow interested preschoolers to pray out loud. Close the prayer by thanking God for friends and asking him to help us be like the friends in the story who love their friend so much that they did whatever was necessary to take him to Jesus. Ask God to give us chances to tell our "one" about Jesus. If the children are younger you might want to say "one special friend" instead of "one" just to be clear.

Before dismissing to the different activities, show the picture of the different Southern Baptists of Texas logos and mention what the SBTC does. Encourage boys and girls to think about ways that we can help other Texans learn about Jesus as they participate in the different activities.

Learning and Application Activities (30 minutes)

As you guide the preschoolers in the following activities, you can make the connection directly to today's Bible story AND make a connection to how our State Missions Offerings are used to tell people about Jesus in Texas. Select as many of the following activities as time allows. You can have different adults lead the different activities concurrently and let the children rotate from group to group.

Make a Card for Someone

Supplies:

- Jesus stickers
- Washable markers
- Construction paper or cardstock

Guide boys and girls to decorate a card they could give to someone to tell them that Jesus loves them. Help fold the paper as needed and offer to print any words they want to use on the card. You may want to print today's verse and reference across the bottom of each card. Assist preschoolers in finding the verse in a Bible. Remark that the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention makes special trips to different parts of Texas to make sure to tell as many people as possible about Jesus. Say that sometimes they help start new churches. Encourage preschoolers to draw things on their card that show what they like about church.

Build and/or Decorate a Bible Times House

Supplies: Pieces of cardboard such as shoe box lids or similar sizes, if you have a picture of a Bible times house, tape it to the wall near your block or activity area. Optional: provide smaller cardboard and fabric pieces to use for decorating. You could also provide crayons to use for drawing on the cardboard.

Ask preschoolers what they remember about the house from today's Bible story. Encourage them to build a house with a roof using blocks and cardboard. They can use other materials you provide. Guide the preschoolers to act out the story. Mention that our Reach Texas Offering helps us tell our friends in Texas about Jesus and also helps us repair houses after floods and bad storms.

Dress a Person to Tell About Jesus

Supplies:

- Markers
- Yarn
- Children's scissors
- Lightweight fabric pieces
- Tissue paper
- Pieces of ribbon

Draw or print out from the internet a simple outline of a child shape. Something like a simple gingerbread man or woman shape will work well. Optional: construction paper

Guide boys and girls to think of someone they can tell about Jesus. Direct preschoolers to add clothes and hair to a cut-out representation of someone to tell about Jesus. Print each child's name on the back of his "person," and ask if you can add the name of their person to their design. If time allows, print today's verse on a piece of construction paper and guide preschoolers to glue their person to the page. (You will need to add the preschooler's name to the back of the page if you add this step.)

Work Puzzles of Bible Times Houses and Jesus

Supplies: Puzzles of Jesus and Bible times scenes

As preschoolers work the different puzzles, encourage them to recount today's Bible story. Ask them about their friends and ask them to think of someone they can tell about Jesus.

Add to a Map of Texas

Supplies:

- Map of Texas
- Dot daubers
- Washable markers
- Colored stickers such as office supply dots or squares painter's tape
- Optional: bean bag or small plush animal

Tape a map of Texas to a wall at children's height. Ask boys and girls to name places they can think of they have visited or have friends or family in Texas. Let the children use the dot daubers or stickers to mark the different places. Guide them to put the stickers on different cities. Then let children pick somewhere on the map to mark and read to them the name of the city and mention something you know about that area. You may pass a bean bag or plush animal back and forth saying today's memory verse and when it stops it will be that person's turn to add a mark to the map.

Carry a Friend to Jesus

Supplies: Doll figures or plastic people figures, towels or baby blankets.

Explain that the friends from the Bible story today carried their friend to see Jesus. Ask children to take turns working together to carry a baby doll or people figure on a towel or blanket from one side of the room to the other. Designate exactly where they should carry their pretend friend. Do not allow boys and girls or other volunteers to attempt to carry any of the boys and girls in this manner. Invite preschoolers to exclaim "We never saw anything like this!" Remind boys and girls that like the friends took their friend to meet Jesus, we can share Jesus with someone we know today. Ask boys and girls to share their ideas about who they can tell about Jesus.

Match Emergency Supplies

Supplies:

- Marker for teacher use
- Large piece of construction paper or poster board
- Paper scraps
- Various emergency supplies such as flashlight
- Blanket
- Bucket
- Bandages (or first aid kit)
- Bottle of water
- Whatever else you can think of

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
- 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?

Use a marker to trace around five different items that fit on the poster board from the medical kit plus the bottle of water and flashlight.

Arrange a preschool medical kit near the page or board with the outlines of the different kit items then challenge preschoolers to match the kit items with the corresponding shape. As each item is placed in its matching spot, say the name of the tool and how it is used to help people. Mention that the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention works to help people in Texas after bad storms or scary situations. Say, "We can work together to match up all the medical tools." Remark that the man in our story today had special friends. They helped him see Jesus. Remind preschoolers that Jesus made the man well and that the people said "We never saw anything like this!" Urge preschoolers to tell you who they can tell about Jesus. Pray asking God to give everyone the opportunity to share Jesus with their friends and family.

Discuss other supplies the boys and girls help name that might be used in emergency situations. As boys and girls name items, print what they mention on a scrap of paper and add it to the bucket. See how many things the group can name. If you have time, let preschoolers take turns drawing one of the paper scraps from the bucket to act out how to use something for the other students to guess.

As boys and girls leave your class, encourage them to pray each day for their one special friend they are going to tell about Jesus.