

PRESCHOOL LESSON

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LEADER BIBLE STUDY

As you prepare to teach, read through the entire chapter of Luke 5. Even though our story this week focuses on Jesus healing the paralytic, it is important to know what comes directly before and after this story.

Think about some of your best friends. Some of these friendships may have ended in some not-so-great ways, but we all need friends in this life. The friends in the story sacrificed time, effort, possible embarrassment, and a ton of energy to make sure their friend got to meet Jesus. These friends fit right into the Reach Texas Missions theme this year, "All things . . . All people . . . Reach Texas." They truly became everything to their friend to help him reach Jesus.

As you lead the lesson and activities, help the students think of ways they can help tell others about Jesus. It won't be carrying a paralyzed friend on a mat to the feet of Jesus but help them think of easy and practical ways they can lead others to Jesus this week. Make sure to mention the Reach Texas State Offering and encourage them to participate. This missions offering helps become all things to all people so that they may know Jesus.

If your students did not bring money to give financially today, help them make a plan to do so later on. Help them come up with ideas on how to raise some money to be able to give. Maybe they can do extra chores around the house, donate some of their allowance, have a lemonade stand, etc.

Finally, make sure every student walks away from your lesson with the knowledge that Jesus is commanding them to bring their friends to him. This won't look exactly like the story, but help students think of practical ways that they can accomplish this throughout the week. Maybe they need to tell a friend at preschool about Jesus, invite them to church, be kind to someone who is sitting by themselves, etc. Help them understand that when we display the fruit of the Spirit, we are showing Christ's love.

Make sure to look through this entire guide and pick a few of the application activities to complete in your class. You can edit the order and flow of the lesson to fit what your classroom is normally used to. We can't wait to hear all about how your children are reaching their friends and neighbors for Jesus.

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY BUILDING A TOWER

Supplies Needed

- Building supplies (Legos, blocks, etc.)

As children arrive, have them work together to build a single tall tower. It is important that they all work together to build one tall tower. If it falls over, they can start over and build a new tower. Keep playing until you are ready to start your lesson.

Say: “Today our story is about a group of friends working together to help their friend meet Jesus.”

BIBLE LESSON

Supplies Needed

- Bible
- Picture of a house from Bible times with a ladder to the roof

Explain to the preschoolers that you are going to tell them a story about something that is impossible. Have them come up with a couple ideas of things that are impossible. If they are struggling to think of any, have them think of some superhero movies or books they have read (i.e., flying, being invisible, transforming, having super strength, reading minds, etc.).

Open your Bible to Luke 5:19-26 and tell the story aloud. Feel free to paraphrase the story as needed for timing and attention constraints. After you tell the story, show the picture of the house to the children. Explain that it was hard work to carry their friend to the house, lifting him up to the roof and lowering him down.

Say: “Those friends really loved their friend to go to all of that work to help him meet Jesus and find healing. What are some ways we can help our friends meet Jesus? (Allow a few children to answer.) This week we are all going to tell our friends how much Jesus loves them.”

“Let’s read our key passage together.”

Encourage any child who brought their Bible to open it to the key passage.

1 Corinthians 9:22b (CSB): “I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some.”

“This verse reminds us that Paul became all things to all people to reach them with the love of Jesus. We can also work hard to meet the needs of those around us to help them hear about the love of Jesus. Sometimes we need to show someone love, kindness or goodness before they will listen to us tell them about Jesus.

Say: “Let’s play a game with our Bible verse for today.”

Divide the room into two halves and assign one half of the room to say the word “things.” The other half of the room will say “people.” Say 1 Corinthians 9:22b and point to the correct side of the room when it is their turn to say their word.

Repeat until it feels like the group has a good understanding of the Bible verse.

Finish out your lesson with a time of prayer. Allow any preschooler who is interested in praying aloud to do so. Encourage them to pray for the Reach Texas offering and that it would help tell people all over Texas about Jesus.

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES *Feel free to choose as many activities as time allows.

ACTIVITY 1 Paralyzed Pretender

Supplies Needed

- None

Have the children lie on their backs on the ground. Encourage them to pretend that they cannot move and must lay very, very still.

Encourage them to start slowly moving their toes, then their fingers, their legs, arms, whole body and then immediately to get up and praise Jesus. Play as many times as necessary, allowing the preschoolers to give the commands to wake them up.

Say: “This is just like the man in our story today. He was paralyzed until Jesus healed him and he was able to stand up, get his mat and walk. As soon as he was able to stand up, he began to praise Jesus and give him all the glory.”

ACTIVITY 2 Picture Drawing

Supplies Needed

- Paper
- Crayons or markers

Pass out a piece of paper and crayons or markers to every child. Encourage them to draw a picture of themselves telling a friend about Jesus. They could be on the playground, at school, in their backyard or anywhere.

If time allows, encourage them to share their stories aloud with their friends.

Say: “Just like in this picture, Jesus wants us to tell others about him. He wants us to be good friends just like the friends in the story. Those friends worked really hard to make sure their friend could hear about Jesus. Jesus wants us to do the same. What are some ways you can tell your friends about Jesus?”

ACTIVITY 3 Pretzel Eaters

Supplies Needed

- Pretzel or similar snacks for each child

Pass out a pretzel or a similar snack to each child. Have them each put their snack in their hand and stretch their arm out. Tell them to pretend their arms are now paralyzed and they cannot move them. Encourage them to try to eat their snack without moving their arm.

If they don't figure it out in a few minutes, remind them that they have friends to help them. They can either take the pretzels and feed them to their friends or just eat the other person's pretzel.

Once they have eaten their pretzel with their friends, you can feel free to give them some more pretzels as a snack and review the Bible story with them.

Say: “We learned today that you needed your friends to eat your snack. Just as in our story, the paralyzed man needed his friends to be healed. This week, we are going to work hard to show our friends the love of Jesus by showing them love and kindness.”

ACTIVITY 4 “Carry Your Friend”**Supplies Needed**

- A big blanket

Pick one person in your group to play the role of the paralyzed friend. They must lie on the ground on the blanket. Four of their friends from the classroom will each pick up a side of the blanket and try to carry him/her across the room. Make sure they don't carry their friend too far above the ground in case the child falls. You can help if they aren't strong enough to carry the child.

Give everyone in the room a chance to be the friend that gets carried. Remind them it takes all four of the friends to work equally hard or else the friend falls off the blanket.

Say: We all had to work together to carry our friend across the room. It wasn't easy, and we were just walking straight across the room. Imagine trying to climb a ladder, dig a hole, and lower your friend through the hole. It would be so much harder. These friends knew the importance of getting their friend to Jesus. Although we may not need to carry one of our friends on the mat to Jesus, we can work hard this week to show the love of Jesus to those around us.

ACTIVITY 5 Worship**Supplies Needed**

- Streaming service or DVD copy of Yancy's Little Praise Party (can be found on almost any streaming service, iTunes or at yancyministries.com)
- CD Player, DVD Player or speaker to play the music

Play “Taste and See” from Yancy's Little Praise Party Album. Get preschoolers to stand up and move and get some of their wiggles out. A fun way to add simple motions is to pretend to be eating when it says “taste” and then looking around the room when it says “see.”

Say: “Just like song says, God wants us to taste and see that God is good. He is so good to us. Because of his goodness, we should want to tell others about him. Let's remember to tell our friends around us of the goodness of God and how much he loves us.”