

Jesus Blesses the Children

Based on Mark 10: 13-16



Hey kids! Have I got a story to tell! It happened the day my family and I went to see Jesus. I wrote it down to share with you. Here it is!

PREVIEW

It started as a regular day. We got up, dressed, and had breakfast. But something was different. Dad didn't go to his shop. Mom didn't start baking. And she didn't give me any jobs to do. Something was up.

Mom told me and my brother to get our sandals on and comb our hair. When my brother complained, she said, "Hurry! We don't want to miss him."

"Miss who?" I asked.

"We're going to see Jesus!" mom called back.

Jesus! I'd heard different things about him. One woman said he helps and heals people. Some people say he's a troublemaker. One guy said he's a great teacher. Today I am going to find out for myself.



On the Way Home

Are you ready to gabber-jabber? Because it's time for gabbing and lots of jabber! Talk with the people you're riding with. Give your best answers for these Two Terribly Tough questions:

1. Why do you think the disciples didn't want the children to come to Jesus?
2. Think about belonging to God's kingdom. What ideas come to your mind about being a member of God's kingdom?

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PREVIEW

Let the Children Come to Me

Create a poster to hang in your room. Color Jesus and the kids. As you do, pick out one to be you. Write your name in the box under that person. Give the other kids names—maybe the names of kids you know—and write their names in the boxes too.

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When we started out there was a huge crowd with kids of all ages. Moms and dads. Grandpas and grandmas. My dad put my little brother on his shoulder because he got tired.

Finally we arrived. I wriggled my way to the front for a better look. But some men stopped me. I learned later that they were Jesus' disciples. There was no way I was going to get past them. I heard a lady say, "We want our children to see Jesus."

"Sorry," they said. "The master is busy. He has no time for kids."

Then I heard Jesus' voice. "Who doesn't have time for kids? I do. Let the children come to me! They belong to my kingdom." He reached out and took the lady's baby into his arms.

I pushed my way through the crowd to get my little brother. Kids of all ages ran to Jesus. He took some in his arms. He put his hands on others. And he blessed every single one of us! What a wonderful day!

PREVIEW

Dear Family:

Today's session was about Jesus blessing the children and making it clear that kids are part of God's kingdom. This week take the opportunity to reinforce this truth by making your child feel included.

Consider asking your child to take the lead in praying. Invite him or her to find the story symbol in your God's Big Story cards and read the story to the family. Ask for your child's help in composing the weekly prayer list. These practices will pay rich dividends in the spiritual life of your child.

Memory

Challenge:

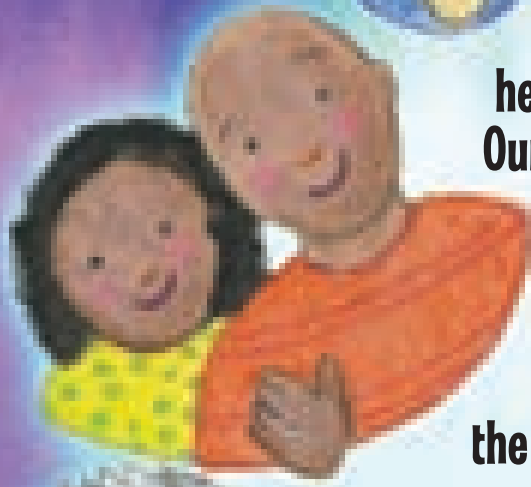
Psalm 23:4-6





**Jesus has compassion;
he knows us through and through.
Our needs and hurts are real to him;
he cares for me—and you!**

**Jesus has compassion.
He teaches us to see
the needs of neighbors everywhere—
and neighbors we will be!**



PREVIEW

I Choose...

Ideas for Being a Good Neighbor ...

I Choose...

Ideas for Being a Good Neighbor ...



On the Way Home

Think about the people you know—people other than family: kids at school, neighbors, friends. Choose two people for whom you can do something special to be a good neighbor. Write their names on the lines, and then write down ideas for what you could do for each one to make his or her day special. Circle the idea you think is best.

Then do it!



Whoops!

These pictures are out of order.
Put a number in each purple
circle to show which verse goes
with which picture.

The Good Samaritan

Based on Luke 10:30-35

1
A man went from Jerusalem
to Jericho.
Some thieves came along,
as he journeyed,
They took from him his
and they struck him
then they turned and
and left him there.

2
By chance there came
who saw him
he crossed the street
as if he did not
Then came a Levite
and when he reached
he hurried on
and very soon.

3
At last came
who looked upon
his heart was sad
"I'll help him."
He fixed his wounds
and poured in
and then he took
and cared for him.

4
The next day, then
and said, "I
Please do your best
and gentle kindness.
Whatever more you
be it three pieces of
I surely will repay
when I come.

Lucille Golphenee, Celebrate Jesus, p. 67; Shining Star
(This was also used in Life, Winter, Year 1, grade 1)



Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

1
from Jerusalem
to one day
he and attacked him,
and on his way.
He took his clothing,
and left him 'til he bled,
and went the other way
there for dead.

2
At some a certain priest
was lying there;
he saw it and passed him up
and didn't care.
A Levite, walking by,
reached the spot,
and on his busy way,
soon forgot.

3
But a Samaritan
came upon the man;
he hated as he said,
but he helped him if I can."
He bound them up,
and poured oil and wine;
he took him to an inn
and said, "I'll take care of
him just fine.

4
The Samaritan, he paid the host,
and he has to go.
The Samaritan's best to care for him
and his kindness show.
You have to spend,
a penny or ten,
to repay you all
back again."

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Ages 18 & 2, children's resource for Session 8.)



PREVIEW



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Hey kids!

Look carefully at the picture. Do you see kids being good Samaritans? When you find them, draw a heart shape around them. What do you think Jesus is thinking as he sees their kindness?

PREVIEW

Memory



Challenge:

Psalm 23:4-6

Dear Family:

For several weeks we've been learning about Jesus' compassion for people. Today our story brought us one step further. Since Jesus cares for us, he wants us to care for others in a loving way. After reading the story together, talk about ways your family can be good neighbors to people who need help. Then choose one idea and make a plan to put your idea into action. For more fun activities around this story, find the story symbol in your God's Big Story cards.

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3. I am the part of your body that *thinks* about Jesus' words. **Who am I?**

2. I am the part of your body that *sees* the words when you read the Bible. **Who am I?**

Listen, My Child ...

1. I am the part of your body that *first hears* Jesus' words when someone tells you a Bible story or reads the Bible to you. **Who am I?**

4. I am the part of your body that *loves* Jesus and *loves* to hear Jesus' words and obey them. **Who am I?**

5. I am the parts of your body that *do* something because you want to obey Jesus' words. **Who am I?**

- You use me to walk over to visit a friend.
- You use me to make a gift for someone who is sad.
- You use me to sing praises and tell about Jesus.

On the Way Home

Have you ever thought of listening with your whole body? That's what Jesus wants us to do. Read the instructions and then draw a picture of the part of your body that you might use for listening.

PREVIEW

Martha's Story

Hello! My name is Martha. I hope you'll excuse me if I seem a bit hurried. The truth is I feel a little crabby. You see, I got up early this morning. I had to go to the market. Then I had to draw water from the well. Sweep the floors. Bake bread. Clean the fish and vegetables. Tidy up the house. We've got company!

Yes! It's my friend Jesus. I asked him to stay since he's in town. He needs a hot meal and a comfortable place to sleep.

The reason I'm feeling crabby is my sister, Mary. You'd think that she would help with all this work. But where is she? There she sits listening to Jesus. I'd like to listen too. But who would get supper? She could at least set the table. But no. There she sits, listening to every word Jesus says.

I asked Jesus to tell Mary to help me. I was sure he would. But he didn't. In fact, he didn't seem upset with Mary at all. What he said surprised me: "Martha, Martha! You're upset about many things. But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken from her."

Two Sisters

Luke 10:38-42



PREVIEW

Mary's Story

I'm Mary, the younger sister. I guess you've already met Martha. She works hard when Jesus visits. But sometimes it makes her crabby.

When Jesus stays with us, I just want to sit and listen to him. I learn so much! Jesus is wonderful!

While Martha was busy in the kitchen, I was listening to Jesus, as usual. Then Martha came into the room, looking very upset. I knew she wanted me to help. But why didn't she ask me? Instead she asked Jesus to tell me to help her.

I was ready to get up and do that. But Jesus spoke first. He smiled at Martha. I could tell how much he cares about her too. But what he said surprised me: "Martha, Martha! You're upset about many things. But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken from her."

Do you know what Jesus meant? Excuse me while I let you think about it. It's getting late. The Master is going to bed. And I think Martha and I have some dishes to wash!

The Puzzler

Hey kids! Grab a pencil and circle all these words that show how we can serve Jesus. Put a double circle around the word **listen**. That's a very important one!



1. LISTEN
2. SING
3. SHARE
4. PRAY
5. CARE
6. OBEY
7. LOVE
8. HELP
9. WORSHIP



Memory



Challenge:

Psalm 23:4-6

Dear Family:

Today we learned how important it is to listen to Jesus—not only with our ears, but also with our heads and hearts. To reinforce this truth with your child, read the story together on pages 2 and 3. Then look over page 1 together. As you help your child solve the puzzle, talk about the many ways we can

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Saturday Tax

If you charged your dad or mom 25 cents for every helpful job you did yesterday, how much Saturday tax would they owe you? _____

Wheelchair Tax

Zacchaeus said that he would pay people four times as much as he stole from them. If he overcharged a man \$10 for using his wheelchair on the road, how much will he give back to the man? _____

Tax Facts

School Tax

If you had to pay your teacher \$1 for every day you were in school last week, how much would you owe?

Meal Tax

If your parent charged 10 cents for every lunch you ate last week, how much meal tax would you owe?

Toy Tax

If Zacchaeus charged kids 10 cents for every toy they carried with them on the road, how much would he charge the little boy who is carrying a teddy bear, ball, bat, slingshot, and kite?

Pay Back

Zacchaeus told Jesus that he would give half of his money to the poor. If Zacchaeus had \$10,000, how much will he give to the poor? _____



On the Way Home

Take out a pencil.
Help Max get the Tax Facts!

There's something else on Max's mind besides Tax Facts.

He's been thinking about how he may have cheated someone. He's thinking about some of the ways kids cheat others. What ideas do you have? How could kids make things right?

Zacchaeus

What You Need

- 2 players
- 2 different coins
- Question Cards: (place in order beginning with #1)

How to Play

- Each player takes a coin.
- The shortest player goes first.
- Take a card from the pile. Read it out loud and answer it. Then put it on the bottom of the pile.
- If the answer is right, move the number of spaces on the card.
- If the answer is not right, stay where you are until your next turn.
- Obey the instructions on special circles.
- The first player to reach Zacchaeus's house wins.

Start

PREVIEW

Pay Road Tax!
Lose 1 turn.

Place cards here

Crowd is forming.

Hurry ahead 2



Jesus is stopping.
Stay where you are.

Jesus is talking to Zacchaeus.
Go ahead 1 extra space.

PREVIEW

Whoops!
Need to climb a tree.
Lose 1 turn.

Jesus is going to visit Zacchaeus.
Go ahead 2 extra spaces.

Pay crowd tax.
Lose 1 turn.

Finish

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Based on Luke 19:1-10



Zacchaeus



People



Narrator



Jesus

What's happening? Where is everyone going?

Jesus is coming! We're going to see him.

Hey! Wait for me! I want to see Jesus too.

Oh, go back to work. Why would Jesus want to see you?

But Zacchaeus didn't give up. He ran ahead and climbed a tree.

Here comes Jesus! Oh, no! He's stopping right here—under me!

Zacchaeus! Come down! Let's go to your house!

Really! You want to come to my house?

What? Jesus wants to go to Zacchaeus' house? But he's a cheater!

Jesus went to Zacchaeus's house. And something wonderful happened.

I want to live for you, Jesus. I'll give money to the poor. I'll pay back four times what I stole from people. I want to live for you!

Zacchaeus, I came to save you and all people like you! Welcome!

PREVIEW

Memory



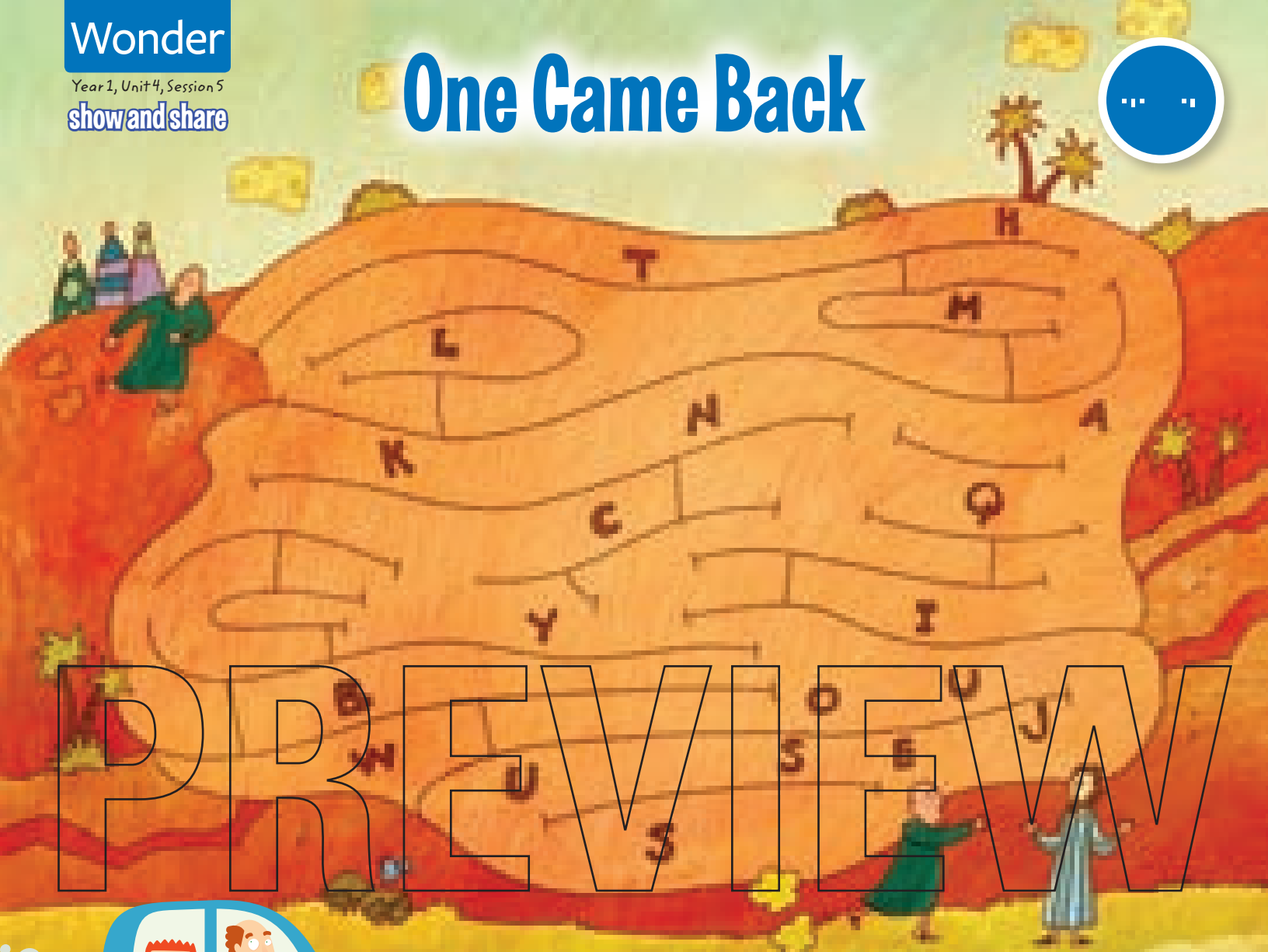
Challenge:

Psalm 23:4-6

Dear Family:

Today your child heard the much-loved story of Zacchaeus. You might want to read it from the Bible and then have the family act it out using the skit on this page. You can also use this reading when you find today's symbol in your God's Big Story cards. Don't forget to play the game in the center pages: it's a great way to talk about the meaning of the story together.

One Came Back



PREVIEW





On the Way Home

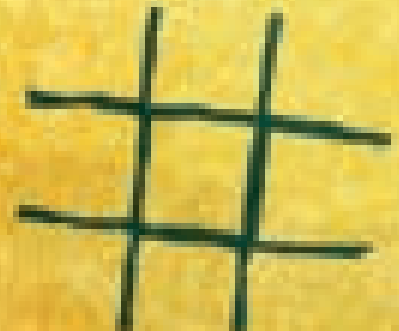
It's up to you to help the man find his way back to Jesus. If you write down each letter on his path in the blanks below, you'll also find out what he said to Jesus.

“ _____

_____”

Hey kids! Here's a game to play with your family this week. Make a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on a piece of paper. Instead of marking an X or an O in the squares, one player will mark a  as a hug and the other will mark a . Before taking a turn, the player must name something he or she is thankful for using these categories:

- 1st turn:** something outdoors
- 2nd turn:** a neighbor
- 3rd turn:** an older person
- 4th turn:** a child
- 5th turn:** a toy or thing
- 6th turn (if needed):** a place



Jesus and a Thankful Man

Based on Luke 17:11-19

PREVIEW

There were ten men who had leprosy. They lived outside the city. They were not allowed to live around others for fear that leprosy would spread.



The men wasted no time. They took off running to find the priest. They knew that if the priest would find them healed they could go back home. What a day that would be!

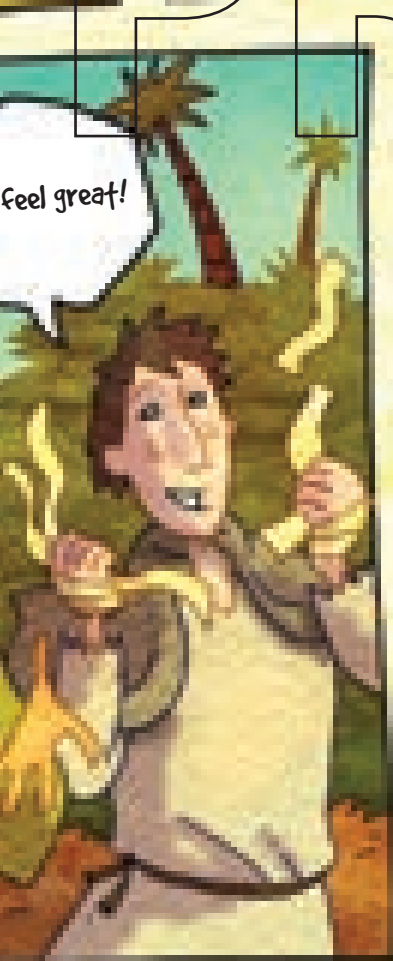


I think my sores are gone!

Mine too! I'm clean.

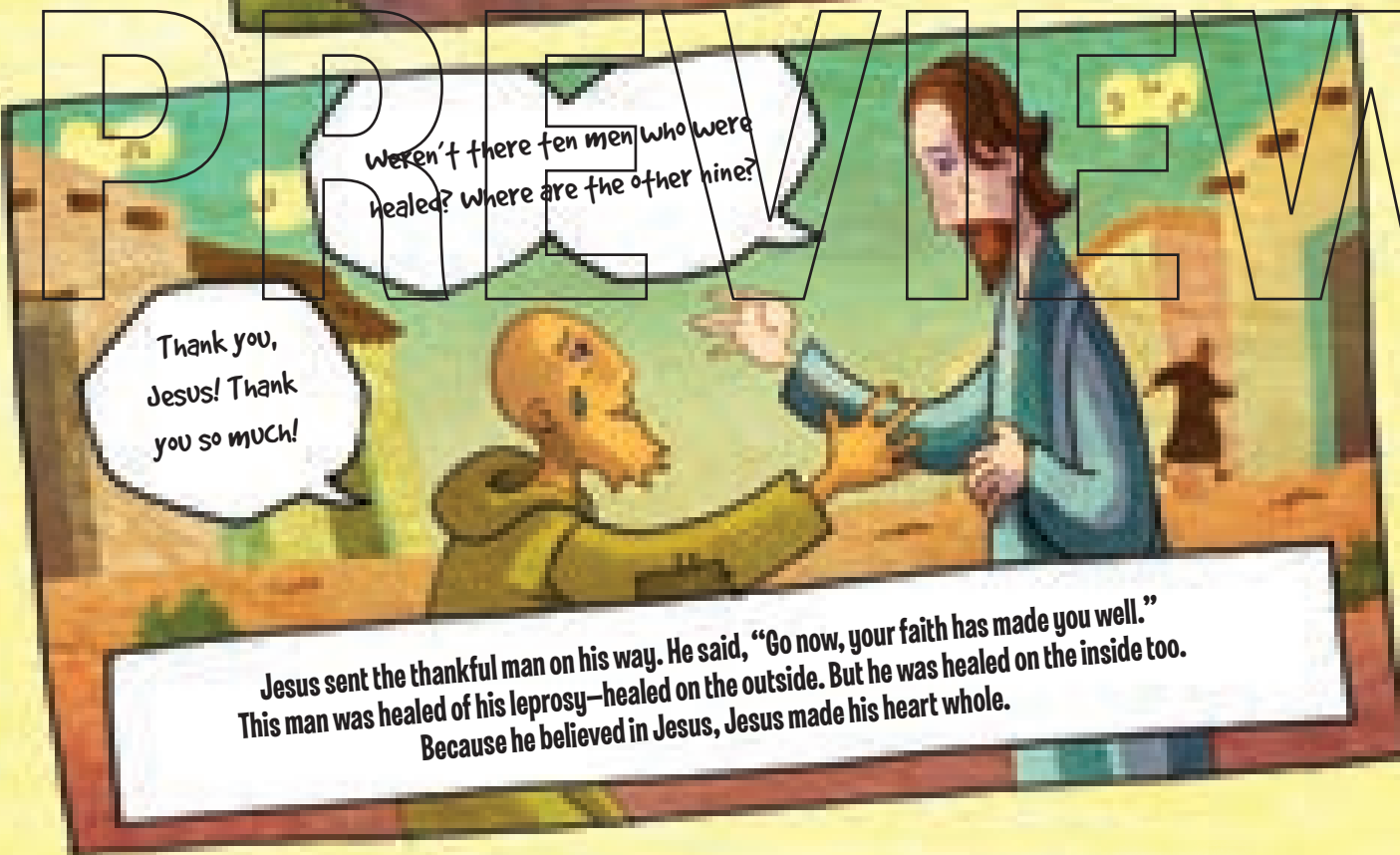
Maybe we are healed!







PREVIEW



Jesus sent the thankful man on his way. He said, "Go now, your faith has made you well." This man was healed of his leprosy—healed on the outside. But he was healed on the inside too. Because he believed in Jesus, Jesus made his heart whole.

Memory



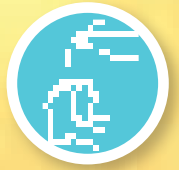
Challenge:

Psalm 23:4-6

Dear Family:

Spend time together this week enjoying the story of the thankful man and let it set the tone for a week of thankful praise! Spend a few moments sharing the names of people, experiences, and things for which you are grateful or roll the die and do one of the other activities suggested on the back of the God's Big Story card for this story.

My Shepherd Is Jesus!



He makes me lie down in **1**.

He leads me beside **2**.

Your **3** and **4** comfort me.

You prepare a **5** before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my **6** with oil.

My **7** overflows.

I will dwell in the **8** forever

1

4

PREVIEW my whole life! EW **5**

2

3

6

7

8



On the Way Home

By now you know Psalm 23 so well that this should be a breeze. In each box, draw a picture of the missing word or words.

Jesus and a Thankful Woman

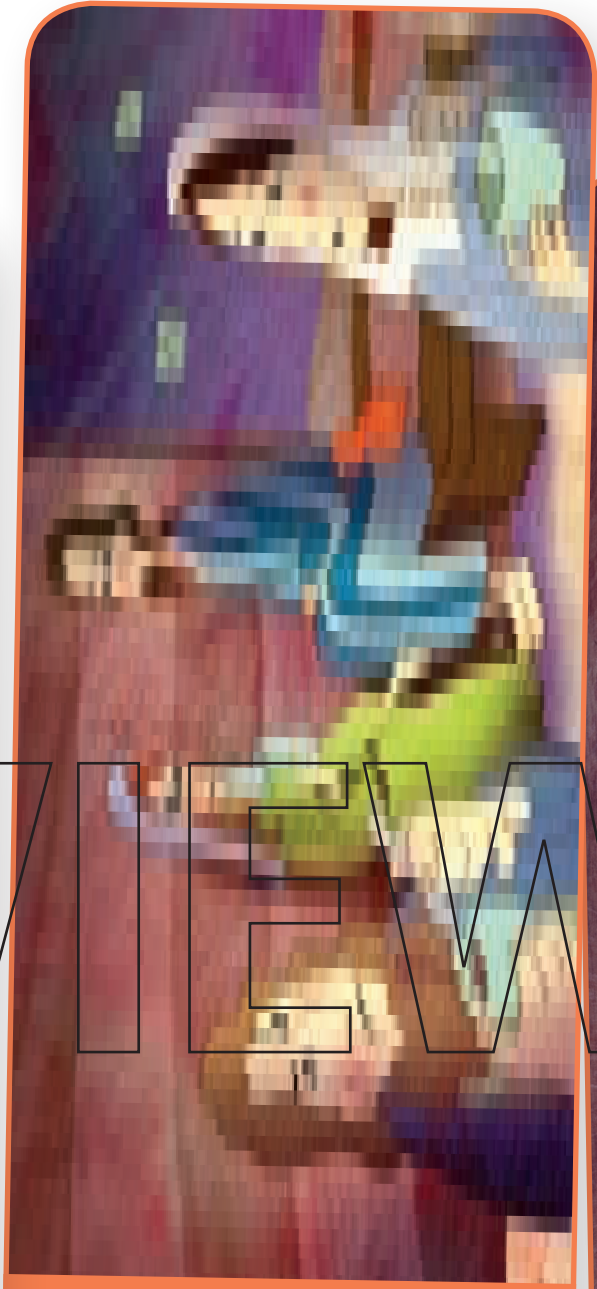
Based on Luke 7: 36-50

One day Simon invited Jesus to dinner. When Jesus arrived, he waited for Simon to greet him with a warm smile and a kiss—but Simon didn't. Jesus waited for Simon's servants to wash his hot and dusty feet—but no one came. Jesus waited for Simon to rub oil on Jesus' head—but there was none. Those were the things people did for their guests when Jesus lived on earth, so Jesus knew he wasn't really welcome at Simon's house.

As Simon and his guests were eating, a woman entered the room and went to the place where Jesus lay. She began to cry. Her tears fell onto Jesus' dusty feet. She wiped them with her long hair. Then she took out a beautiful bottle filled with expensive perfume. Lovingly she poured all of it over Jesus' feet. Everyone was quiet. Everyone watched.

Simon was especially curious. He was angry too. Simon knew that this was a very sinful woman, someone he would never speak

REVIEW



to. Perhaps Jesus didn't know how sinful she was. Surely Jesus wouldn't want her to touch him if he knew.

But Jesus did know! Jesus knew that the woman was thanking him for forgiving her sins.

Jesus wanted to teach Simon about forgiveness. So Jesus told Simon about two men who owed money to a rich man. One of them owed a lot of money. The other one owed just a little. The rich man told them both to forget about the money. Then Jesus asked Simon to tell him which man felt the most thankful. Of course Simon knew. The man who had owed more money felt more thankful!

Jesus looked Simon straight in the eyes. "This woman is like that man. She has been very sinful, but I've forgiven her. This is her way of saying thank you. You know, Simon, you didn't welcome me or wash my feet or put oil on my head when I came to your house. But this woman has kissed me and poured perfume on me tonight."

Then Jesus spoke to the woman. "Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace, my friend."

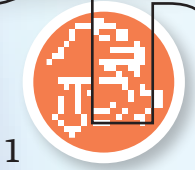
Toss and Tell

Hey kids! Here's a fun game to play with your family. You will need two coins. Heads = 1 point each; tails = 2 points each. Each player also needs a small button for a marker. Toss the coins and figure out how many spaces you will move. On the number grid, count that number of spaces and place your marker there. If you land on a 4, you will tell one thing about story 4. If you land on a 2, you will tell one thing about story 2. When a player lands on a story that someone else has landed on, each player must tell something that hasn't already been mentioned.

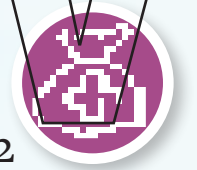
Number Grid

1	4	2	6	5	3	4	1	6
3	2	5	2	1	6	3	4	5
6	3	1	5	2	4	3	1	4

R R E V I E W



1 Mark 10:13-16



2 Luke 10:25-37



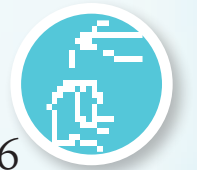
3 Luke 10:38-42



4 Luke 19: 1-10



5 Luke 17:11-19



6 Luke 7: 36-50

Memory



Challenge:

Psalm 23:4-6

Dear Family:

Today we added to our list of things to give thanks for—forgiveness in Jesus. You'll want to read the story of the thankful woman who gave a special gift to Jesus to thank him for forgiving her. We also finished a group of stories about Jesus' loving care. Review the stories together by playing Toss and Tell. You'll enjoy the stories again as well as your time together!