

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



OCTOBER 18, 2026

JESUS HEALED A CHILD AND A MAN

MATTHEW 15; MARK 7

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus has power over sickness and healed many people to show He is God's Son. Jesus came to give us new life.

LEADER DEVO

Jesus often called His disciples to follow Him outside their comfort zones. In both Matthew 15 and Mark 7, Jesus intentionally stepped into Gentile regions, places considered far from the center of God's covenant people. Yet these "outside" spaces became the grounds where faith sprang up and healing flowed.

When Jesus healed the Canaanite woman's daughter, He was in the region of Tyre and Sidon—territory no faithful Jew would deliberately travel through. Jesus was purposely moving into spaces that were likely unfamiliar and uncomfortable for His disciples.

But then came an astonishing expression of faith—not from a disciple or a religious leader—but from a desperate Gentile woman. Her theology was simple but profound as she pleaded, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table" (Matthew 15:27). She understood something essential about Jesus: He is the Savior whose grace overflows into places everyone else has written off.

Mark's account of the deaf man who had difficulty speaking shows something similar. Jesus traveled through the Decapolis—another Gentile region—and again performed a healing. He pulled the man away from the crowd, put His fingers in the man's ears, touched his tongue, and said ephphatha—"Be opened." This healing was deeply personal as Jesus literally touched the areas that needed healing. Once again, Jesus was not ministering in spaces that were considered safe or familiar to Jews. Jesus was stepping across human boundaries to open what had long been closed.

Jesus is the Savior who moves toward people when they feel furthest from His presence. He is not threatened by people's confusion or weaknesses. And He is not hesitant to enter the messy or overlooked corners of one's life.

This week, help kids see that Jesus longs to meet them where they are and provide for their greatest need, the forgiveness of sin, to bring them into a right relationship with Him.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,'"

JOHN 11:25



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

OCT 25

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

When learning longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once! Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those memorized, add another five or so words, and so on.

LESSON

A woman from Canaan came to Jesus. She believed Jesus could help her daughter. Her daughter was very sick. The woman cried out to Jesus, "Please help my daughter!"

At first, Jesus was quiet. Then He said, "I was sent to help God's people."

The woman said, "Even dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

When Jesus heard the woman's response, He said, "You have great faith! Your daughter is healed."

And right then, her daughter was made well!

After that, Jesus went to a crowd by the Sea of Galilee. Many people brought their sick loved ones to Jesus. Some people couldn't hear or talk, and some couldn't walk. Jesus healed them all!

Jesus helped a man who could not hear or speak. Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue. Then Jesus said, "Be opened!" Suddenly, the man could hear and talk clearly!

The people who saw what Jesus did were amazed. They said, "Jesus does wonderful things! He even helps people who cannot hear or speak!"

Because of Jesus' miracles, the people praised God.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus has power over sickness and healed many people to show He is God's Son. Jesus came to give us new life.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

1) Will God always heal sick people? How can we wrestle with the tension that He doesn't always heal people?

Talk about how we can trust God always—even when we don't understand why He does or doesn't do something. Also remind them that while there is pain and death in this world, there will be none in Heaven (See Revelation 21:4).

2) What does the woman's persistence in crying out to Jesus teach us about prayer? (See Luke 18:1-8)

3) Jesus's actions brought people to praise God. How can we, through our actions and words, love others and show them God's goodness?

4) What can you do this week to encourage someone and remind them that we can trust God?

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!