



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

UNBELIEVABLE
THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

BIG IDEA

Jesus cares about us when we are sick.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Heals the Leper: Luke 5:12-15
(Luke 7:21; 1 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 3:20)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Unicorn Ring Toss
- **ACTIVITY** | Chocolate Unicorns
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Color Changing Water
- **BIG IDEA** | Jesus cares about us when we are sick.
- **STORY** | Share about a time when you were sick.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Luke 5:12-15
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Clean Hands
- **SCRIPTURE** | 1 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5
- **OBJECT LESSON** | The Unbelievable Paper Hole
- **ACTIVITY** | Touching Without Hands
- **ACTIVITY** | Helping Hands
- **ACTIVITY** | Prayer Hands
- **MEMORY VERSES** | John 14:6; Jeremiah 29:11

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - How do you think Jesus felt when the man stopped him and asked for healing?
 - What did Jesus do to heal the man?
 - How do you think the man felt after he had been healed?
 - How do you feel when you are sick and someone helps you?
 - Who do you know that you can show love to this week, and how can you help them?
 - What is a miracle?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Ephesians 3:20
 - What has God done in your life, and how have you seen His power?
 - How can you live differently knowing God is all powerful and He cares about you?
- **ACTIVITY** | Unicorn Horn Decorating
- **MEMORY VERSES** | John 14:6; Jeremiah 29:11



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

UNBELIEVABLE
THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

BIG IDEA

Jesus cares about us when we are sick.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Heals the Leper: Luke 5:12-15
(Luke 7:21; 1 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 3:20)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Unicorn Ring Toss

- Welcome to church! We're starting a new series today called Unbelievable, where we'll have fun thinking and talking about things that are pretty unbelievable.
- Like unicorns! Who loves unicorns? Let's play a unicorn game!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As the kids are coming in, assign some to be unicorns and have them wear the unicorn party hats. Give other kids the ring toss rings. They will stand 5-10 feet apart from each other and the kids with the rings will try to toss the rings onto the unicorn horns. You can make it harder by blindfolding either the thrower or the unicorn.*
- **Has anyone ever seen a unicorn in real life?** Not likely! We all love unicorns, even though we know they aren't real.
- In our new series, we're going to learn about some things Jesus did while He was here on earth – things that seem pretty unbelievable and impossible. We call these things miracles. Jesus did things that were supernatural, amazing and unbelievable but, unlike unicorns, the miracles of Jesus are things we really can believe in.

ACTIVITY | Chocolate Unicorn

- **Let's pretend for a second that unicorns are real. What part of a unicorn makes it magical?** Their horns, of course! We're going to play a game where we see who can build a unicorn horn using small chocolate cakes.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Call up two kids to play the game and give them each seven unwrapped chocolate ding dongs or mini chocolate cakes. Have them tilt their heads back. Give them 60 seconds and see who can stack seven cakes on their forehead. At the end of 60 seconds, the person with the tallest horn wins.
- Your unicorn horns are pretty incredible. Unicorns are amazing and beautiful, but (unfortunately) they're not real.
- When Jesus was here on earth, He did some pretty incredible miracles that some people found it hard to believe in — that is, until they saw His miracles with their own eyes. We're going to learn today about a time when Jesus miraculously healed someone who was sick.

OBJECT LESSON | Color Changing Water

- **Can anyone share something God has done that is unbelievable or amazing?** It could be a story from your life, something you've heard about, or a story from the Bible.
- When you hear today's story in a few minutes, you'll hear a story about how God changed someone's life in an instant. But before we get to the story, let's see a cool trick.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids come in, empty a packet of colored Kool-Aid in the bottom of the empty clear pitcher. Spread it thin on the bottom so the kids can't see it. Fill up another clear pitcher with water. As you teach, pour the water into the other pitcher (with the Kool-Aid on the bottom) and it will change colors as you pour it over the Kool-Aid.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Give each preteen a water bottle with crystallized sugar in the cap and tell them to hold it carefully. Ask if they think you can make the water change color without touching their bottles. Then tell them all to shake their bottles at once. The water will all magically change colors.
- This pitcher is filled with regular water; it represents our lives. We can live without God, but when He comes into our lives, He changes us. (Pour the water into the second pitcher).
- God can do some pretty unbelievable things — even things that don't seem possible, like miracles.
- **The word miracle means something only God can do.** The miracle we are going to learn about today is a miracle Jesus performed when He met someone who was sick and needed to be healed.

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus cares about us when we are sick.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **Jesus cares about us when we are sick.**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

STORY | Share about when you were sick.

- Now let me tell you about a time when I was sick.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Talk about someone who helped you when you were sick.*

BIBLE STORY | Luke 5:12-15

- In our Bible story today, we learned about someone who was sick with a disease called leprosy. Leprosy is a sickness that causes blisters and sores all over someone's skin. It is contagious, which means it can spread by touching people. People with leprosy were called lepers.
- Lepers were considered unclean and were treated as outcasts. They had to live together in the streets outside of town and couldn't talk to or see their family or friends, who were too afraid of getting sick to see them.
- **Jesus was different from everyone else. He didn't avoid people with leprosy. He went to them. He cared for them.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *During the Bible story, give your kids with special needs a doll and tell them to pretend the doll is sick and they can take care of it. You can give them a mini "First Aid Kit" with things like bandages or a toy stethoscope they can use to pretend to take care of the doll.*
- **A miracle is something only God can do.** There are 37 miracles of Jesus recorded in the Bible, and all of them were done to help others and show God's power. They were not just for fun or for show.
- Out of those 37 miracles, 25 of them were about Jesus healing people who were hurt or sick.
- We can read in the first four books of the New Testament, known as the Gospels, about what Jesus did during His ministry on earth. He spent a lot of His time helping and caring for people who were sick or needed help.
- When you are sick, or when you know someone who is sick, you can pray to God and ask Him for healing.
- Sometime God heals our bodies and sometimes He doesn't, but Jesus showed us that God always loves us and takes care of us when we're sick.
- **Have you ever known someone who was sick and was healed, either through doctors or medicine, or through a miracle?**

NOTE: *Keep in mind that some kids may have questions about why some people are healed and others are not. This is a deep subject, and if kids want to discuss it, you can remind them that not everyone in the Bible was healed (Paul talks about a 'thorn' in his flesh, which was a physical ailment that he had to live with), and that many times, people can grow closer to God in their suffering. Jesus identifies with all who suffer, because He himself suffered and endured pain. You can also remind kids that the ultimate healing is when people get to spend eternity in heaven with Jesus, with perfect bodies and no more pain.*

OBJECT LESSON | Clean Hands

- In the Bible story we just read, Jesus did an unbelievable miracle and healed a man with sores all over his body!
- People with leprosy were considered unclean and nobody wanted to touch them, but Jesus wasn't afraid to touch this sick man. He loved and cared for him instead.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pick one person to come up and get their hands really messy with sticky items and dirt. Let the other kids see their dirty, smelly, sticky hands, then pick another person to come up. Ask them to clean the other person's hands. Notice their reaction – they most likely won't want to get dirty or sticky. If they don't want to, invite someone else up to wash the hands of the person in the water bucket and use the paper towels to dry off.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Let all the preteens come up and get their hands dirty. Assign one messy ingredient to each preteen but tell them to close their eyes and let someone dip their hands in the messy ingredient, then they can try to guess what it is.*
- We don't like to get our hands dirty, but Jesus didn't shy away! He touched people others didn't want to touch. He cared about people with leprosy. **He showed us an example of what it looks like to love and help others who are sick.**

SCRIPTURE | Luke 7:21

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Open your Bible and encourage the kids to open their Bibles too. Read Luke 7:21*
- **Why do you think Jesus healed people who were sick?** It's because He cares about people who are sick.

OBJECT LESSON | The Unbelievable Paper Hole

- Now let's do an experiment that seems impossible. Does anyone think they can cut a hole in this piece of paper that's big enough for a grownup to walk through?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This is one of the coolest and simplest paper tricks to amaze kids. It's easy! Promise.*
 1. *To cut a hole in a piece of paper that is big enough for a human to walk through, start by folding a piece of paper in half lengthwise, so it is a long rectangle.*
 2. *Cut a little slit at the top, about ¼ inch from the top, starting from the folded side stopping ¼ inch from the edge, then cut another slit on the other end.*
 3. *Open the paper and cut straight down the fold in the middle line, between the two slits.*
 4. *Fold the paper back in half how you just had it and make cuts, alternating between the folded side and the unfolded side, back and forth, about ¼ inch from each other, and each one stopping ¼ inch from the end.*
 5. *When you're done, unfold it, and the paper will magically make a "hole" that is big enough for any grown adult to walk through.*
 6. *Before you start cutting, let a few older kids come up and try to cut a few pieces of paper. After they aren't able to do it, then make the cuts in front of them. While you're making cuts, talk to the kids about the power of Jesus.*
- **Jesus is all powerful. He uses His power to help people. That's what the miracles of Jesus were all about: helping people. He wants to do unbelievable things in our lives.**
- Think about how amazed the people must have been after Jesus performed His miracles!

SCRIPTURE | 1 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5

- We just learned about people who were sick with leprosy. Jesus healed them and made them clean. None of us have leprosy, but we all have something that we need Jesus to heal us from. **Does anyone know what we need to be healed from?**
- We have sin in our lives. We are all born with sin; that means we do things God doesn't want us to do. Just like the lepers couldn't heal themselves, we can't cleanse our sins on our own. We all need Jesus to cleanse our sins and heal us and make us new.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Open your Bible and encourage the kids to open their Bibles too. Read 1 Corinthians 5:17 and Titus 3:5.*
- **When we give our lives to Jesus, He makes us a new creation. We don't have to live with sin ruling our heart anymore.**
- **How are we like the lepers?** We all are like the lepers in the story because we all need Jesus.
- **What does Jesus do for us?** Jesus forgives us from our sins and heals us, making us new.

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

ACTIVITY | Touching Without Hands

- What a cool trick we just saw! Now let's play a game to help us remember this Bible story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the group make a circle. Tell the kids to use their feet, knees, elbows or backs to move a toy unicorn all around the circle. If the group is large, break the group into smaller circles and make it a competition.*
- Unicorns aren't real, but the miracles of Jesus are real! We learned today that Jesus performed unbelievable miracles. He is all-powerful, but He didn't just use His power for Himself — He helped other people. In today's Bible story, **He touched people who were considered untouchable.** He helped them, healed them, and cares about helping people who are sick.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *You can give each of your kids with special needs a toy and give them specific instructions about different ways they can hold the toy with their hands: Example: hold it over your head; hold it touching the ground; hold it behind your back; hold it on your knee. Keep physical limitations in mind and keep instructions simple.*

ACTIVITY | Helping Hands

- Since we're talking about Jesus' healing touch, we're going to trace our hands and remember that we can use our hands to help people too.
- Jesus had compassion for the lepers and wasn't afraid to be near them even though they were outcasts where they lived.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each child a sheet of black construction paper and a piece of chalk. Have them trace their hand prints on the black paper. Give each child a red heart sticker to place on the palm parts of each handprint.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Have each preteen trace their hand on a piece of construction paper and cut it*

out (or use pre-cut hands). Tell them sometimes God uses us be his hands so we can help people in unbelievable ways. Tell them to write on their handprint one person they can help and how they can help them.

- Jesus cared about the sick people. His loving touch was life-changing for everyone He encountered.
- We can share Jesus' love with others by helping people and praying for them when they are sick.

Take this handprint home as a reminder to use your hands to share the love of Jesus with people by helping them and praying for them.

PRAYER | Prayer Hands

- We've been talking a lot today about our hands. We've talked about clean hands, helping hands, and now we are going to talk about praying hands. Jesus used His hands to heal and help people. We can pray for people who are sick and who need help too.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a hand print to each child. Have them write on their hand print the name of someone they can pray for who is sick. Spend time praying with the kids. Then encourage them to put the handprint on their bathroom mirror or next to their bed to remind them to pray for that person daily.
- Think about someone in your life who may be hurt or sick right now. Take a hand print as a symbol of a caring, loving touch toward them. You can write their name on the hand print or draw a picture on it that will remind you of that person.
- You can show them the love of Jesus by helping them when they are sick.
- **Who do you know that is sick, and how can you help them?**
- **FOR WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Keep in mind that this Bible story is about a man who was healed of his disease, and some kids with special needs may feel bad if they aren't healed. Remember and be sensitive to those kids throughout the lesson. Remind them that God did not heal every physical need in the Bible, and although we don't know why He heals some and not others, remind them that God loves them and wants to give them comfort and strength. Ask them for specific ways you can pray for them, and then, if they are comfortable with it, have your leaders lay hands on them and pray for them.

MEMORY VERSES | John 14:6; Jeremiah 29:11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- How do you think Jesus felt when the man stopped him and asked for healing?
- What did Jesus do to heal the man? (He touched him.)
- How do you think the man felt after he had been healed?

- How do you feel when you are sick and someone helps you?
- Who do you know that you can show love to this week, and how can you help them?
- What is a miracle? *(Something that only God can do.)*
- If you could ask God for a miracle, what would you ask for?

SCRIPTURE | Ephesians 3:20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- What has God done in your life, and how have you seen His power?
- How can you live differently knowing God is all powerful and He cares about you?

ACTIVITY | Unicorn Horn Decorating

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each child a cone and some decorating supplies. Let them decorate their unicorn horns. While they are working, ask them . . .*
- How do you know unicorns aren't real? How do you know God is real?
- Is it easy or hard to believe in the miracles of Jesus?
- What is something amazing that you have heard about God doing in someone's life?

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