

MIRACLES

Lesson 2: Jesus Heals a Blind Man

This includes:

1. Leader Preparation
2. Lesson Guide

1. LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW

Jesus performed a miracle through rather disgusting means: spitting into a blind man's eyes. Yet the blind man didn't hesitate, ask questions, or flinch when Jesus did it or when Jesus gave him instruction on what to do next. This lesson will help your students see that just like the blind man, when we are obedient to God, we can clearly see his plan for our lives.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. WHAT: The blind man obeyed Jesus' instructions and was healed.
2. WHY: God desires obedience from his children.
3. HOW: Students will learn that by obediently walking in God's truth, we can have peace and we can experience other blessings because of our obedience.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:22-26

SECONDARY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 145:13 and Daniel 9:4

TEACHING PREP

The short overview below is designed to help you prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your teenagers, you'll definitely want to refer to it as you lead.

Read Mark 8:22-26.

This Scripture will help students consider the rewards and results of obedience to God. As we read these verses, we encounter a blind man who was brought to Jesus by friends desperate for him to be healed. There was no struggle, no hesitation; the man went with expectation that he was going to be healed by Jesus.



LEADER
TIP



In addition, the man didn't question the ability of Jesus; he simply obeyed.

As Jesus spat onto the blind eyes, the man didn't flinch, scream, or doubt, but he anticipated being able to see clearly, and he obediently did everything Jesus asked of him. And his sight was miraculously restored.

In the last part of the passage, Jesus told him, "Don't go back to the village on your way home." Bible scholars believe that the healed blind man's vision would raise doubt and speculation from the villagers who were skeptical of Jesus and his miracles. Again, the man obeyed without question or concern, and the blessing was clear vision.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

Text Message Questions

We've provided a couple of different text message questions to send out to your students prior to your meeting. Feel free to use one or both of the questions below. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.

- Why does God value our obedience? Bring your answer to share with the group tonight.
- If God asked you to do something that was uncomfortable, would you do it? Let's talk about it tonight.

Parent Email

We've provided you with an email below that you can send to your parents following the lesson. Our hope is to encourage parents to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.

Dear parents,

We are continuing our study on the miracles of Jesus, and this week we looked at the miracle of Jesus healing the blind man in Mark 8. What's interesting is that Jesus actually spits in the man's eyes in order to heal him so that made for some interesting discussion.



We talked about the importance of obedience in our relationship with God, and how we can have faith in God's promises.

You can reinforce what our group discussed by asking your teenager these kinds of questions this week:

- As parents, why do you think we make such a big deal about being obedient?
- When do you find it easiest to obey God? When is it most difficult?
- What are some benefits of listening to what God tells us in the Bible and doing what God calls us to do?

Have a blessed week!



MIRACLES

Lesson 2:
Jesus Heals a
Blind Man

2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then ASK:

- *If you're desperate to see something change or to get your hands on something, how far are you willing to go? Give me some examples of how far you'd go for specific goals or results.*
- *If you were born blind, what's the craziest thing that you'd be willing to do in order to be given your sight?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *During Jesus' time here on Earth, crowds of people followed him, and many of them were looking to get healed from some pretty serious illnesses and diseases. Some of them did some desperate things in order to meet Jesus and be healed. Today we are going to learn about a guy who was blind from birth and let Jesus spit on his eyes so that he could be healed. Yes, you heard me correctly! We'll also talk about how the promises of God can help us to understand the importance of obeying him.*

TEACHING POINTS



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The goal of the Teaching Points is to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. The main points we have chosen are (1) Obedience helps you see God's plan and purpose, (2) You can have faith in God's promises, and (3) Selfishness weakens your relationship with God.

Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use, and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.



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TIP

Read Mark 8:22-26 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so everyone has a chance to read.



SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Let's spend a few minutes discussing this passage and seeing what we can learn about the results and rewards of obedience.*

1. Obedience helps you see God's plan and purpose

ASK:

- *Tell us about a time—maybe when you were a little kid, or maybe more recently—when obeying your parents really paid off.*
- *What thoughts or questions come to your mind after reading those verses?*
- *Why was it important for the blind man to do exactly as Jesus instructed?*
- *When he didn't see clearly the first time and told Jesus, he could have easily assumed that Jesus did something wrong, and stormed away angry and depressed. When has a negative reaction changed the course of your interaction with someone?*
- *When do you find it easiest to obey God? When is it most difficult?*
- *Why is it difficult to obey God when his request seems odd or uncomfortable?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Sometimes we sense God asking us to do something that seems hard, incorrect, or uncomfortable. Letting someone spit in our eyes would probably fit into that category, right? We can't always know why God is asking us to do certain things, and some of his commands are difficult, such as loving our enemies or blessing people who hate us, but we can be sure that God's plan is perfect.*

2. You can have faith in God's promises

ASK:

- *How do you feel when someone breaks a promise? keeps a promise?*
- *What does the blind man's story teach you about Jesus?*
- *How do obedience and faith go hand in hand?*
- *What demonstrations of faith do you see by different people in this passage? Which one do you find most inspiring, and why?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *There are more than 3,000 promises in the Bible. When God promises something, he doesn't shout, "Just kidding!"*



The more faith we have in the fact that God is going to do what he promises, the easier it is to do what he asks. Likewise, the more we learn about how God has fulfilled his promises to other people, the easier it is to have faith and trust in his promises. The blind man did what Jesus asked him to do, with the faith and confidence that Jesus would heal him.

3. Selfishness weakens your relationship with God

ASK:

- *What might happen if your parents asked you to sit at the dinner table every night with them, but night after night you refused?*
- *How would other forms of disobedience or selfishness change your relationship with them?*
- *Why does God hate selfishness?*
- *How does selflessness strengthen your relationship with God?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Just like with our relationship with our parents, if we never do what God asks us to do and always do what we want to do, our relationship with God will be broken and messed up. Selfishness is a way of saying that we can take care of ourselves and that we don't need God. But selflessness helps us maintain the right perspective on our need for God—and on the benefits of obedience.*

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three for these questions.

ASK:

- *Read Daniel 9:4. How does knowing that God fulfills his promises help you to obey what he asks?*
- *What would our world be like if no one followed any rules or obeyed any laws?*
- *Why does God give us guidelines for life?*
- *Read Psalm 145:13. What's the connection between God's grace and God's willingness to keep his promises?*



PAIR SHARE



Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

APPLICATION

ASK:

- *What are some steps of obedience God might want you to take today?*
- *If you find yourself struggling with selfishness, what are some selfless ideas you could try? What people could you serve, what causes could you help, and what needs could you help meet?*
- *Honoring and obeying your parents is a great way to learn how to be obedient to God. Think about some areas in your relationship with your parents where you haven't been obedient or respectful. Make a commitment now to be respectful and do what they ask. How difficult might this be? How can we help you?*

SUMMARY

End your lesson here. Provide your teenagers with a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) the content of this lesson, (2) the dialogue that took place during the lesson, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.



LEADER
TIP

FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the verse below.



LEADER
TIP

For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does (Psalm 145:13).

