

13. Jesus Heals a Sick Boy

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13

Jesus Heals a Sick Boy

Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. (*Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.*)

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? (*Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.*)

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Jesus Heals a Sick Boy" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Ask the children to share examples of times when they or others in their families were ill and Jesus made them healthy again. Acknowledge that Jesus doesn't always choose to make people better, even though

we've prayed for them. Sometimes Jesus answers our prayers with a "no" or "not yet" because Jesus has a better plan. Ask the group to suggest names of people they know who are ill today, people you can pray for together and encourage to trust Jesus.

Close your time together with prayers for healing for all the people your group has discussed today. Give each child in your circle an opportunity to pray for someone you've named (but don't press any children who feel uncomfortable praying aloud). Conclude the prayer yourself, asking Jesus to heal the friends and dear ones you've mentioned—and to keep the kids in your group healthy in the week ahead.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #97 or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

**God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.*

Easy Extra

Have the kids make get-well cards to show love to those you prayed for that are ill. Older and younger children can work together in groups. Have the younger children draw pictures on the front of the cards; the older children can write a message and draw pictures inside the cards.

Story: Jesus Heals a Sick Boy [John 4:46-54](#)

*Another option for telling this story is to use the book [The One O'Clock Miracle](#) from the *Tales that Tell the Truth* series.*

In a town near the place where Jesus was visiting, there lived a very busy man. The man worked for the ruler of the land. He was in charge of many things, and people thought he was very important.

He also was a father and lived in a house with his family. He had a son whom he loved very much. His son had always been healthy and full of energy. Running and jumping! Climbing trees and playing with his friends! **The boy was about 6 or 7 years old; what kinds of things do you think he might have liked to do?** *(Pause for responses.)*

It made the man happy to see his son having so much fun. But one ordinary day, as the family sat down to eat breakfast, the father could tell that something was very wrong. His son didn't want to eat anything. He didn't want to play with his friends. He didn't even want to get dressed. He just lay there in his bed, looking at his parents with tired eyes. When they felt his hot face, they knew right away that he was very, very sick.

Nothing they did helped the boy feel any better. By lunchtime he could hardly speak, and no smile came to his face when his mom sat beside him and held his hand. She looked very worried—and she wasn't the only one. His dad had never felt so worried in his life.

I wonder if you've ever been worried about someone you love who was sick. *(Pause for responses.)*

As the dad was worrying about his son and trying to figure out what to do, he had a thought. He remembered Jesus, the one everybody was talking about. Jesus could heal people—that’s what everyone said. He knew that Jesus was close by, in a city not too far away. So the father bent down and kissed his son and then headed straight for the door. The father hurried as fast as he could down the street, out of the city, and along the road to the next town. “Maybe,” he thought, “Jesus can make my son well again. Maybe what people are saying about Jesus is really true!”

What do you think? Do you think Jesus could make the boy well again? *(Pause for responses.)*

When the father got there, he was almost out of breath—he had just enough left to beg Jesus to come with him. Jesus didn’t answer the man right away. Instead Jesus said something about how people didn’t believe in him unless he did a miracle.

“Please, Jesus,” the father begged again, “If you don’t come with me, my child will die!”

Then Jesus answered in an amazing way. He told the father he could go back home. Jesus told him his son would live. The father believed in Jesus’ power and knew right away that Jesus was telling the truth. Without another word, the father headed back home.

I wonder . . . how could Jesus know that the boy would be okay without even going to his house to look at him? *(Pause for responses.)*

As the father was on the way home, his servants met him with some wonderful news. His son was healthy again! Can you just imagine him outside, busily running and playing with his friends as though he’d never been sick?

The man asked his servants when this miracle had happened. And he wasn’t surprised when they told him the time. It was right at the time when Jesus had said, “Your son will live!”

Imagine how the family felt when they were all together again that night. Their boy was all better, and they knew for sure that Jesus is God’s Son!

Wonder aloud with the kids about how each person in that family felt about Jesus after the wonderful way he made the boy well.

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Preschool: Jesus Heals a Little Boy](#)
 - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Healing a Sick Boy](#)
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