

Leader Devotional

Equip

A simple touch from Jesus—but it was so much more. These three accounts in Scripture describe a touch between Jesus and someone who needed Him.

A man with leprosy called out to Jesus for help, and Jesus did the unthinkable. Jesus didn't just heal the man; He touched him. We don't know how long this man had been suffering from leprosy, a contagious skin disease, but it could have been years since he'd felt the warmth of human touch. Lepers were forced to walk on the other side of the street. One simple act of kindness healed this man's heart as well as his body.

Then, a woman who had been suffering with a malady for 12 long years stepped way outside of her comfort zone to ask for help from Jesus. Because her illness involved an issue of blood, she was perpetually unclean and not allowed to enter the temple to worship. And anyone she touched would be unclean for a time as well. So she gathered up her courage and reached out for the hem of the Rabbi's robe—for this was where a rabbi's authority was displayed. Just like a modern-day soldier exhibits his rank and honors on his uniform, rabbis and other leaders sewed their symbols of authority into the hems of their robes. So this woman with an issue of blood touched the symbol of authority on Jesus' robe, and even though she knew she would be despised and cast out for making this Rabbi unclean, she trusted in God—and Jesus healed her.

Finally, the touch of Jesus brought a young child back to life and returned hope to a family previously lost in despair. A touch from Jesus brings life. When we call out to God, He responds.

Support

In this lesson, Jesus commends a woman for her faith to crawl through the crowd to touch Him. Jesus also encourages faith from Jairus when the man hears from his friends that his daughter has died. Though God is faithful, faith isn't an automatic formula for getting what we want or even what we think we need. Though we might have to wait patiently, God always turns to us and hears our cries. He might not respond in the way we would have imagined, but He hears, and He is help.

Is there a place in your life where you need God to hear your cry? Have you given up hope that He will hear you in this area? Take hope. God is listening, and He will help in His timing.

Pray the children would know that God will hear them and respond to them too. God loves them and cares about them because they are His children. Though they might need to be patient, they can trust that God will hear and respond.

Kinder - 3rd Grade Lesson

Date: May 16th

Series: God Is

Topic: God is Help

Intro: 15 Minutes

Welcome kids as they arrive. They are allowed to play with toys, color, or play group games.

- **1st Service:** Begin at 9:30am
- **2nd Service:** Begin at 11:15am

Worship Focus: 10 minutes

Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. Have them put their hands on their heart. Encourage them to picture a throne on their heart. Ask them who is sitting on it? Remind the students that when we worship, we are removing ourselves from the throne of our heart and putting God in His rightful place - King of our Heart. Encourage them to express their worship with their voices and give them permission to raise their hands as they feel led.

When you feel they are ready, play the two worship songs:

- Ask Seek Knock - Hillsong Kids
- Holy Spirit - Jesus Culture

Bible Focus - Main Lesson: 10 minutes

Before starting the lesson, split the children into three groups, and have each group sit together. Name the groups: Group 1, Group 2, & Group 3.

Script:

As we hear today's part of The Big God Story, I'm going to need your help. Group one, you'll represent the leper. Group two, you'll represent Jairus. Group three, you'll represent the sick woman. When I point to your group, you'll shout, **"Jesus, help!"** Practice a few times. Jesus responded to all of these people when they called for help. He is help.

The leper was a man with a terrible skin disease called leprosy. In Bible times, if someone suffered from a disease, people sometimes believed that person deserved it because that person was sinful. Sick people were considered unclean. Religious leaders and Jews were taught to stay away from unclean people so they themselves wouldn't become unclean! That's why people with leprosy were forced to live outside the city.

As Jesus traveled around preaching, healing, casting out demons, and demonstrating God's love, He came upon this man with leprosy. *Cue leper picture* Point to group one and prompt them to shout, **"Jesus, help!"** Great job! Grab a Bible and let's all turn to Matthew 8:2. The leper knelt before Jesus and said, *(invite Group 1 to get on knees and beg)*, **"Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."** The leper had faith that Jesus could heal him and make him clean. But no religious person would go near an unclean leper, let alone touch him. Even so, **"Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!'" (v. 3).**

Another man named Jairus, a leader in the synagogue, had a 12-year-old daughter who was dying. *Cue Jairus picture.* Point to group two and prompt them to shout, **"Jesus, help!"** Then invite children to turn in their Bibles to Mark 5:23. Jairus pleaded with Jesus *(invite group 2 to fold their hands and beg)*, **"My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."** Jesus started walking to Jairus's house to heal the girl. But crowds pressed in all around him. A lot of people wanted to hear and see Jesus. **Have any of you ever been in a crowd with a lot of people? What was that like?** Pause for responses.

One person in the crowd was a woman who had been sick for 12 years. **Cue picture of sick woman.** The Bible says she had gone to many doctors and spent all her money but had only gotten worse! The woman was desperate for healing. Point to group three and prompt them to shout, "**Jesus, help!**" Then invite kids to follow along in Mark 5:27–28. The woman thought (*invite group 3 to get on knees and reach out hand as if touching someone*), "**If I just touch [Jesus'] clothes, I will be healed**" (v. 28). When the woman touched the hem of Jesus' robe, she was showing radical faith and believing that Jesus was the Messiah and could heal her. And He did! Immediately she knew she'd been healed.

In verse 30, the Bible says, "**At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my clothes?'**" The woman was "**trembling with fear**" (v. 33) . She, a woman who had been unclean, had touched this religious teacher! She came forward and explained what had happened. Jesus replied, "**Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering**" (v. 34). Jesus responded to her cry by healing her.

While Jesus was talking to the woman, some men came from Jairus's house and told him his daughter was dead. Point to group two and prompt them to shout, "**Jesus, help!**" Jairus must have been very upset, but Jesus told him, "**Don't be afraid; just believe**"(v. 36).

When Jesus got to Jairus's house, people were already crying. But Jesus said to them (*invite kids to follow along starting with Mark 5:39*), "**Why all this ... wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.**" The people thought Jesus was crazy. They didn't know Jesus was God and could do anything. Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, "**Little girl ... get up!**" (v. 41) . Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (v. 42) . Wow! Everyone in the house was completely amazed.

All three of these people—the leper, Jairus, and the sick woman—cried out to Jesus for help. Point to all three groups and prompt the kids to shout, "**Jesus, help!**" And Jesus responded with healing.

When we call out to God for help, He responds to us too. Sometimes He heals us, sometimes He sends people to help carry our burdens, sometimes He uses His Holy Spirit to bring comfort and strength while we wait for healing—but He always responds. When you call out to God, He will respond to you because He loves you. **Share a personal story of a time God responded to your cries for help.** Repeat after me. GOD IS HELP! Close in prayer.

At this time, split the children into two smaller groups: Kinder & 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Bring one group upstairs to the empty classroom closest to the main exit of the hallway (what used to be the old nursery). The other group will remain in the K-3rd classroom. Focus on Activity #1 first. After 10 minutes, switch locations and focus on Activity #2.

Activity #1: 10 Minutes | Feeling for Paper Clips

What You Need: large bowl, bag of uncooked rice or beans, tray, paper clips (10), blindfold, 30 second timer, hand sanitizer (2)

Relate: Isn't it amazing how not being able to see helps you focus on what you're touching? In today's portion of The Big God Story, we heard about three people: a leper, a little girl, and a sick woman whose lives were changed by touching Jesus.

What To Do:

1. Have the children form a circle.
2. Place the bowl of rice in the center.
3. Sanitize each child's hands with hand sanitizer, then ask for a volunteer to go first.

4. Cover that child's eyes with the blindfold, and have her reach into the rice and try to find as many paper clips as possible within 30 seconds.
5. After 30 seconds, count the paper clips, put them back into the bucket, mix them in with the rice, and ask another volunteer to try to find the paper clips.
6. Repeat until everyone has had a chance to play.

Activity #2: 10 Minutes | Hear-and-Draw Telephone

What You Need: *index cards, pencils or pens*

Relate: Every time we cry out to God, He responds. Even though others may not hear us, God always hears us and responds to our cries for help. Because God loves us, is good, and knows everything, He responds with what is best for us.

What To Do:

1. Invite the children to sit in a circle.
2. Explain that you're going to play a version of the Telephone game.
3. Choose a child without an index card and writing utensil to start. This child will think of a sentence and whisper it into the ear of the person to his right.
4. This person will then draw a picture of what she heard the person say. She can't use any words, letters, or symbols.
5. Then she'll pass the index card to the person on her right.
6. That person will look at the picture, decide what sentence the picture may be describing, and whisper that sentence to the next person, who will draw it, and so on.
7. This speak-draw-speak pattern will repeat until the message gets to the last person.
8. That person will say, aloud, what she thinks the sentence is.
9. Compare the ending sentence with the beginning sentence.
10. Play again. This time give the kids who drew an opportunity to speak and the kids who spoke the chance to draw.

Ending:

*Return to the K-3rd classroom and let kids play until parents arrive. K-3rd is **not** allowed on the playground at this time.*

As parents pick their children up, tell them the main points we talked about today and the activities we did. Please make sure kids take home all the things that they came with (ex. Jackets or toys) and any crafts they made in class.

After children are gone, please wipe down the chairs and tables and put supplies back so they can be ready for the next service.