Jesus Heals the Deaf and Mute Man

Mark 7:31-37

CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS
Each option below is designed to last 10 minutes. The option used to tell the Bible story is designated with the Bible image. Always choose this option for your large-group time. Use the chart below to plan your large-group time in whatever order fits your needs. Check the options you want to use.

### Large Group

#### YOU’LL NEED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose Your Options</th>
<th>Get Your Supplies</th>
<th>Planning Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Large-Group DVD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Praise &amp; Worship</td>
<td>Large-Group DVD</td>
<td>video</td>
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<td>Creative Drawing</td>
<td>Large-Group DVD</td>
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<td>easel with large drawing pad or dry-erase board</td>
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<td>markers</td>
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<td>Game</td>
<td>Large-Group DVD</td>
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<td>Response</td>
<td>Large-Group DVD</td>
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<td>adhesive bandages</td>
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<td>Large-Group DVD</td>
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Teach the Key Verse anytime during large group.

#### Key Verse

“You are the God of great wonders!”
—Psalm 77:14

#### The Point

We ask Jesus to heal us.

### Small Group

#### WHAT GROUPS WILL NEED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preschool Supplies</th>
<th>Lower Elementary Supplies</th>
<th>Upper Elementary Supplies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>paper</td>
<td>paper</td>
<td>adhesive bandages</td>
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<tr>
<td>pens</td>
<td>pencils</td>
<td>washable markers</td>
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<td>wet wipes</td>
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A SILENT, LONELY WORLD
Imagine being deaf in a world without a standard sign language, hearing aids, speech therapy, protection against discrimination, or even the ability to use the written word for communication. In Bible times, people with hearing impairments were sidelined from society, unable to secure employment or participate in cultural life. It was completely different from today’s world; there were very few, if any, options or opportunities for people with hearing impairments. Life for them was lonely, isolating, and discouraging.

FRIENDS
The unnamed man in Mark 7, deaf and with a serious speech impediment, had one enormous blessing in his life: people in his community who cared about him. We know this because at the most critical moment of his life, since he was unable to speak for himself, they spoke for him. They brought him to Jesus and begged for healing.

ONE-ON-ONE
Jesus drew the man aside so the two of them could be alone. Though this man had spent his life cut off from human communication, Jesus was able to speak to him directly—through touch. In a strange and intimate moment, everything changed. Jesus put his fingers into those unhearing ears. Then he spit on his hands and touched the man’s wordless tongue. With a gentle sigh—a prayer of profound empathy and compassion—Jesus spoke the words “Be opened!” Instantly, everything was made right.

FIRST WORDS
What would your first words be if, as an adult, you could suddenly and miraculously hear and speak for the very first time? We can only wonder what this man said first, but we do know what his community declared about Jesus: “Everything he does is wonderful.” The truth is that Jesus has the power to heal, the power to make what’s wrong right, and the power to make what’s broken whole.
Welcome

YOU’LL NEED TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

1 COUNT DOWN
Play one of the countdowns. Have children get with their small groups, and get them excited to worship!

2 GREET
Have small-group leaders greet kids in their groups—especially guests.

3 ANNOUNCE  Do after prayer.
Make any announcements (including birthdays), and collect offerings.
Birthday, visitors, Baptism coming up - send Kindergarten back to their room.

Praise & Worship

YOU’LL NEED TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

1 SING
“Living Inside Out” (Song 1)
“God of Great Wonders” (Psalm 77:14) (Song 2)
“Humble Yourselves” (James 4:10) (Song 3)
“His Great Love” (Romans 5:8) (Song 7)

2 PRAY
Thank God for the times we’re healthy, for our body’s amazing ability to heal itself, and for Jesus’ miraculous healing.

3 MAKE THE CONNECTION
Say: Most of the time, we’re healthy. God created our bodies to do a great job of keeping out sickness. But sometimes something goes wrong—and our bodies aren’t able to fight off illness. Jesus can heal even the worst diseases. Let’s see how one man found out that we ask Jesus to heal us.

Leader Tip
Easy Options:
- Sing along with DVD lyrics and motions.
- Sing along with the CD.
- Show media slides provided on the CD.

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Allow 10 minutes

**Creative Drawing**

**YOU’LL NEED**
- Bible • TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • easel with large drawing pad or dry-erase board • markers

**Healing Pictures**

**EXPLAIN**
Ask seven kids to come to the front. Say: I’m going to secretly tell each of you something to draw. As each person draws, the rest of you will try to guess what that person is drawing. Whisper each of the following phrases in a child’s ear.

- Jesus walking
- A man making motions with his hands
- Jesus spitting on his hands
- Jesus looking up
- A man acting excited
- A crowd of people
- A person who looks amazed

**DRAW**
Have the child draw a large picture of what you whispered. As the drawing emerges, prompt everyone else to guess what it is. When someone guesses what the picture depicts, say: *Yes! You got it!* Then read Mark 7:31, the verse that corresponds with the picture. Repeat the process with the remaining six phrases, reading the corresponding verses from Mark 7:32-37 (one per drawing) after the drawing is guessed.

**DISCUSS IN GROUPS**

**Healing Pictures Questions**

Cue screens as kids answer each of the following:

- What do you think about what Jesus did for this man?
- What’s the most amazing thing Jesus has done for you or someone you know?

**MAKE THE CONNECTION**

Say: *You just told each other about the amazing things Jesus has done.* The deaf man was very excited that Jesus had healed him. Jesus still heals people and does amazing things. When we’re sick or hurting, we ask *Jesus to heal us,* too.

**Leader Tip**

**Prepare Ahead**
Set up an easel with a large drawing pad or dry-erase board at the front of the room. Have several markers ready for kids to use for this experience.