A Sick Boy Is Made Well

Bible Story
John 4:46-53

Teacher Challenge
Today’s story is about a desperate situation—and how a person can bring it to Jesus and then choose to trust Him when His answer can’t be seen.

Even with access to the best medical care money could buy, the official could see that his child was about to die. He chose to travel quite a distance to beg Jesus to come and heal his son: he believed the journey was worth it. Jesus’ response was not what he expected, but he chose to believe—even though he didn’t see the result until he arrived home. His actions and attitude caused his household to believe as well!

► What is a situation you are worried about—maybe even desperately?
► How can you show your trust in Jesus in the situation?

As you teach young children who are learning to trust Jesus’ love for them, remember the effect of your caring actions as you talk about Jesus. The children in your class can grasp Jesus’ love as you demonstrate it. That’s actively teaching them in the very best way!

Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.

2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Play to Learn
Active Game Center: Who Can Help?

Collect
Bible, 2-foot (.6-m) length of butcher paper, marker, tape, adhesive bandages; optional—dot stickers.

Prepare
On the butcher paper, draw a simple body outline. Tape to wall at child’s level. Prepare one outline for each group of six children. Unwrap adhesive bandages.

Do
1. Children play a game like Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Children stand in a line 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 m) from body outline. Remove tabs from an adhesive bandage and give to the first child in line. (Optional: Use dot stickers instead of bandages.)
2. With eyes closed, child walks up to body outline and places bandage on it. Child opens eyes to see where bandage was placed. Continue as time and interest permit.

Talk About
¬ In today’s Bible story, Jesus made a sick boy well. Let’s play a game where we help someone who is hurt by giving them a bandage!
¬ The sick boy’s father asked Jesus to make his son well again. Jesus made the boy well because Jesus loved the father and his son. Jesus loves us, too.
¬ Carter, when have you been sick or hurt? Who looked after you when you were sick? One way God shows His love to us is by giving us people to help us when we are sick or hurt.
¬ The Bible says, “Give thanks to the Lord. His love is forever.” “Lord” is another name for God. I’m glad that God loves us!

For Younger Children
Don’t expect children to wait in a line. Give each child bandages to attach to outline as he or she shows interest. Children do not close eyes as they walk up to outline.

For Older Children
Blindfold children and gently spin them around one time before they walk to the body outline.

God’s Word
“Give thanks to the Lord. His love is forever.” (See 1 Chronicles 16:34.)

God’s Word and Me
Jesus teaches me about God’s love.
Play to Learn

Art Center:
Heart Art

Collect
Bible, Lesson 27 Heart Art Card Patterns 1–2 from Growing with God CD-ROM, colored card stock, white paper, paper cutter or scissors, decorating supplies (markers, glitter pens, stickers, short lengths of ribbon, stamps and stamp pads, etc.), glue sticks.

Prepare
For each child, photocopy Heart Art Card Pattern 1 onto colored card stock and fold on line. Photocopy Heart Art Card Pattern 2 verses onto white paper and cut apart.

Do
1. Children make a card to give away. Children decorate card using the supplies you provide. Children glue verse to inside of card.
2. Assist children as needed to write the name of the person the child will give the card to inside the card. Child signs his or her name inside card.

Talk About
- The Bible says, “Give thanks to the Lord. His love is forever.” “Lord” is another name for God. I’m so glad that God loves us! Let’s each make a heart card to share God’s love with someone.
- Amanda, I see you colored your heart purple. These hearts remind us of God’s love for us. Who will you give your card to? How does your mom help you learn about Jesus? Your mom helps you learn about Jesus by bringing you to church.
- The Bible tells us many stories about ways Jesus helps and teaches others. One important thing Jesus teaches us is that God loves us!
- Reading Bible stories is a good way to learn what Jesus teaches us. Jeremiah, who reads Bible stories to you? Your grandpa is helping you learn about Jesus.

For Younger Children
Limit the decorating supplies you provide for children to use.

For Older Children
Children may ask for help in spelling names. Write the name on a Post-it Note and give to child. Child copies name into card.

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Play to Learn

Construction Center: Caring Homes

Collect
Bible, blocks, toy people.

Do
Children arrange blocks to make houses. Briefly tell the Bible story. Children then use toy people to act out ways to care for sick children (pat their back, give them juice in bed, etc.).

Talk About
- Our Bible story today tells about a boy who was very sick. Jesus showed God’s love to the sick boy and his family. Jesus made the boy well. Let’s build houses where families are caring for sick children.
- We can pray and ask God to help us when we are sick. Gabrielle, who helps people who are sick? God made doctors and nurses who know how to help sick people.
- The Bible says, “Give thanks to the Lord. His love is forever.” God loves us! God loves us so much He sent Jesus.

God’s Word
“Give thanks to the Lord. His love is forever.” (See 1 Chronicles 16:34.)

God’s Word and Me
Jesus teaches me about God’s love.

For Younger Children
Younger children will enjoy simply building freely with blocks and using toy people. Connect their activity to today’s lesson by telling them about God’s love. You’re building a tower, Cari. God gave you hands to build with. God loves you!

For Older Children
Children build a hospital from blocks. Provide toy cars, especially emergency vehicles. Children can make the sound of sirens as they play with toy emergency vehicles.
Play to Learn

Dramatic Play Center: Sick Time

Collect
Bible, baby dolls, pillows, blankets, washcloths, adhesive bandages.

Do
Children use baby dolls to pretend to care for sick family members, putting dolls to bed, wiping dolls with dry washcloths and applying adhesive bandages.

Talk About
- In today’s Bible story, a boy was very sick. The boy’s father went to see Jesus. He asked Jesus to help his son become well. And Jesus did! Let’s act out some of the ways family members take care of each other.
- Caleb, what is your baby’s name? How are you taking care of him? Putting a bandage on your baby’s scraped knee is a good way to take care of him.
- Nicole, when have you been sick? Who took care of you? Your aunt took good care of you because she loves you. God gave us people in our families to care for us because God loves us!
- The Bible says, “Give thanks to the Lord. His love is forever.” “Lord” is another name for God. When we say that God’s love is forever, we mean that God loves us all the time!
- We can thank God for His love. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. We love You, too!

God’s Word
“Give thanks to the Lord. His love is forever.” (See 1 Chronicles 16:34.)

God’s Word and Me
Jesus teaches me about God’s love.

For Younger Children
Instead of adhesive bandages, bring in strips of cloth or sew-in interfacing. Younger children wrap cloths around baby dolls as bandages.

For Older Children
Children pretend to be doctors and nurses at a doctor’s office. Provide a toy doctor’s kit, bandages, and rubber gloves.
Listen to Learn

John 4:46-53

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 35 pictures from God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2, Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD and player, stopwatch or timer, large sheet of paper, marker.

Greet Each Other
Children stand in a circle. Say, I'm thinking of some children whose names begin with a "B." (Brandon) and (Brianna) sit down. Continue until all children are sitting down.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to John 4. Tell the Bible story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 35 pictures.

How do people take care of you when you are sick? Let's listen to a story about a father who was caring for his sick son.

The Bible tells about a boy who was very sick. He was hot with fever. His father must have done all he could to take good care of his sick boy. But the little boy did not get better. He was still very, very sick.

How sad I am! thought the little boy's father. My son is so sick. The father wanted to help his sick son. Then he remembered that a man named Jesus made sick people well. I must find Jesus. He can make my son well, the father thought. And off he went to find Jesus.

The father walked and he walked and he walked some more. Finally he reached the town where Jesus was. Many people were listening to Jesus. The father ran up to Jesus. "I have been looking for you, Jesus. You must come to my town!" he cried. "My son is very sick. Please come, or he will die."

Jesus loved the man and He loved the man's son. "You may go home," Jesus said. "Your son will live." The man believed Jesus' words. He knew that Jesus' words were true.

The father began to walk home. He was glad his son would be well.

While he was walking, he saw some people coming toward him. As the people got closer, the father could see they were his helpers from home.

"Sir, your son is well!" they told him. "He will live!"

The father said, "Jesus made him well."

The man and his helpers were very happy. They were thankful for Jesus' love.

God’s Word
“Give thanks to the Lord. His love is forever.” (See 1 Chronicles 16:34.)

God’s Word and Me
Jesus teaches me about God's love.
Talk About the Story
Why did the boy’s father go to see Jesus? (The father wanted to ask Jesus to make his son well.)
Jesus made the little boy well. Jesus loved the little boy and his family. Jesus loves you and me, too! The Bible tells us that Jesus’ love is forever. How long is forever? Forever never ends! Jesus will always love us!

Sing to God
Let’s sing a song about giving thanks to God. Lead children in singing “Thanks to the Lord” (on DVD or track 9 on CD). This song tells us that God’s love is forever. Jesus helped people learn about God’s love. I’m glad that God always loves us!

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to 1 Chronicles 16:34, say verse aloud. "Lord" is another name for God. This verse tells us God’s love is forever. When something is forever, it never stops. God always loves us! Lead children in saying the verse. First the children to your left say “Give thanks to the Lord” and then the children to your right say “His love is forever.” Have children repeat the verse in this manner several times, alternating which group says the phrases.

Pray to God
Pray, Thank You, God, for sending Jesus. Thank You that Jesus tells us about Your love. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Praise to God
Set a stopwatch or timer for one minute. In one minute, let’s see how many ways God shows us love that we can name. Write children’s responses on large sheet of paper (Gives us food. Gives us moms. Gives us dads. Is with us everywhere we go. Sent Jesus. Made the world. Hears our prayers.). God loves us all the time!
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 35 from The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #2 for yourself and each child, scissors, crayons or markers; optional—small strips of sandpaper, glue.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue sandpaper strips to road.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Bible Story Puzzle 27, Bible Verse Puzzle 27 and/or Challenge Puzzle 27 from The Big Book of Preschool Puzzles #2 for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect
A copy of Story Picture 27 from The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #2 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.