

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

Lesson 20

Bible Story

John 9:1-11,35-38

Teacher Challenge

Jesus felt compassion for all the people He met, and that compassion was shown in His dealing with the blind man in today's story. Though Jesus pointed out that the man's blindness was not the result of sin, the reason for the man's affliction was not what Jesus focused on. Jesus focused on expressing love and goodness toward the man. This is the same love that Jesus has for all of us, especially when we are in pain or in need.

- ➔ When have you experienced God's compassion?
- ➔ What is your initial reaction to people who are not like you?

When you see a troubled child, a homeless person or a person with a disability, it's natural to wonder, *Why?* But to respond the way Jesus did, you must first see the person as created in God's image. Then you can ask how you can express love and goodness to this person. Your example of kindness to others shows God's love through you. Look at each of the children in your classroom as a unique creation loved by God. Ask Him to help you see the children with compassion and to treat them with great kindness.

God's Word
"The Lord is good to all." Psalm 145:9

God's Word and Me
I can see many ways Jesus shows love to me.

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

Lesson 20

Active Game Center: Color Circle

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, construction paper in a variety of colors (blue, green, yellow, red, orange, purple, etc.), masking tape.

Prepare

Tape colored construction paper in a circle onto the floor in an open area of your classroom—one paper for each child. Repeat colors if necessary.

Do

1. As you play “Come On In!” (track 1 on CD), children step from one paper to the next. When the music stops, children stand on the nearest paper. Ask, **Who’s standing on the (green) paper?** Children standing on green paper say their name.
2. Continue the game, choosing a different color each time. To extend the game, have children name people who care for them or food God gives us to eat.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our story today, Jesus showed His love by making a blind man’s eyes see. The man could see all the wonderful colors of the trees and flowers. Let’s use our eyes to play a color game.**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us, “The Lord is good to all.” “Lord” is another name for God. God is good to give us eyes to see. What are some things you can see with your eyes? God is good to give us legs. What can you do with your legs?**
- ➔ **How does God show His love to you?** (Gives me people to care for me. Gives me food to eat. Made a beautiful world.) Pray briefly, **Thank You, God, for the many ways You show You love us.**



For Younger Children

To help children identify colors, hold up a paper of the color you name.

For Older Children

Children standing on named color say the Bible verse.

Play to Learn

Lesson 20

Art Center: Tissue Stained Glass

Collect

Bible, clear Con-Tact paper, tape, tissue paper, scissors.

Prepare

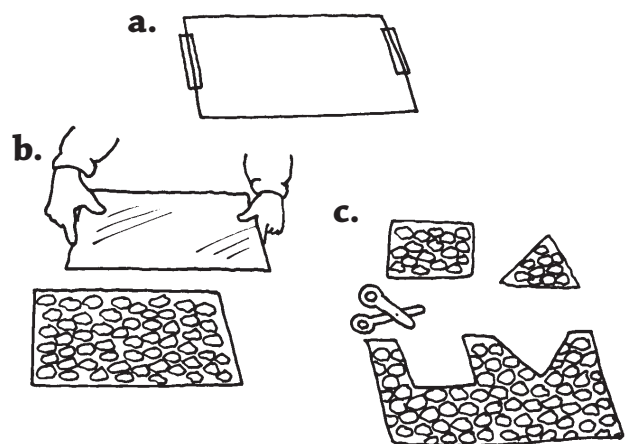
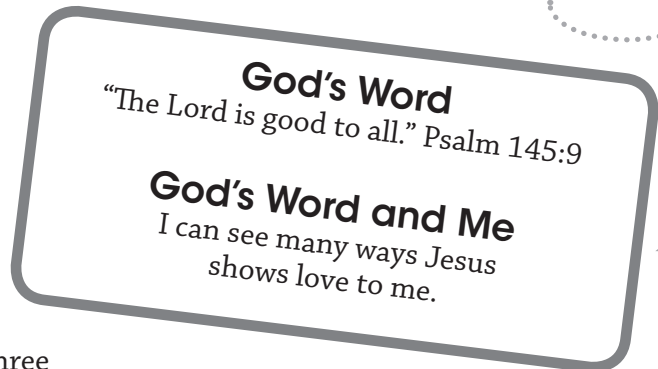
Lay several 12x18-inch (30x45-cm) lengths of clear Con-Tact paper on table, one length for every three to five children. Remove backing and place a few pieces of tape along edges to secure to the table.

Do

1. Direct small groups of three to five children to each length of Con-Tact paper. Children tear tissue paper into small pieces and place on Con-Tact paper. When area is completely filled, remove tape and cover with another length of Con-Tact paper.
2. Cut Con-Tact paper into different geometric shapes. Children tape shapes to windows to allow sun to filter through.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, Jesus showed His love by making a blind man's eyes see. Let's use our eyes while we make colorful stained glass windows.**
- ➔ **Zach, what color tissue paper are you using? God made our eyes so that we can see colors. What else can you do with your eyes? Can you wink? Can you blink? Show me how.**
- ➔ **God is good to give us eyes to see! The Bible says, "The Lord is good to all." "Lord" is another name for God. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for the many ways You show You love us.**
- ➔ **What else would you like to thank God for? We can see many ways Jesus shows He loves us.**



For Younger Children

Tear the tissue paper before class.

For Older Children

Cut finished Con-Tact paper sheet into sections, one for each child. Children cut shapes of their own design.

Play to Learn

Lesson 20

Block Center: Tall Towers

Collect

Bible, yarn, scissors, measuring stick, blocks.

Prepare

Cut yarn into varying lengths from 10-inches (25.5-cm) to 3-feet (.9-m).

God's Word
"The Lord is good to all." Psalm 145:9

God's Word and Me
I can see many ways Jesus
shows love to me.

Do

1. Hand each child a length of yarn. Children build block towers as tall as their pieces of yarn are long.
2. As children continue to play with blocks, they measure structures with yarn.

Talk About

- ➔ **Today in our Bible story, Jesus made a blind man's eyes see! Let's use our eyes to measure and build towers of blocks.**
- ➔ **Brittany, how do you know how tall to make your tower? Who made your eyes? God made everything. God shows His love in many ways.**
- ➔ **God made us just right! God made** (point to eyes; pause to let volunteers say "eyes"), **so we can** (pause to let children complete the sentence). Repeat with nose, ears, mouth and fingers.
- ➔ **The Lord is good to make our eyes just right. The Bible tells us, "The Lord is good to all." "Lord" is another name for God. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for being good to us and loving us.**



For Younger Children

Children may not be interested in building towers. Young children will likely not build any objects at all but simply carry blocks from place to place and/or make piles with the blocks. Tailor your discussion of the lesson focus to incorporate their actions.

For Older Children

Children use measuring sticks to measure towers. Children may also work in pairs or groups to create a line of blocks on the floor that is as long as their pieces of yarn tied together.

Play to Learn

Lesson 20

Science Center: Cartons of Color

Collect

Bible; newspaper; red, blue and yellow food coloring; three or four white Styrofoam egg cartons; water; cotton swabs.

Prepare

Spread newspaper over activity area. Add several drops of red food coloring to one section of each Styrofoam egg carton. Add several drops of blue food coloring to one section of each Styrofoam egg carton. Repeat for yellow. Fill the remaining sections of each Styrofoam egg carton with water.

Do

1. Children identify colors (red, blue and yellow). Children dip a cotton swab into red food coloring, and then stir cotton swab in clear water. Children watch the water change color. Repeat with other colors.
2. Children then discover new colors by dipping a cotton swab from one color into another, mixing the colors.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story, Jesus showed love to a blind man. Jesus made the blind man's eyes see! Let's use our eyes and look at different colors.**
- ➔ **Jennifer, I wonder what would happen if you mixed two of our colors. What happened?**
- ➔ **What color do blue and red make? Blue and yellow? Yellow and red? What did God make that is yellow? Red?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "The Lord is good to all." "Lord" is another name for God. God is good for giving us eyes to see. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for being good to us and loving us.**



For Younger Children

Cover table with newspaper or towels to absorb drips.

For Older Children

Provide coffee filters. Children use cotton swabs to drip colored water onto coffee filters, observing the way the colors blend and run together.

Listen to Learn

John 9:1-11,35-38

Lesson 20

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 39 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player.

Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Say,

One, two, three;

All eyes on me!

Children look at you carefully. **Now close your eyes.** Turn around and change one item of your appearance (remove a watch, put on glasses, add a sweater or scarf, etc.). At your signal, children open their eyes and try to guess what has changed. Repeat game, changing a different item of your appearance for each round.

God's Word
"The Lord is good to all." Psalm 145:9

God's Word and Me
I can see many ways Jesus
shows love to me.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to John 9. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 39 pictures.

What can you see if you close your eyes? People who are blind can't see anything. It's like their eyes are always closed! Listen to find out how a blind man felt after Jesus made his eyes see.



One day a man was sitting beside the road. He could not see the green grass. He could not see the yellow flowers. He could not see the blue sky. He could not see the children playing. He could not see with his eyes. The man was blind. But he could hear. And this is what he heard. **Step**, step, step. Step, step, step. The blind man heard someone walking along the road.

The blind man felt someone **put cool mud** on his eyes. He heard someone say, "Go now and wash in the pool of water." It was Jesus talking to him!



The blind man went right away to the pool and **washed** the mud off his eyes. As he washed, something wonderful happened!

"I can see!" the man probably shouted. "I can see green grass and yellow flowers. I can see the blue sky. I can see children playing."



Soon people came to see what had happened. "Isn't this the man who was blind?" they asked.



The man was so **excited**. He must have shouted, "I AM the man who used to be blind! A man named Jesus put mud on my eyes and told me to wash in the pool. I did what He said and now I can see!" And everywhere the man went, he told that Jesus had made his blind eyes see.

Talk About the Story

What happened when the blind man washed the mud from his eyes like Jesus told him? (He could see.) **Jesus showed His love by helping the blind man see. Jesus helps us, too. He is always with us. Where do you go? Jesus is with you there. How does Jesus show His love to us?** (He is always with us. He listens when we pray. He helps us when we ask.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song together! Lead children in singing "In a Very Big Way" (track 10 on CD). **God loves us and shows His love to us in so many ways!**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 145:9, say verse aloud.

This verse tells us that God is good to all. That means God is good to everyone! God loves each of us! Lead children in repeating the Bible verse several times. As the children are repeating the verse with you, point to one or two children. You and the children say those children's names instead of the word "all." Repeat for every child.

Option: When a child is pointed to, he or she names a person, another child in the room, a family member, a friend, etc. Repeat verse using the suggested person's name.

Option: Ask children to name things that show ways God loves us. Print children's responses on a large sheet of paper and place where parents can read it when they pick up their children.

Pray to God

Lead children in repeating the following prayer, phrase by phrase: **Dear God, . . . thank You . . . for making our eyes. . . . You love us so much. . . . We love You. . . . In Jesus' name, amen.**

Praise to God

Have a "Good to Me" parade! Invite children to look around the room for an item they can bring to the circle that reminds them of a way God is good to them (toy food, toy animals, dolls, etc.). After children have had show-and-tell time, line up and sing "I Will Sing" (track 6 on CD) while walking and holding those items high.

Talk to Learn

Lesson 20

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 39 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Puzzles 39 and 40 (p. 85 and p. 87 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) 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 20 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, fabric scraps, glue.

Do

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

