

# THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #11 – Miraculous Healings Luke 5:12-26

**PICTURES** (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 11-1 Jesus healing the leper
- 11-2 The paralytic and his friends

**REVIEW** (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What did Peter say when Jesus told him to put out into deep water and let down his nets again? What happened as a result of Peter's obedience? What did this cause Peter to see and do? Who was Levi? What did he do when Jesus called him? Who were Jesus' twelve disciples?
- **Big Question Review:** What is the result of being a disciple of Jesus? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review: Matthew 19:29**  
A true disciple receives eternal reward.

*<sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.*

## LESSON CONTENT

**Note:** The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

In this lesson we will be looking at some of the miraculous healings Jesus performed. What is a miraculous healing? A miraculous healing means a miracle took place; it's not a normal healing. God designed the body to heal itself; a normal healing is the way God designed the body to work and overcome normal illnesses or injuries.

What is a miracle? A miracle is a supernatural event, an act that shows God's power over the natural world. A miracle is something that can only happen by the hand of God; it is evidence of God at work in his creation. Creation was a miracle. It could have only happened by God's power. In creation God put in place the laws of nature. Only God can supersede, or go against those laws. Healings that are miraculous go against the natural course of how things happen. Injuries or illnesses that don't heal themselves can lead to permanent damage or death.

The first miraculous healing in this lesson is of a man with leprosy. What is leprosy? The term leprosy in the Bible is used to describe various infectious skin diseases, which made a person unclean and isolated him from the community. No one would touch lepers and they were outcasts in Israel until they were pronounced clean by the priests.

### **Luke 5:12-16 (picture 11-1)**

*<sup>12</sup>While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."*

*<sup>13</sup>Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.*

*<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."*

*<sup>15</sup>Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

What did the leper recognize about Jesus? That he was God or at least a prophet of God. How do you know that? He bowed down to him. He asked for healing. He called him Lord.

How did Jesus heal the leper? He touched him. What does that show about Jesus? Jesus cared about people. No one else would have touched the leper. It shows that no one is too far gone not to be touched by God in some way.

What two things did Jesus command the leper to do? To go show himself to the priest and to offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded. This would be a testimony to the priests and also follow the Jewish law laid out in the book of Leviticus in the Jewish Bible.

Why wouldn't Jesus want the leper to tell people about his being healed? He wanted people to listen to his message, not chase after miracles.

What did Jesus often withdraw to do? He would go to lonely places to pray. Why was that important? Jesus was human, he needed to commune with his Father in heaven. He needed to receive strength from above to do what he was called to do.

The next healing is about a paralytic. What is a paralytic? A paralytic is someone unable to walk or move on his own. His legs are paralyzed.

### **Luke 5:17-26 (picture 11-2)**

*<sup>17</sup>One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.*

*<sup>18</sup>Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup>When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.*

*<sup>20</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

*<sup>21</sup>The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

*<sup>22</sup>Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup>Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>25</sup>Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup>Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."*

What had to be present for Jesus to heal the sick? The power of God had to be present for Jesus to perform healings. Why was that? Jesus was human; he didn't have power on his own apart from the Holy Spirit in him. Every human needs the Spirit of God in them to do the work of God.

What did the men have to do to get the paralytic to Jesus? They had to take apart the roof of the house to lower the man to Jesus because they couldn't get him in through the door. What does this show about them? They believed in Jesus and were dedicated to getting their friend, the paralytic, to him. They really cared about the man and believed in Jesus.

What is the first thing Jesus did in response to their faith? He provided spiritual healing; he pronounced that the man's sins were forgiven.

The Pharisees were thinking that in forgiving sin Jesus was speaking blasphemy. What is blasphemy? Blasphemy is speaking irreverently of God or against the things of God. Why would forgiving the man's sin be blasphemy? Only God has the power to forgive sin. In forgiving the man's sins, Jesus was virtually claiming to be God.

Why can only God forgive sin? All sin is a transgression against God. Only the one who has been transgressed can forgive. You can't forgive someone if they haven't done something wrong to you, that would be absurd.

What did Jesus do in response to their thoughts that he was committing blasphemy? He physically healed the man. This showed that Jesus was God with both the power to heal the physical body and the spiritual soul (forgive sin).

Which healing was most valuable to the man? The spiritual healing was most valuable. Why? Spiritual healing has an eternal impact. It restores our relationship with God and determines where we will spend eternity.

Which do you think the man thought was most valuable and why? The physical healing. Our focus tends to be on being comfortable in this world, rather than our eternal destiny. We are short-sighted.

Why were the miraculous healings Jesus performed so important? The miraculous healings Jesus performed are an important testimony of who he is. The Apostle John in his gospel quotes Jesus as saying, (John 10:37-38) *Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.*

God is the only one who can forgive sin. He is also the only one who can bring about miraculous healing. The healings Jesus did were to demonstrate who he is, that he has both the authority and power to forgive sin.

Police have the authority to arrest someone. What gives them power to arrest someone? Either a person's submission to their authority or the use of force (authority to carry out authority). Jesus is the Son of God so he had the authority and power to forgive sin. Because he was filled with the Holy Spirit, he had the power to heal. For Jesus to use his power to heal, the people had to be submitted to his authority and believe in his power.

## LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What did the Leper call Jesus when he asked him for healing? How did Jesus heal the leper? When Jesus saw the faith of the men who brought the paralytic to him, what did he say? What was the reaction of the Pharisees to what Jesus said? What did Jesus do after he forgave the man's sin? What did Jesus say was the purpose of the miracles he performed?
- **Thought Questions:** Which type of healing do we seek after most, physical or spiritual? Why? What can you learn from that? What type of healing is really more important? Why?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that through Jesus you have been given spiritual healing. Thank him for the forgiveness of your sins and bringing you back into a right relationship with him. Thank him that because of this healing you have eternity to look forward to with him.
- **The Big Question:** What do the miracles Jesus performed show about him? Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.

- **Memory Verse:** John 10:37-38

Miracles show that Jesus and the Father are one.

*<sup>37</sup>Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. <sup>38</sup>But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, (believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.)*

*Questions: Why should we believe the miracles Jesus performed?*

## ACTIVITIES

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group. What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?
- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.
- **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.  
Miracles show that Jesus and the Father are one.
- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.
- **Craft:** Woven mat  
As a reminder that Jesus healed the paralytic, weave a mat from colored paper.  
Materials: colored copier paper (two different colors)  
Preparation: Run off each page of craft 11 on two different colored paper. Cut each page in half. Each student should have half a page of each color of paper.  
Instructions:
  1. Fold the paper with the partial lines in half. Cut only along each line and then open the paper up.
  2. Cut the other page into strips of paper along the lines. Use the strips to weave in and out through the other piece of paper, making a woven mat.
- **Game:** Tag  
As a reminder that people were afraid to touch the leper out of fear of getting his disease, play a game of tag.  
Instructions: Line up children across one side of the play area. The other side is the safe line. Designate one child to be the leper in the center. The child in the center yells out "leper". The other children then run across the play area to get to the safe line while the leper tries to tag them. Anyone who is tagged joins the leper in the center to tag the others. The play continues until there is only one child left to run across. That child becomes the leper for the next game.

## JOURNAL

The daily journal is included in the booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.