

## The Man Who Could See Through Mud

### Primary 3-7

#### Bible Text:

John 9:1-41

#### Lesson Aim:

To teach children that Jesus can help us to "see" and understand what a rebellious heart does not WANT to see.

#### Memory Verse:

"And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."

(Colossians 3:17)

#### Words to Learn:

- Blind
- Witness
- Testimony

Always Close in Prayer

## The Teacher's Bible Study

**G**od has not left our eyes blind. Our eyes and ears are sharpened by God's own Holy Spirit. We can both see *and* understand the spiritual aspects that affect the physical lives we lead. We recognize the Son of God in Jesus Christ. He is the Messiah.

Our story today is about a man who was miraculously healed by Jesus. During this time Jesus often used healing to not only benefit the sick, lame, or blind person, but to give insight to those who would WANT to understand who He really was.

John is the only Gospel writer who recorded this particular event. During the time of Jesus, blind people lived hopeless lives. Their blindness handicapped them because they were unable to find work to support themselves. The inability to work forced blind people to become beggars, depending strictly on donations to feed themselves.

The common reasons and causes for blindness in Jesus' time were unsanitary conditions, insect-borne diseases, sand, accidents, war, birth defects, and venereal diseases. However, by some, blindness was considered the RESULT of sin. We can see this type of thinking reflected in this story. Jesus was asked, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?"

The answer Jesus gave was that neither had sinned—the man's blindness was not a RESULT of sin. Or more simply put, "Bad things can happen to good people."

### None So Blind...

Surprisingly, when Jesus restored sight to blind eyes, or hearing to deaf ears, we can read of people OBSERVING the miraculous healing who really couldn't "SEE" or "hear" themselves—they would deny what they actually saw and heard. The same incident produced those that glorified God and those that turned and gnashed their teeth in hatred, and plotted to kill Jesus. These blind souls had a fatal inward condition that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13 and John 10. They had a heart of rebellion and

were living in a darkness as dense as that of sightless eyes. This condition of the heart has not been cured to date. This heart of rebellion does not WANT to *see* or *hear* and be led to repent.

In the story of this blind man the power and glory of God was made manifest when he was healed of both physical and spiritual blindness—his eyes could see and he comprehended the source of his healing. He acknowledged the Messiah.

Even the threat of being disowned by his parents and being thrown out of the synagogue did not stop this man from speaking the truth.

He was brave to confess his belief that Jesus was the Son of God irregardless of the consequences he would have to suffer.

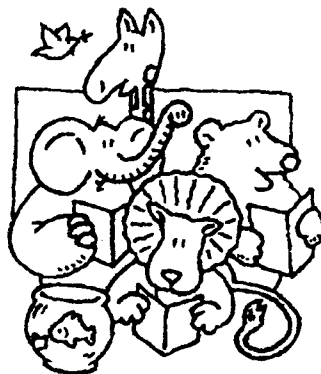
His own parents were afraid of the Jews and sidestepped the opportunity to add another witness to the healing—their fear overshadowed their joy. However their son showed his deep gratitude for his healing and faced the accusers. He would not deny the power behind his healing. He stood firm in his testimony.

May we all have the courage to imitate such faith and testimony in Christ.

This story should remind us to keep *FOCUSED* on Christ. He's the Great Healer of EYES, EARS, HEARTS, MINDS, and BODIES.

Praise His great name! ☐

## Simple as 1,2,3...



### 1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Matthew 13:13-17; Mark 4:12;

John 10; Acts 28:26

### 2. Are You Listening?

*After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:*

1. *True or false:* The man Jesus healed had been born blind—*TRUE*
2. *True or false:* Jesus said that the man's blindness was the result of the sins of the man's parents—*FALSE*
3. *True or false:* Jesus put mud on the man's blind eyes—*TRUE*
4. *True or false:* Jesus sent the man to the pool of Siloam—*TRUE*
5. *True or false:* The parents were not afraid of the Jews—*FALSE*
6. *True or false:* Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath day—*TRUE*
7. *True or false:* A rebellious heart does not want to see—*TRUE*
8. *True or false:* Jesus is our healer—*TRUE*

### 3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

• **Blind**—unable to see; lacking the sense of sight.

• **Witness**—to see, hear, or know by personal presence.

• **Testimony**—evidence in support of fact.

# SKY Story Time

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## The Man Who Could See Through Mud

**H**ave you ever closed your eyes and tried to imagine what it would be like to be unable to see? Think about that for a moment. All the things we take for granted would be hard, if not impossible, for us to do without help from someone. However, there is an odd thing that can happen to people who are blind. They often find that their other senses—of hearing, smelling, taste, and touch—try to compensate for the loss of sight. They “see” through their remaining senses more acutely than those of a sighted person.

Our story today is about a blind man. He had been born blind and had never seen the faces of his parents, or the color of the sky. He had no way of knowing what a camel looked like, or a donkey, or a sheep. Now he could hear them, smell them, or touch them. But it is hard for one to imagine what one had never been able to see. As he grew older he had to make his living by begging for coins.

One day he sat outside the Temple on the Sabbath. As people came to worship and when he heard their footsteps come near he would hold out a bowl in his hands and ask for the charity of a few coins.

This was what he did each day for his living. As he sat there on the hard dirt and listened for the sounds of feet, he would hear little pieces of conversations between people as they walked by. This helped to pass the time. Little did he know that the feet he heard approaching this time belonged to the Great Physician.

### Here's Mud in Your Eye

On this Sabbath morning he heard the feet and

voices of a group of men as they came by. He sensed that they had stopped so he held out his bowl.

Instead he heard a man's voice say, “RABBI, who did sin, this man, or his parents, since he was born blind?” Then he heard another man's voice reply, “Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but this happened so that the work of God might be shown in his life. As long as it is day I must do the work of Him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the LIGHT of the world.” The voice as belonged to a man called Jesus who was able to heal the sick.

He felt the presence of someone very close to him and heard the sounds of a man spitting. To his surprise, he felt cool clay being applied to his eyes, and a voice instructing him to “go to the pool call Siloam and wash the mud from your eyes.” Then he heard the man walk away.

Hope and disbelief momentarily stunned him. But he rose and obeyed these instructions. He knew where the water was and he hurried to the pool.

With trembling hands he picked up handfuls of water and washed away the mud, and then slowly opened up his eyes. HE COULD SEE SHAPES AND COLORS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE! Tears of joy mixed with the water that still ran down his face.

He turned in the direction of his parents home and began to run with a heart full of thankfulness. A big smile formed as he could now SEE so many things that he recognized only by their sound and smell. He continued to run, looking hungrily around him as he made his way home.

There was so much to see! His heart felt ready to burst because he was so happy!

His parents and neighbors could not believe that this miracle had happened. But, he insisted that he really could see, and it was evident that this was the truth.

He gave testimony to the fact that it was the man

called Jesus who healed him. The word spread quickly, and the Pharisees called the man and his parents in to be questioned.

After hearing the man's testimony the Pharisees continued to try to dismiss his claims. Some hesitated to totally reject his story, while others insulted him and made threats toward him if he continued to tell his story.

He couldn't believe his ears! It was being said that Jesus was a sinner! The man finally said, "NOW THIS IS REMARKABLE! YOU don't know where He comes from? Yet He OPENED my eyes?...God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the man who DOES HIS WILL. Nobody has ever heard of the eyes of a man BORN blind being opened. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing!"

This infuriated them and they threw him out of the synagogue. He was probably glad to be able to leave.

### Guess Who?

Jesus went looking for the man He had healed after being told what the Pharisees had threatened to do to the man.

Now we need to remember that the man who had been healed by Jesus had only heard His voice that day. He had never seen His face—but he KNEW the man Jesus was a righteous man, a prophet.

When Jesus found him He asked the man, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" The healed man looked earnestly into the face of Jesus and replied, "Who is He, sir? Tell me so that I may believe."

Jesus quietly answered him that he already had SEEN Him, and was now speaking to Him.

Suddenly understanding that this man was his healer, Jesus, and the SON OF GOD, he fell to his knees in worship. His healing was now complete.

Hopefully, this story has helped us to SEE that having true sight is about understanding who and what Jesus is. And it all begins with a heart that is WILLING to believe and wants to change. □

### Crafty Idea

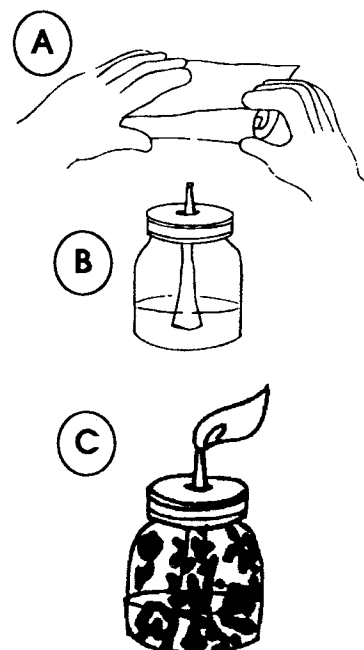
**Step 1:** Clean and dry a glass jar (remove label). Using the hammer and screwdriver punch a hole in the center of each lid. Turn the lid over and flatten the backside of the punched hole with your hammer (to flatten any sharp edge created by the punch). The jars may be sponge painted or decorated—let them dry thoroughly.

**Step 2:** Cut the lamp wicking to four-inch lengths—a package of wicking usually contains three eight-inch wicks, enough for six wicks of this length. Pour a half-inch of oil into each jar. Give a wick to each child, and have them dip the wick several times in the oil to soak them. Have them roll the wick tightly to create a thin end (figure A). Show them how to insert the skinny end through the bottom of the lid (figure B). Screw on the lid tightly. Allow to sit a few minutes to absorb more oil into the wick.

Carefully place the lamps in a cluster on the floor then an adult should light the lamps (figure C).

## Crafty Ideas

### A Light in Darkness



### Materials To Use:

- baby food or large pimento jars with lids
- Philips screwdriver
- hammer and scissors
- lamp wicking (available at craft stores)
- large bottle of inexpensive olive oil
- matches
- dryer (if jars are painted)