

A Sunday School Series



**GOOD NEWS**

from Mark

**JESUS IS HERE!**

# JESUS HEALS



LESSON 2

Mark 1:40–45



**faith**in**kids**

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Jesus is here! Good news from Mark (Part 1)

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We recommend the International Children's Bible for use with children during the lesson. Our leader's notes use the New International Version.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)

# Jesus Heals

Mark 1:40-45



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## Truth that changes me:

Good news! Jesus is willing and able to heal and help.



## Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who take their problems to Jesus, knowing that he cares and has the power to help.

## Preparation



### Where are we going?

In this lesson we see Jesus heal a man with leprosy - a condition that was not curable at the time and was more than a physical problem. The disease left the man an outcast who desperately needed help. When Jesus met this man, he showed both his amazing compassion and incredible power - he looked on the man with love, was willing to help and able to heal.

We want the children to understand that this was not an isolated incident. Jesus is the same today - he cares for all of his people, he wants to help them and has the power to do so. We want the children to be confident that they can go to Jesus whenever they have a problem and trust that Jesus is willing and able to help them.

Pray and read the Bible passage. Read **Where are we going** and **Look at the passage** to give you a better understanding of how to apply the truth.



### Look at the passage

### A Poorly Man (v40)

In the action movie that Mark is making, the events he selects help us see why Jesus is good news. The man with leprosy was in desperate need - he had an incurable condition that affected his whole life. He was cut-off socially, physically, and spiritually. He had

Here is a simple explanation of leprosy as you prepare and if you would like to explain it in the lesson. Leprosy is a disease caused by a type of bacteria. It spreads by coughing and sneezing. Leprosy affects the skin and nerve endings. People can't feel sensations like hot, cold and pain, so they can permanently damage their fingers, toes and limbs due to injuries. In Jesus' time, leprosy was not treatable. Now it can be treated with medication.

continued →

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to live away from others to stop the disease spreading and was excluded from the temple as he was declared unclean (Lev 13:9-33).

He came to Jesus, believing that Jesus had the power to help him. His words revealed a deeper fear - would Jesus be willing? Did Jesus really care about him, someone no-one else would go near?

## A Powerful Jesus (v41-42)

Jesus' response oozes power and love, showing that nobody is beyond his ability to help or beyond the extent of his care. Jesus calmed the man's deepest fears. Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand to touch the untouchable man, and immediately the leprosy left - incredible!

This is the brilliant Jesus we meet in Mark's gospel, the perfect mix of power AND compassion, reaching into desperate situations and broken hearts. Jesus is the same today, just as moved by the struggles and sorrows of our world, just as ready to reach into our lives with power and compassion to help.

## A life transformed (v43-45)

The scene ends with the man heading to the synagogue, somewhere he couldn't have set foot moments before. The man wasn't just healed physically, his life was totally transformed socially and spiritually too. He was so excited that he couldn't stay silent, spreading the news to everyone he met.

This is the amazing Jesus we meet in Mark. Jesus who is willing and able to help with all of our problems. Jesus who reaches into desperate situations and transforms whole lives.



### Win my heart

What is the biggest problem separating you from God or other people? It might not be a physical problem like the man with leprosy had, but perhaps something keeps you on the outside or feeling like you are on the outside, distant from other people or distant from God. Often we think that Jesus only cares about things in the "Church", "Ministry", or "Christian life" box. We don't believe that he cares about the practical, physical or emotional challenges we all face so we are slow to bring them to him, or we come without really expecting to get the help we so desperately need.

*For your heart, before  
you prepare the lesson.*

The wonderful good news is that Jesus cares about the whole of our lives. He wants to help in all of our struggles and is powerful enough to do so. We can come to Jesus with whatever breaks us, hurts us, distances us from God or other people or keeps us up at night. We might not get exactly the help we ask for, but we can be confident that Jesus *will* help and *will* transform our lives.

## Questions for your heart

- Do you think more about Jesus' compassion, Jesus' power, or neither?
- What difference would it make for you to trust that Jesus has both the power and compassion to help you?

continued →





## 5 minutes to focus on your group

Do the children in your group really grasp the power that Jesus has to help? Do they believe that Jesus wants to help *them* and really cares about the problems that they have and the hurt that they feel? How can you help the children to be amazed that Jesus had the power to make someone better immediately - no waiting, no medicine?

*What do the children in  
your group need?*

*Pray that the Spirit  
would help them:*

- *to grasp the truth*
- *to live it out*

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## All together time



*This has been written as an all-age slot to introduce the whole church family to what the children are learning today, but it could be adapted for the children's classes.*



### Props

A box / bag of normal childhood remedies (ice pack, plaster, calpol, skin cream), an empty box / bag, a large sheet of paper with a speech bubble drawn on, strong arm emoji and heart emoji to add / draw on to the bubble.



### What to Say



### What to Do

I have some things here that might help us when we are unwell.

Put your hand up if you've ever been given one of these:

- A wet paper towel/ice-pack in school, which basically helps with everything!
- A plaster for your bumped knee
- Calpol for your bad cold / hot head
- Cream for your itchy eczema
- A drink of water for your sore tummy - every mum tells you this!

There are so many things we can use to help us feel better.

Have a bag / box filled with "cures".  
Hold up items as you talk.  
Notice responses.

In today's Bible story we meet a man who was unwell. He had a disease called leprosy which meant his skin was sore with blotchy spots. People with leprosy can't feel things properly like hot, cold and pain, so they can badly hurt their fingers and toes.

This man had a problem. No cure! If you catch leprosy today, there are medicines to make you better. But in those days, there was no medicine or cream - nothing anyone could do. And leprosy wasn't like a cold that goes away after a few days, if you had leprosy it didn't go away - ever.

Have a second bag / box with nothing in it.

Show empty box.

But this man had an even bigger problem. People with leprosy had to live outside the town. Other people were scared that they would catch it so the man had to stay away from everyone. He was never invited over for tea, never had a hug, never laughed with his friends. He couldn't get a job and he couldn't worship God with the other people.

continued →

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## What to Say

## What to Do

Imagine how sad and sore and lonely this man was - his friends and family would have tried to help and care for him - but they couldn't get too close and they couldn't make him better.

His illness kept him apart from everyone.

This man heard about Jesus, about the amazing things he did and how he could make people better. So the man came to Jesus on his knees and said, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

The man believes that Jesus can help him. He knows Jesus has the power.

But he isn't sure if Jesus will help him. Does Jesus want to?

This man is used to everyone staying away from him, used to being ignored. It felt like nobody cared about him.

Would Jesus be any different? Would he really want to help?

Jesus did something amazing - he reached out and touched the man - the man that no one else would touch.

Jesus had a brilliant answer: I am willing, BE CLEAN!

Immediately the man was cured - no delay, no need to wait for some medicine to work - the man was cured straight away.

What an amazing day, what a difference Jesus made.

The man's whole life was transformed, changed in a moment.

Before he was on the outside, apart from people with no hope of help.

After he met Jesus, the man could go into the town, see his friends, find a job and worship God with other people.

Jesus was good news for that man - he could help when no one else could.

Show picture 1.

Alternatively act out with a volunteer, kneeling with bandages around their hands/feet.

*Hold up a speech bubble.*

*Draw/stick a strong arm emoji on the bubble.*

*Draw / stick a heart emoji on the bubble.*

*Show picture 2. If using a volunteer, have the bandages drop off and the person leap for joy.*

continued →



## What to Say

Jesus is good news for us today.

Show *strong arms* - He has the power to help us, to help you with the things that make you sad.

The times you feel on your own, when nobody wants to play with you.

The things you feel you can't change, like your best friend moving to another school.

Jesus is more powerful than anyone else, he can help.

*Make a heart shape with your hands* - And Jesus is willing to help all of us. He doesn't only help people he knows well, Jesus cared for a man he'd only just met. He changed the man's whole life.

Jesus knows and cares about you. He is willing to help you and has the power to help you - are you ready to ask for his help?

Pray/sing to finish

## What to Do

*Ask the children to join in showing you their strong arms and making a heart shape.*







## 7s and under



### Get going

### Make them Better

Have a number of play figures, (or use plastic cups / paper dolls) and place them on a table on the opposite side of the room. Have a pile of sticking plasters ready for the children to use.

The children have to take it in turns to "make them better" by running across the room and putting a plaster on all the "poorly people".

➡ **Link:** When we are poorly, we might need a plaster, an ice-pack or some medicine to make us better. In today's story we will meet a very poorly man. Let's find out what he needed to make him better.



### Teaching time

### A Poorly Man (v40)

Talk to the children about what helps them to feel better when they are poorly. Take answers, e.g. lying on the sofa, plasters, medicine.

The man who came to meet Jesus today was very poorly, he had a disease called leprosy. *Hold up your spoon and draw a sad face on it.*

The man's leprosy meant that blotchy spots appeared on his body, *draw spots on the face and handle of one side of the spoon or give the children sticky dots to stick on.* He couldn't feel his hands and feet very well and could get really easily hurt.

Explain to the children that leprosy can be cured today, but there was no medicine then. Other people didn't want to catch leprosy so the man had to stay away from everyone and live outside the town. *Talk to the children about some of the things the man wouldn't have been able to do, e.g. see his friends, play football, go to school etc.*

Having leprosy was really bad news.

*Show picture 1*

So when the man heard about good news Jesus, he went to find him and ask him to help. "I know that you can heal me if you will," he said.

continued →



### Notes

*Flexible resource: look at both lesson plans, pick what works for your group.*

*Use this activity to introduce today's theme.*

*Use a suitable Bible translation - we use the International Children's Bible (found online at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)).*

**You will need:** Some childhood remedies - plaster / blanket, a large wooden spoon, pens, story pictures (see pages 17 & 18) ready to show the children.

## A Powerful Jesus (v41-43)

There are two big things for us to notice in this story:

- Power – *get them all to show you their muscles.*
- Heart – *can they put their hands on their heart / make a heart shape with their hands.*

Does Jesus have the power to make this man better? Remember, nobody else could make him better, not even the cleverest doctor.

Does Jesus care enough about this man who he hasn't met before to want to make him better?

Tell the children to listen carefully as you read what happened. *Read verse 41-42 from ICB.*

*Flip your spoon around, show the other side and draw a smiling face on it.*

Use your spoon to explain the story again. Hold up the spoon and remind the children that nobody would touch this man or even come near him. But Jesus touched him and said "be healed". Help the children to understand that healing came straight away, not after a day in bed or some medicine. *Flip your spoon around and draw a smiling face on the other side.*

WOW! Jesus has the power to help and cares enough to want to help – what good news!

Jesus was good news for the man and he is good news for us today. Jesus has the power to help us with all of our problems. This man was lonely and sad because of his illness – Jesus helped him. Jesus wants to help with all of the things that make us sad. He cares for us so much that he always helps when we ask him.

*Show picture 2.* Look at the difference Jesus made to this man's life, he really is good news.



*Some of the children might ask questions about things it hasn't felt like Jesus has helped with. Use the opportunity to start conversations about Jesus always helping, but not always in the way that we ask him to. He still helps and he still cares. Perhaps you could have your own example ready to share if questions come up.*


*A chance to rest the children's minds before Heart and Hands. Get moving and have fun with this game.*



### Brain break

### Powerful Words

Play a game of "Simon Says", the children stand in a group and are given various instructions – "pat your head", "jump on the spot", "wave your hands" – they should only follow your instructions if you say, "Simon says pat your head." If they do something when Simon didn't say – they are out and sit down.

 **Link:** In today's Bible story we saw the amazing power of Jesus. He said, "Be healed" and the man was healed – that only happens when Jesus says it, his words are amazingly powerful!

continued →

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## Heart & hands

### Craft time – Jesus Heals

**Before the lesson:** Cut out the inside of the man, creating a man-shaped hole in the card. Cut along the dashed lines, creating two slots, and fold the card in half.

**During the lesson:** Children draw a happy face on the inside of the card in the correct place. On the paper you slide up and down, draw dots all over it. Slot the sliding paper into the middle of the card with the tabs showing on the back. Finally stick the two sides together being careful not to stick the sliding part.

 **Link:** In our story today Jesus healed the man with leprosy. When Jesus says he is healed, lift the sliding part to reveal the healed man.

### Think time

**Big question:** How did Jesus make the man better? *He touched him and spoke.*

**A follow up question:** Who does Jesus want to help? *Everyone!*

### Pray

Dear God, thank you for Jesus, thank you that he is good news for us. Thank you that he has amazing power to heal and help and thank you that he cares about each one of us so much that he wants to help. Amen.



*Make a craft and have a chat. Give the children time to reflect on today's big truth, so it can impact their hearts.*

**You will need:** Page 19 printed onto card, red/orange pens, scissors, white card, glue.

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**Get Going**



**Teaching Time**



**Brain Break**



**Heart & Hands**



**8s and over**



**Get going**

### Match the Opposites

Have a number of pairs of opposites e.g. hot & cold, up & down, in & out, beginning & end, tall & short, young & old, sick & well. Have a list of the first parts ready to read out, with the opposite written on large pieces of paper that you have placed on the other side of the room. As you read each word from the list, the children have to run and stand by the correct opposite from all the options. Try to make some of these harder to increase the challenge. *Depending on numbers, you could play this in teams racing each other.*



**Link:** Today we are going to see Jesus demonstrate his power to totally change someone's life. A man starts off sick, he ends up healed - completely the opposite!



**Teaching time**

Ask the children if they have ever seen a makeover show where a house, a room or a garden is totally transformed. Usually the person needs help to make the change, they don't have the money, or the time, or the skills to make the transformation - then someone arrives and transforms everything... you could look up a clip, ask how they would make over their bedrooms.

Today in Mark's gospel we have an amazing transformation - before and after...

### Before v40

*Stick up / work together on sheet 1 - "Before", read v40 and talk about the scene.*

Explain to the children what leprosy is. We have given a simple explanation in the leader's notes if you would like to use that. Make sure they are clear that there was no cure then, today there is.

Because there was no cure, people with leprosy had to live separately, outside the town. People were so scared they would catch it that people with the disease had to keep away even from their friends and family.

continued →



**Notes**

*Flexible resource: look at both lesson plans, pick what works for your group.*

*Use this activity to introduce today's theme.*

*Use a suitable Bible translation - we use the International Children's Bible (found online at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)).*

#### **You will need:**

Large sheets of paper titled BEFORE & AFTER, pens, Bible passage to look at together.

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Try to get the children to think about some of the consequences - nobody to play with, nobody to talk to, no job, no football, etc.

- How do you think the man felt? *Write answers on the page.*
- How do you think the man looked? *Draw / write answers on the page.*

Leprosy was bad news.

This man had heard good things about Jesus because he came to him and said, "I know that you can heal me if you will."

The man seems certain that Jesus has the power to heal him, he seems to be unsure whether Jesus wants to help him.

Would you have the same question? Would you be certain of Jesus' power, but unsure whether he cared about you? Or might you think something different?

## After v41-43

*Stick up / work together on scene 2 - "After". Read the verses and talk about the scene.*

Talk about Jesus having both the power to help and being caring enough to want to. Help the children to see the double surprise. Power - if this man had been in your family, you might have really cared and wanted to help - but you wouldn't have the power. Care - Jesus cares about a man he has only just met, so much that he wants to help him.

- What surprising thing does Jesus do to a man with a contagious condition? *He touches him.*
- How does Jesus make the man well? *He touches him and speaks.*
- How long does it take for the man to be made well? *Straight away, immediate.*
- Which part of this meeting would have made the crowd gasp loudest?
- What is the "after" scene for the man? *Draw/write answers on the sheet. If necessary ask more prompting questions, e.g. what does he look like, how does he feel? What difference does it make? The man can meet with people again, see friends, get a job, live in the town.*

The man's life has been totally transformed, the before and after are complete opposites. Jesus had the power to heal the man, to totally change his life. Only Jesus could have made this change, only Jesus had both the power and the care to help.

Read v45 and look briefly at the man's response. The man cannot keep quiet about this good news - he tells everyone he meets about Jesus and what he has done for him.

There is a before and an after. The before scene is full of bad news - leprosy is bad news, we might have different bad news in our lives, but we all face things that make us feel lonely, sad, on the outside, frightened.

Jesus made the difference, he came as good news. His power, his care, his ability to help and his wanting to help transformed the man's life. Jesus is the same today, he can help and he really cares, so much that he wants to help - are you ready to ask him to help you?

continued →



*Some of the children might ask questions about things it hasn't felt like Jesus has helped with. Use the opportunity to start conversations about Jesus always helping, but not always in the way that we ask him to. He still helps and he still cares. Perhaps you could have your own example ready to share if questions come up.*

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## Brain break

### Stuck in the Mud

This version of stuck in the mud has a twist. One person runs around sticking the people they catch. The twist is that there is only one person who can free the stuck people. The sticker does not know who this person is. Everyone can touch the stuck people, but only the player who says the words 'I am willing' while touching a stuck person releases them to run around again.

➡ **Link:** In our story, Jesus touched the man with leprosy and spoke to him to heal him. In our game the only person who could release those stuck had to touch and speak to them.



## Heart & hands

### Did you spot it?

- What problems did the man have? *Let's get at least three!*
- What did he want Jesus to do?
- What was Jesus' answer?

### Work it out

- We expect the man to say, "Will you heal me?". Why do you think he says, "If you are willing?"
- How was Jesus good news even in that bad situation? What do we discover about Jesus?

### Live it out

- Which do you find harder to believe - that Jesus has the power to help or that he cares about your problem?
- How does knowing that Jesus cares enough to want to help encourage you?
- What difference could it make to hard things in your life if you believed that Jesus cared and could help?
- *Could you write down a problem that you have. You don't need to show it to anyone else. Do you think Jesus CAN help? Do you think he WANTS to help? Do you know what you want to ask him? Can you think of the different ways he might decide to help? Is there one question or thought you want to share with the group?*

continued →



*A chance to rest the children's minds before Heart and Hands. Get moving and have fun with this game.*

*We have found that this is where children make the most progress relating the Bible to their everyday lives. Please leave enough time for this section.*

*These questions can mostly be found on the Chat Time (see p.21) sheet which has been designed to aid your discussion. If possible, enlarge the page to A3 so you can work on it together. Make sure each child can still answer the personal questions honestly for themselves (e.g. hand out Post-it notes for them to write/draw their answers to these questions).*

*We suggest giving children slips of paper to write something down. Prayer idea - ask the children to hold the problem they have written tight in their hand and to pray out loud or in their heads.*

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## Extra stretch

- This short scene ends with the man healed, surrounded by people talking about what Jesus did - totally different from the start. Where is Jesus at the end? *Roles reversed.*
- People from everywhere are coming to Jesus - why do you think that is?
- It is amazing that Jesus can heal - why do you think he didn't just carry on doing that forever?

## Pray

Thank Jesus that he is able to help, that he has the power to transform and change our lives and that he cares about us so much that he wants to help. Talk to him about things that are happening in your life where you need his help and want to know his care for you.



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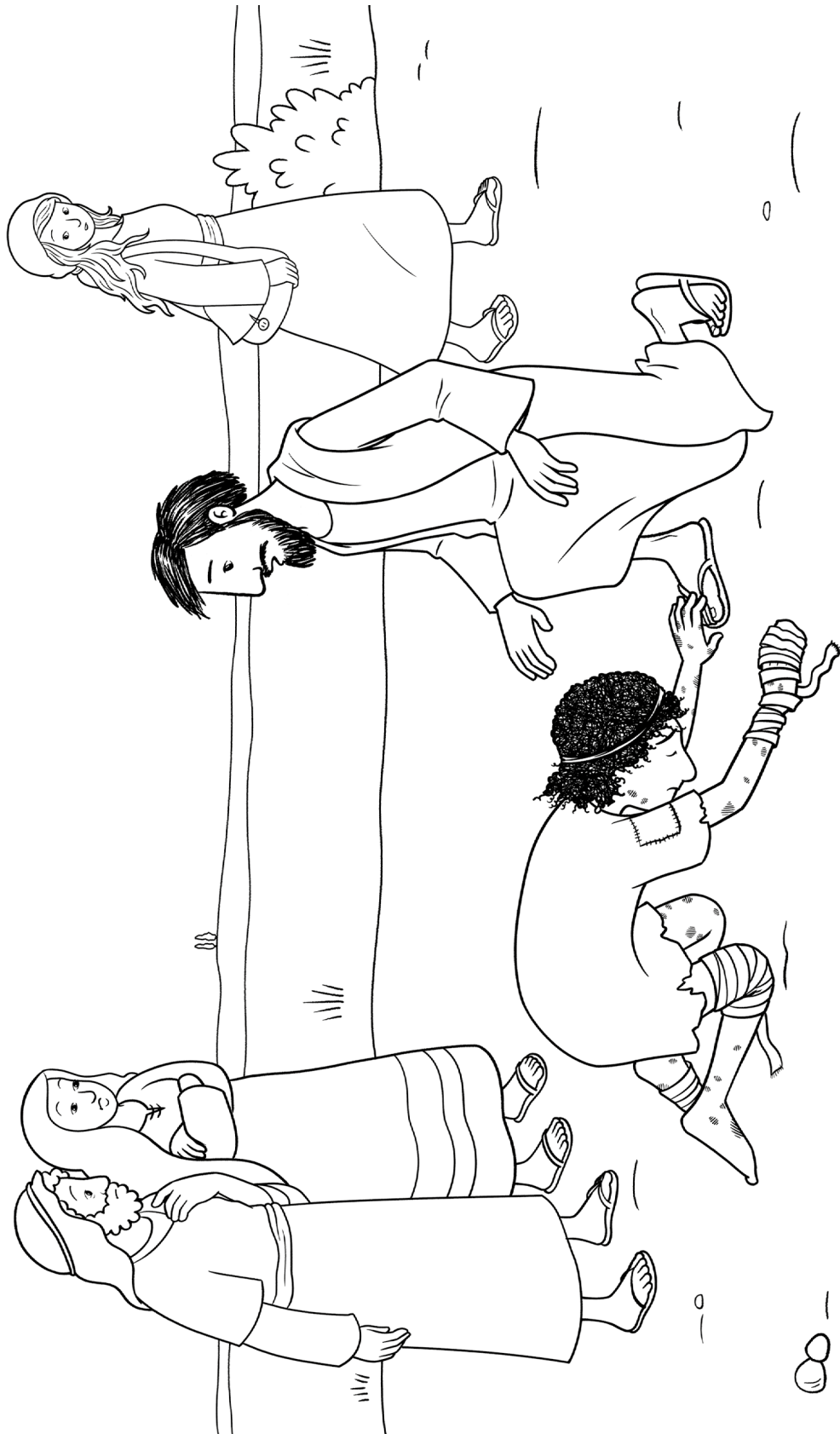


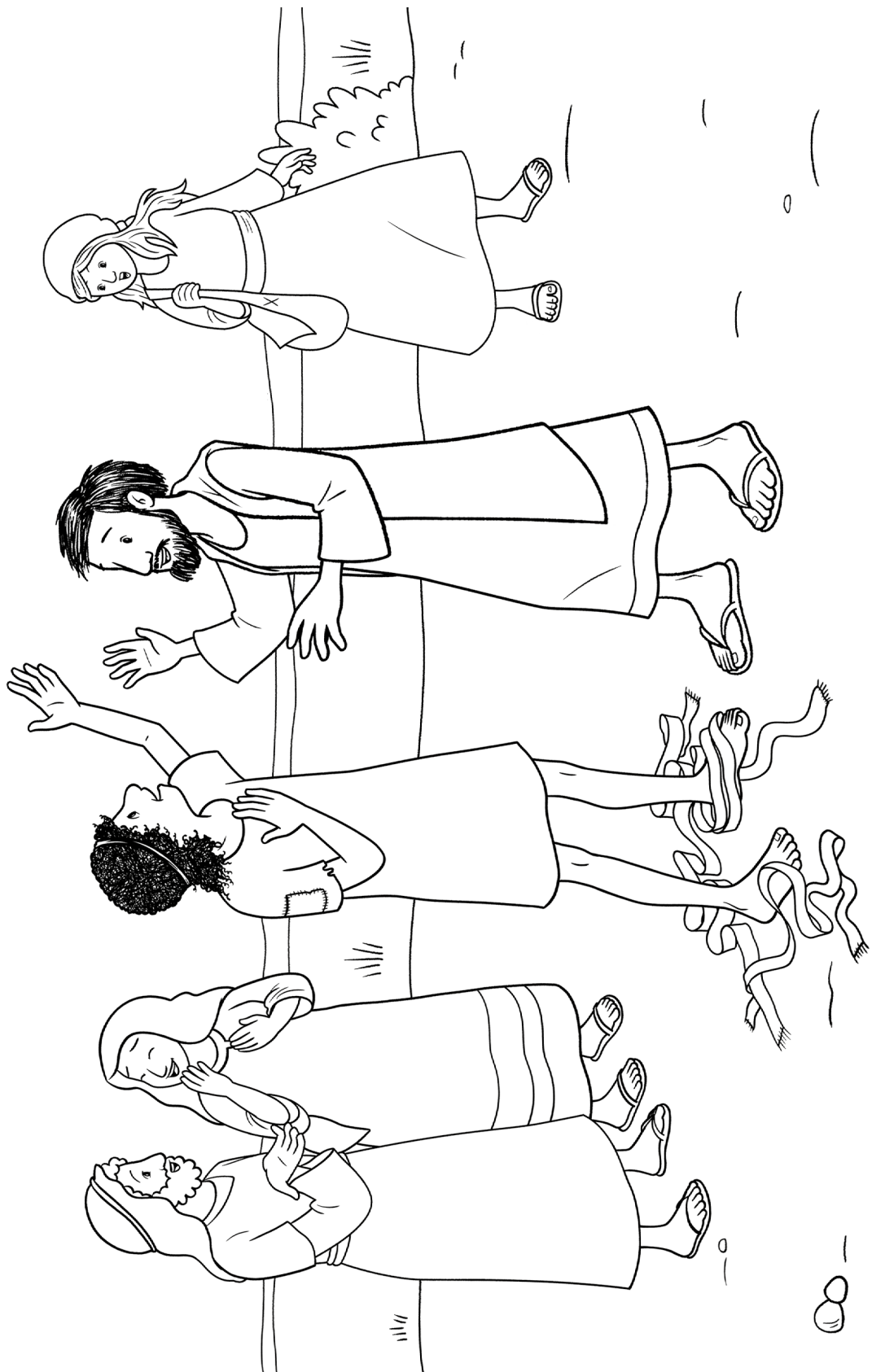
# JESUS HEALS

## LESSON 2

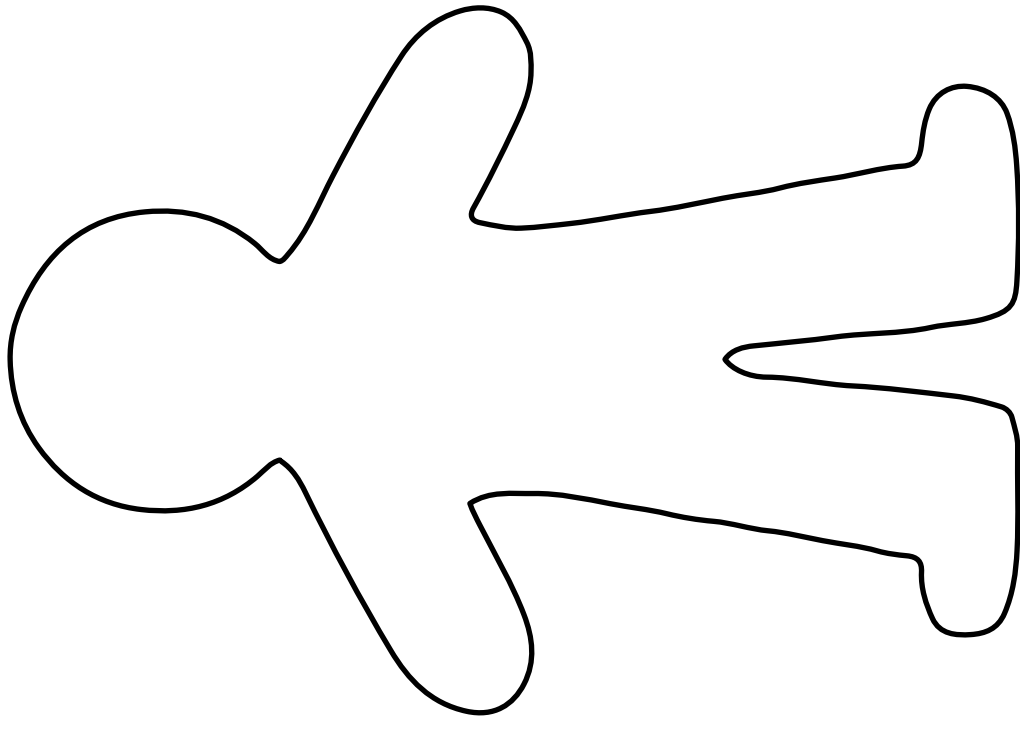




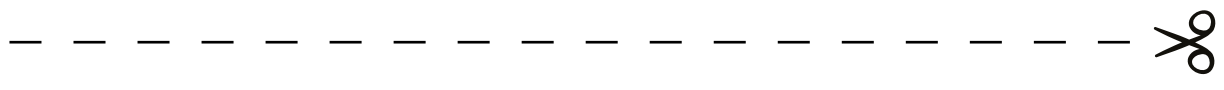
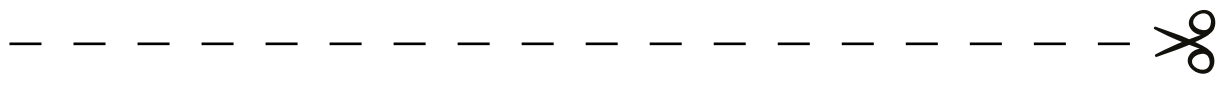


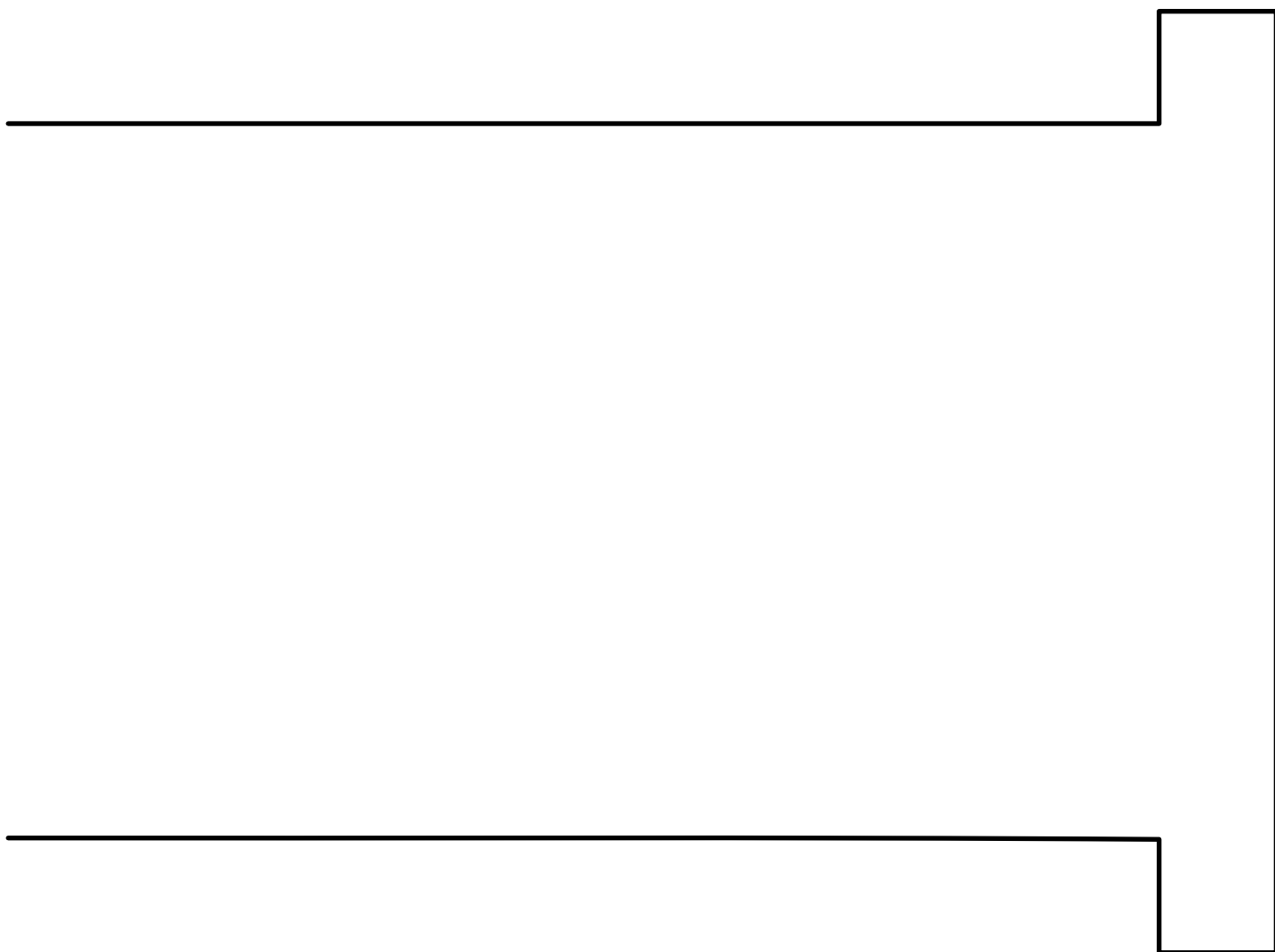


Jesus heals



**Mark 1:40-45**







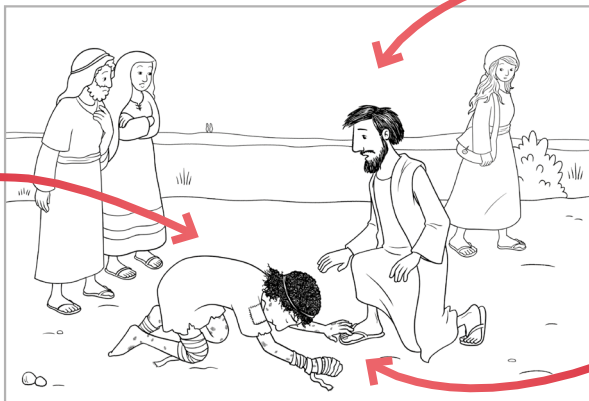
# Heart & Hands Chat Time



## Did you spot it?

**What problems did the man have?**  
(Can you list 3!)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**What did he want Jesus to do?**

**What was Jesus' answer?**



## Work it out

**We expect the man to say, "Will you heal me?"  
Why do you think he says, "If you are willing?"**



**How was Jesus good news even in that bad situation?**



## Live it out

**Which do you find harder to believe - that Jesus has the power to help or that he cares about your problem?** (circle your answer)



**Power**



**Care**

**What difference could it make if you believed that Jesus cared and could help?**

**How does knowing that Jesus cares enough to want to help encourage you?**

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# Take Home Sheet

Carry on the conversation at home and build faith with us!



## Truth that changes me:

Good news! Jesus is willing and able to heal and help.



## Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who take their problems to Jesus, knowing that he cares and has the power to help.



Look at the picture from today's story – you could colour it in, then choose a path to follow:

- "Talk together" gently starts a conversation about today's big truth.
- "Open the Bible" encourages you to read and apply the truth together.

## Talk Together

Read the verses: "A man who had a harmful skin disease came to Jesus. The man fell to his knees and begged Jesus, 'I know that you can heal me if you will.' Jesus felt sorry for the man. So he touched him and said, 'I want to heal you. Be healed!'" At once the disease left the man, and he was healed." Mark 1:40-42

Use the picture and the verse to work out:

- What problem did the man have?
- What did Jesus do? (Several answers!)
- What do you think about what Jesus did?

Jesus showed that he had both the power to heal and that he cared enough about the man to want to help, this is good news for us. Can you tell me...

- 3 times when you were unwell.
- 2 treatments you have been given.
- 1 piece of good news from this Bible story.

**Live it out:** Look out for opposites this week – food raw/cooked, doors open/close, bowls full/empty. What made the change? In our story, Jesus changed the man's life completely. This week look out for a problem that you can ask Jesus to help you with.

**A prayer to pray:** Dear God, thank you that Jesus had the power to help the man. Thank you that he cares for us and can help us, whatever problems we have. Amen.

## Open the Bible

Read Mark 1:40-45 and use the picture to talk about some of the following questions:

### 7s and under

- What problem did the man have?
- What did Jesus do for him?
- What good news is there for you in this story?

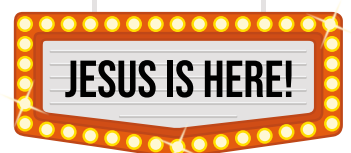
### 8s and over

- Why was leprosy a really big problem for this man?
- What is good about what Jesus does and says?
- What does that tell you about Jesus?

**Live it out:** Think about different problems you can have. Who do you ask and where do you go for help? The man knew that Jesus was someone with extraordinary power so he took his problems to him. How could you take your problems to Jesus too? What help could you ask Jesus for?

**Pray:** Thank God that Jesus has the power to heal and help and that Jesus cares and wants to help. Ask him to help you trust in his power to help with even your biggest problems. Pray for anyone you know who needs help with something, that they would ask Jesus for the help they need.

**GOOD NEWS**  
from Mark





**Faith in Kids exists to encourage, inspire and equip influencers of faith in children with support, training and resources.**

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