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## John 5:1-18

## Leader Guide

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### Teachers Dig In

#### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: John 5:1-18
- In This Passage: Jesus goes to a pool where sick people often hang out hoping to be healed by the power of the bubbling water in the pool. One lame man is never able to get there soon enough, so Jesus heals him. The religious leaders get mad, but Jesus is God, and he tells them so.
- Bible Point: Jesus is God.
- Summary Verse: "Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:3).

#### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is God.* Jesus is God in human form to show us the heart of God and his love for us. Because Jesus lived in human form, kids can read about tangible and specific events involving God. Recognizing that Jesus is God helps them realize that God's amazing power can be real in their lives.
- Think About: How would you describe God? How would you describe Jesus? What are the differences and similarities in your descriptions?

#### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids in your group to understand that Jesus shows them who God is.

#### Quick Tip

- Dig In's debriefing process involves a lot of questions discussed in pairs and small groups. That gives kids a chance to talk about what they experience and "own" faith concepts and discoveries.



## This Lesson at a Glance



### BIBLE MESSAGE

Kids blow bubbles in water and see what happens.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- drinking straws (1 per child)
- disposable cups of water (1 per child)



### PRAYER

A willing child leads a group prayer while everyone else prays along.



### JESUS CONNECTION

Kids act out similarities between God and Jesus.



### SCRIPTURE SKILLS

Kids try to mirror a partner's movements.

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- "Hands-On Bible: Books of the Bible Poster Set" (purchase [here](#))



### BIBLE MEMORY

Kids create a Bible verse rap as they learn about psalms in the Bible.



### ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Older kids find matches; younger kids color a picture of the Bible story.

#### Supplies

- "Jesus Heals a Lame Man by a Pool" Activity Page (1 per reader) (download [here](#))
- "Jesus Heals a Lame Man by a Pool" Coloring Page (1 per non-reader) (download [here](#))
- pencils
- crayons
- three-hole punch and binders (optional)



### OVERTIME

Kids move in unusual ways.

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.





## BIBLE MESSAGE

### Jesus Heals a Lame Man by a Pool (John 5:1-18)

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- Bible
- drinking straws (1 per child)
- disposable cups of water (1 per child)

#### Discuss

Say: **In today's Bible story, we'll meet a guy who had a problem.**

Ask: • **What's a problem you have?** Share your own example first. You'll help set the tone for kids being vulnerable. Have kids turn to a partner to share. Then ask a few kids to share with everyone.

Say: **Let's find out what problem the man in the Bible had—and how he discovered that Jesus is God.**

#### Blow Bubbles

Open your Bible to John 5, and show kids the words.

Read John 5:2-5.

Say: **Well, that's a problem! This man had been sick for 38 years! That's a long time.**

**But Jesus is God, and Jesus came along and asked the man if he wanted to get better. Let's see what the man answered.**

Read John 5:7.

Say: **Hmm, that might not make a lot of sense to you, so let me explain. The pool he was lying near was filled with water people thought would heal them. Sometimes the water bubbled up, and when it did, they thought the first person to get in the pool would be healed! Let's try something.**

Give each child a cup of water and a drinking straw. Let kids blow bubbles in the water with their straws.

Say: **Now let's see how this water works. When you blow your bubbles, stick your finger in the water and see what happens.** Allow time.

Ask: • **What happened when you put your finger in the water?**

Collect the straws and cups of water.

Say: **Your finger got wet, but nothing amazing happened. That's because healing isn't magic. It's not something a bubbling pool can do. Healing happens through God's power—and Jesus is God. So let's find out what happened next.**

Read John 5:8-9.

Say: **Wow! Jesus healed the man! The man didn't need bubbling water—he needed the healing power of God.**

**When we have problems, we can go to Jesus, too. We can trust that Jesus is God, and he has the power to help us. Even if he doesn't solve the problem in the way we want, Jesus can be there with us and help us through it.**

**Let's go to Jesus with our problems now. Earlier you talked about a problem you have. Find the partner you shared with, and pray together about your problems. You might each pray about your own problem, or you might take turns praying for each other.**



Allow time for prayer.

Say: **Jesus is God**. He heard your prayers, and he has the power to help  
**you!**





## PRAYER Praying With Others

[5 min]

### Pray as a Large Group

Say: **We can pray and talk with Jesus about anything, and he'll hear us—because Jesus is God.**

Sometimes we talk with Jesus by ourselves. Other times we pray all together as a group! You might pray with your family before you eat a meal or with our church family during a worship service. Often, one person prays aloud, and everyone else listens to what that person says. As we listen, our minds think the prayer, too, and our hearts agree with the words we hear.

For example, I may pray aloud, "Dear Jesus, thank you for this day." As you listen, your minds think about your day so far, and your hearts thank Jesus, too!

Ask: • **At what other times might a group of people pray together?**

Say: **Sometimes you can be the person who prays aloud! That's so cool! When you pray, you don't need to worry about saying fancy words or putting on a show. You just talk with Jesus like you're talking with a good friend. You might PRAY like this:**

- **Praise Jesus for being awesome.**
- **Remember something cool Jesus has done.**
- **Ask Jesus to help certain people or situations.**
- **Tell Jesus, "Yes! We want to follow you!"**

Ask a willing child to lead your group in prayer. If no one volunteers, after a few seconds, offer to lead the prayer yourself.

Ask: • **How do you feel knowing that Jesus heard our prayer?**

Say: **Jesus is God. And God is everywhere! So we can pray and talk with Jesus about our needs and know that he hears us.**





## JESUS CONNECTION

Like Father, Like Son

[10 min]

### Create Actions

Say: **When Jesus healed a man, he showed people that Jesus is God. That can be a hard thing to understand—saying that two different things are the same thing. God doesn't ask us to completely understand hard things like that. God's ways are higher than we can imagine! So let's compare God and Jesus to help us get a better idea of what it means that Jesus is God.**

- Divide the room in half. One group of kids will reflect God's actions; the other half will reflect Jesus' actions.
- As you read the following statements about God, kids on the "God" side of the room will come up with an action to show what God did. Then as you read the statements about Jesus, kids on the "Jesus" side will copy the action created by the other side of the room.
- **God showed his power over water and wind when he divided a huge sea. God made the water pile up so his people could walk safely across.** (Exodus 14:21-31) Pause while the "God" group makes up an action.
- **Jesus showed his power over water and wind when he calmed a storm on the sea. That kept Jesus' friends safe from drowning.** (Matthew 8:23-27) Pause while the "Jesus" group imitates the first group's action.
- **God provided bread from heaven to feed his hungry people in the wilderness.** (Exodus 16:14-35) Pause.
- **Jesus used a few loaves of bread to feed more than 5,000 hungry people.** (John 6:5-14) Pause.
- **God helped a widow when he brought her son back to life.** (1 Kings 17:17-24) Pause.
- **Jesus helped a widow when he brought her son back to life.** (Luke 7:11-17) Pause.
- **God used people called prophets to tell his messages and show his power.** Pause.
- **Jesus sent his friends out to share the message of God's love, and he gave them his power to do miracles, too.** Pause.

### Talk About Jesus

Have both groups sit down.

Ask: • **What were some of the things you noticed that were the *same* about God and Jesus?**

• **What can this help you discover about Jesus?**

Say: **Just because two things have a lot in common doesn't *always* mean they're the same. But the more we get to know things about God, the more we understand and get to know Jesus. That's because Jesus is God. That can be a hard thing for us to understand—and God doesn't ask that we do! All he asks us to do is trust. As you grow in friendship with God, you're also growing in friendship with Jesus! Because Jesus is God!**





## SCRIPTURE SKILLS

### Move as One

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- “Hands-On Bible: Books of the Bible Poster Set” (purchase [here](#))

#### Tips

- It may take a while for kids to find the Bible verse. That’s okay! This activity is primarily about building Bible navigation skills.
- If you have a lot of non-readers, have some picture Bibles on hand for them to flip through as older kids look up verses. They won’t look for anything specific, but they can look at the pictures to practice paging through Bibles.

#### Explore John 10:30

Say: **Jesus told people that he could do the things he did because Jesus is God. For example, Jesus could heal the man who couldn’t walk! Let’s see what he said in the Bible.**

Make sure kids all have Bibles. Younger kids can sit with older kids so they can observe the skills of using their Bibles even before being able to read.

Say: **Our Bible verse is in the book of John, chapter 10, verse 30. Let’s find the book of John. That’s in the New Testament—which is the later part of the Bible. Open your Bible kind of near the back.** Allow time.

- Point to the book of John on the poster so kids can see the name and what books come before and after it.
- Mention that the chapter numbers are the big numbers, and help kids find the big 10 in John.
- Mention that the verse numbers are the small numbers, and help kids find the small 30 in John 10.
- When everyone has found the verse, ask someone to read John 10:30 aloud.

Say: **Jesus said that he and God are one—they’re the same.**

Ask: • **Tell about someone you have a lot in common with.**

Say: **You may be a lot like that person, but you’re still two different people. Jesus is God. He and God are one in the same. That’s hard to understand, so let’s see if a game can help us understand it.**

#### Move as One

- Form pairs.
- Direct kids to gather near a wall and stand face to face with their partners.
- Clear the space between kids and the opposite wall.
- Have one child in each pair be the Mover, while the other child is the Mirror.
- On your cue, encourage the Movers to move in fun and unique ways as they make their way to the other side of the room, staying face to face with their partners.



- Have the Mirrors attempt to copy their partners' movements as they move across the room. Pairs can only keep moving as long as they are mirroring each other.
- When pairs reach the other side of the room, direct them to switch roles.
- Encourage the new Mirrors to try to copy the movements of the new Movers as they return across the room.

Ask: • **How did this game help you understand what it means that Jesus is God?**

- **What's still confusing?**

Say: **It's hard for us to move in exactly the same way as another person because we're not exactly the same. But if you were looking in an actual mirror, it would copy you perfectly! And that's kind of like how it is for Jesus. It isn't hard for Jesus to do exactly what God does because Jesus is God.**



**BIBLE MEMORY**  
**What He Has Done**

[10 min]

**Tip**

- If you have a large group, form smaller, mixed-age groups, and have each group create a rhythm and rap the song. Just make sure there is an adult, teen helper, or child who can remember the verse in each group.

**Make a Rhythm**

Say: **The Bible is made up of different kinds of writing. Let's learn a Bible verse that comes from the Poetry section of the Bible! It's Psalm 40:3: "Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord."**

The book of Psalms is a collection of prayers, poems, and songs that help us talk with God about what he has done. Since Jesus is God, the verses in Psalms can help us talk with Jesus, too!

Ask: • **What's a poem or song that you like to listen to?**

Say: **Maybe this Bible verse can become a favorite, too! Although this Bible verse was a song, we don't know the tune. So let's put the words to a beat we can sing—or rap!**

- First, have kids come up with a rhythm together by clapping and patting their thighs or the floor. For example, "Clap, clap, pat, pat" or "Clap, pat, clap, clap pat."
- Then kids will try rapping the verse to the beat. Laughter and silliness are welcome! Let kids have fun as they come up with a way to rap the verse together.
- Help kids remember the words as needed, but resist the temptation to create the rap for them. Let them use their creativity!
- Have kids take turns leading the rap for each other, imagining they're leading a large group of people. Have fun with it, and let kids take a bow afterward.

**Talk About It**

Say: **The "he" in this verse is talking about God. And since Jesus is God, "he" is talking about Jesus, too!**

Ask: • **How does music help you talk with Jesus?**

Say: **A lot of the psalms were praises to God, and I think we just praised him as we rapped the verse. And remember, Jesus is God—so we praised Jesus! I wonder what the man Jesus healed did to praise him!**





## ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

### The Perfect Match

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- “Jesus Heals a Lame Man by a Pool” Activity Page (1 per reader) (download [here](#))
- “Jesus Heals a Lame Man by a Pool” Coloring Page (1 per non-reader) (download [here](#))
- pencils
- crayons
- three-hole punch and binders (optional)

#### Tip

- **WARNING!** Don't just print and distribute! [Here's why.](#)

#### Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **Jesus is God. He had God's power to heal the man by the pool, because he and God are a perfect match! Let's find perfect matches.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will identify which image in each sequence is a perfect match to the first one on the line.

Ask: • **How could you tell which pictures were the same?**

• **How can you tell Jesus is God?**

Say: **Jesus is God. He showed it in the miracles he did and what he keeps doing for us!**

**ANSWER KEY:** A, A, B, C, A

#### Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **When a man who couldn't walk was waiting by a pool for healing, he met Jesus! Jesus is God, so Jesus healed him! Let's color a picture of that.**

Allow time for kids to color.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.



**OVERTIME**  
Miraculous Moves

[10 min]

**Move Around**

Say: **Because Jesus is God, Jesus could heal people! The man Jesus healed stood up and moved on his legs for the first time in 38 years! Let's try moving different ways.**

- Have everyone spread out, then call out moves for them to try.
- Use these suggested moves: pretend to roll up a mat like the man by the pool, hop, walk backward, hop like a toad, stomp around, wiggle your body, lie on the ground and roll like a log, crawl as slowly as you can, only take left turns, walk with your elbows glued to your knees, and do high knees.
- Extend the game by repeating moves while kids pretend they're carrying an imaginary mat on their shoulders or held between their knees.
- Let the game keep going as long as needed to fill time until parents begin to arrive.