

Katie



The Sunday School Lady



JOHN 9 THE MAN BORN BLIND

Scripture: John 9:1-12, 9:35-41

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: 2 Blindfolds (one that can have mud put on it), Poster board with a target drawn on it, arrows cut out from end of lesson, tape, bucket of mud, bucket of water.

Explain:

Today we're going to talk about a miracle that Jesus did. A lot of times Jesus' miracles fixed a physical problem, but also pointed to a spiritual problem. Let's see if we can figure out today what this miracle teaches us.

It is also important to know that in this time, people considered any problem of physical issue that a person was born with to be a result of sin. Think about how hard that would be. Say you were born without being able to walk. That would be so hard in and of itself. But then imagine that everyone thinks you must deserve it because you or your parents were sinners. That would make a hard situation even harder. Let's see what Jesus says about this.

Read: John 9:1-12

Act it out:

Have a person play Jesus and another the man born blind. Blindfold the child who is playing the blind man. Have other students lead him/her to Jesus. Have Jesus take mud from the bucket and rub it on the blindfold. Have the friends of the blind man lead him to the bucket of water, where he will take off the blindfold and wash it in the bucket.

Read or Summarize: John 9:13-34

Act it out:

Depending on the length of your lessons, you can have the kids act this out as well. Have a group designated as the Pharisees to investigate, include the man's mother and father.

Explain:

Point out that this man is in a way being disowned by his own parents. They fear being kicked out of the Synagogue if they proclaim that Jesus did this miracle for their son. So instead of sticking up for their son, he has to stand alone on his testimony.

Ask:

How would you feel as the man?

They threw him out. He went from being an outcast, to being healed, to being thrown out.

What would you do in that situation?

Why do you think the Pharisees were so upset?

Jesus healed the man physically, what can this point to spiritually?

Read: John 9:35-41

Explain:

I love how Jesus went and found the man. He was probably feeling awful, alone and abandoned. But Jesus finds him and tells him who he is.

Some Pharisees also see this and wonder, "Are we blind, too?" And Jesus tells them that because they claim they can see, they are guilty of sin.

In the beginning of the story, the disciples wondered if the man or his parents had sinned to make him blind. At the end, Jesus claims that if the Pharisees were blind, they wouldn't be in sin. But because they claim they can see, they are guilty.

You see, the Pharisees thought they had the law figured out. They studied it and lived very righteous lives. But their hearts were far from God, and they refused to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In their pride, they were blind spiritually, which is a far greater problem than being blind physically. Thankfully, Jesus can heal both kinds of blindness!

Play a Game:

Play a version of pin the tail on the donkey. But it will be pin the arrow on the target. On a poster board, draw a target. Cut out the arrows at the end of the lesson. Blindfold kids and have them try to pin the arrow on the bullseye.

You are going to be blind like a Pharisee. See, the Pharisees knew a lot, but they continually missed the mark. They misunderstood and didn't realize that the laws of God were meant to show them their sinfulness. The laws of God were meant to point them to their need for a savior, not make them think they were perfect. Jesus came to fulfill the law. No one else can. And through him, we can see. because he is the light of the world.

Ask:

What ways can we be spiritually blind? (We can think we're better than people, we can forget that we need Jesus)

This week, let's pray for God to show us sins in our life that we're blind to. Ask him to show you something in your life that needs to change so you can be more like him.

Memorize: John 8:58

Close in Prayer

