

The miracle at the pool



Bible verses:

John 5:1-18
Jesus heals a man at a pool



Aim:

To learn how Jesus annoyed the religious leaders



Today's fruit:

Joy



In this week's story Jesus attended a religious festival and visited a holy pool at a place called Bethesda.

Jesus met a man there who had waited to be healed for 38 years. When the man met Jesus, he was healed and ran to the Temple to give thanks. There were those who were not as joyful about the man's good news – but why would the religious leaders be angry with Jesus for healing someone? We'll discover why in today's *Explore It* session.

Once again, Jesus brings joy into someone's life by healing them. This led to them talking about him to others.

Each child will need:

- Their storybook from Session One or a piece of paper
- Pens/pencils and paper (optional)
- *Joy prayer* handout, scissors, pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Flipchart and pens
- Today's fruit sign: *Joy* (or re-use the poster from Session Three)



Start it

The theme of our *Explore It* sessions this month has been the amazing stories we find in the Bible. For the starter today do a Bible story quiz using emojis. You can run the quiz however you would like. The children can write their answers, or they could simply shout them out. You can stop the clip at any point if you would like a shorter quiz. The video answers are listed below but please accept any answers that have similar meanings.

Video

Guess the Bible Story Bible trivia for kids by Arkkids (5:54)

1. Noah's ark
2. Jonah and the whale
3. Two fish and five loaves
4. Daniel in the lions' den
5. David and Goliath
6. Joseph and his coat of colours
7. Joshua and the walls of Jericho
8. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego [the blazing furnace]
9. The creation of the world
10. Adam and Eve
11. The world flood
12. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
13. The wise men bringing gifts to Jesus
14. The birth of Jesus
15. Peter walking on water
16. Jesus calms the storm
17. Zacchaeus and the sycamore tree
18. Balaam and the donkey (this story has not been mentioned before in *Explore It*)
19. Moses and the Red Sea
20. Jesus turns water into wine

Ask:

Which of these stories would you like to discover more about?



Say:

Our memory verse this month reminds us of the amazing stories Jesus told the people to help them learn more about God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'I will speak using stories;

I will tell things that have been secret since the world was made.'

(Matthew 13:35 *ICB*)



Sing it

Say:

In our story today we will meet a man who is healed by Jesus after 38 long years of waiting. His heart was full of thanksgiving. We're going to sing a song of thanksgiving together before we dive into this story.

Song

'Lord I Thank You' official kids worship music Video by Yancy & Little Praise Party (2:49)



Tell it

Say:

Jesus attended a religious festival in Jerusalem and visited a holy pool at a place called Bethesda. The pool was always surrounded by many sick and injured people who hoped that going into the waters would cure them. Let's watch the clip to find out what happened when Jesus arrived at the pool of Bethesda.

Video

Jesus Heals at the Pools of Bethesda God's story by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:15)

Ask:

- Why did people come to the pool at Bethesda?
- How long had some of the people been waiting by the pool?
- Why do you think they were willing to wait so long?

Say:

There wasn't really any healing power in the water, but Jesus was there to bring real healing to a man that day.

Read:

'There was a man lying there who had been sick for 38 years. Jesus saw the man and knew that he had been sick for a very long time. So Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be well?"

'The sick man answered, "Sir, there is no one to help me get into the pool when the water starts moving. I try to be the first one into the water. But when I try, someone else always goes in before I can.'"

(John 5:5-7 *ICB*)

Ask:

Why couldn't the man get into the pool?

Say:

There were plenty of people that could have helped the man get to the water, but they either chose not to or were too busy trying to get to the water themselves. There are lots of people in our world today who have a disability and are often excluded from activities.

Ask:

- In what ways can we help people with disabilities to be fully included in our church and community?
- How frustrating do you think it was to wait 38 years and never make it to the pool?
- Jesus asked the man, 'Do you want to be well?' Do you think this was a strange question? If so, why?

Read:

'Then Jesus said, "Stand up. Pick up your mat and walk." And immediately the man was well. He picked up his mat and began to walk.'

(John 5:8-9 *ICB*)

Say:

The man stood up and was healed. He rushed to the Temple to give thanks. The religious leaders watched Jesus heal the man.

Ask:

How do you think they reacted?

Say:

Instead of being pleased that the man was healed, the religious leaders were angry.

Read:

'Jesus was doing this on the Sabbath day. So the Jews began to do bad things to him. But Jesus said to them, "My Father never stops working. And so I work, too."

'This made the Jews try harder to kill him. They said, "First Jesus was breaking the law

about the Sabbath day. Then he said that God is his own Father! He is making himself equal with God!”

(John 5:16–18 *ICB*)

Say:

Jesus wasn't following the rules that the religious leaders felt were important. They had followed these rules for a very long time and keeping the Sabbath as a special day was important to the Jewish people. On top of that, Jesus described God as his Father. At this point the religious leaders saw Jesus as a threat and plotted to have him killed.

Action it

The children are going to continue creating their storybooks. If they have forgotten their storybook, then they can use a sheet of paper and stick it into their book when they get home.

Discuss the main events of the story with the children and list them on a flipchart. The last part of the 'God's Story' clip (2:44–3:15) summarises the main events and they are listed below. The children can present the story in any way they would like. It could be a comic strip, poem or even a script for a play. It is completely up to them. Share the stories together once they are complete.

- Jesus went to Jerusalem.
- Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda.
- Sick people gathered around the pool to be healed.
- A man had been waiting 38 years.
- Jesus healed him.
- Jesus told the man to stop sinning because he loved him.
- Jesus loves us too.



Pray it

Ask:

How did the man react when he was healed?

Display the *Joy* sign.

Say:

Jesus brought joy into the life of the man who was healed. The first thing the man wanted to do was give thanks – and that's what we're going to do today.

Give each child a 'Joy' handout. First, they need to cut out the word 'Joy'. Once they have done this ask them to write all the things they are grateful for within the 'Joy' lettering. You may want to play 'Lord I Thank You' while the children write their thanksgiving prayers. To bring the session to a close, ask the children to read out some of the things they are grateful for.

'Lord I Thank You' official kids worship music Video by Yancy & Little Praise Party (2:49)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Today's fruit:

Joy



Explore

At the start of the session this week you took part in a Bible story quiz. There may have been some stories that you hadn't heard of before. Choose one to explore in the Bible and create your own version in your storybook.



Share

Over the past month you have had the chance to write and create stories based on the Bible. Grab your storybook and share what you have created with someone at home.

Which is their favourite story from your storybook?



Song for the week

'Lord I Thank You' official kids worship music Video by Yancy & Little Praise Party (2:49)



Memory verse

'I will speak using stories;
I will tell things that have been secret since the world was made.'

(Matthew 13:35 /CB)

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Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

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Memory verse

**'I will speak using stories;
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(Matthew 13:35 *ICB*)



Start it

Today we are going to hear a story about Jesus and someone who had been ill for a very long time.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of John 5:1-18.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

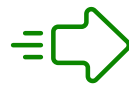
- Do you ever take a rest?
- How do you get well when you are feeling poorly?
- Does everybody in the world have water close by?
- Describe the people who look after your health?
- What do you do when you see somebody who needs help?



Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Aji and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Pretend you are in a swimming pool and enjoying yourself.
- Make the noise of water splashing around you.
- Pretend that Jesus has just healed you and what you would say to him.
- Lie on the ground then roll up your pretend mat and walk away.
- Choose a partner and pretend that one of you is poorly or hurt and the other is helping them.