
PARENT PAGE



Dear Parents,

For the next two months your children will be learning about some of the miracles that Jesus performed while he was here on earth. We will be covering the healing of a paralyzed man, the feeding of the 5000, raising Lazarus and many more.

Below are some ideas to help you teach your child at home and we will reinforce the lessons and truths from God's Word that your child first learned from you. We hope this will be a helpful resource as you teach your children to love God by following Jesus. Thanks for letting us partner with you in that incredible task. We are praying for you and your family!

~ New Hope Kids Leadership Team

Lessons for Jan/Feb 2024

This month's Big Idea (Main Point): Jesus performed many miracles while on earth.

This month's Bible Memory Verse: *Be kind and tender to one another.*

Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.
Ephesians 4:32

Week of Dec. 31 – Jan. 6: A Paralyzed Man is Healed**Read God's Word:** Matthew 9:1-8 and Luke 5:17-26)

Talk About It: This story is fairly short and can be read straight from the Bible. This occurred in Capernaum, which was a home-base for Jesus during his ministry. It is on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

- This story has many details in it that help us envision the setting:
 - The story happened in the home where Jesus was staying
 - The house was so full, no one could even get in the door
 - Four men were carrying this paralyzed man on a mat
 - They removed the roof and made an opening in the house
 - They used some method to lower the man in the house - use your imagination to figure out how they did that!
- These men truly demonstrated faith, because they went out of their way to get this man to Jesus. They just knew that Jesus was going to be able to do something about his situation.
- Jesus' first response to the man was not to heal him, but to forgive his sins. When the scribes accused him of blasphemy for that, Jesus performed the miracle to show that he had the authority both to heal and to forgive sins.

Family Activity: Shoe Box House

Scripture: *Four of those who came were carrying a man who could not walk. But they could not get him close to Jesus because of the crowd. So they made a hole in the roof above Jesus. Then they lowered the man through it on a mat. Mark 2:3-4*

Supplies: shoe box for each student, card stock, markers or crayons, string, hole punch.

- Cut a hole in the top of the shoe box.
- Cut a piece of cardstock just slightly smaller than the hole.
- Tie string to both sides of the card stock and draw a picture of a man lying down.
- Optional: draw pictures of people. Fold the bottom edge back and glue to the bottom of the shoe box to make them stand. These people represent Jesus and others gathered.
- Have students retell story and act out lowering the mat into the shoe box house.

Week of Jan. 8 – Jan. 13: Jesus Calms the Storm**Read God's Word:** Mark 4:35-41**Talk About It:** Here are some highlights and context of the time when Jesus calmed the storm:

- Take note that this story happens after a day of much preaching. He was tired which is why he was able to sleep through such a storm!
- This story happens on the Sea of Galilee, which is known for having sudden storms crop up with violent winds.
- This miracle demonstrates 2 truths about Jesus:
 - Jesus has power over nature
 - Jesus cared for his disciples

(This story is also found in Luke 8:22-25 and Matthew 8:23-27)

Family Activity: Make Lightning

Scripture : *A wild storm came up. Waves crashed over the boat. It was about to sink. Mark 4:37*

- Supplies: aluminum pie pan, piece of wool, tack, pencil with eraser, styrofoam plate
- Push tack through bottom of aluminum pie plate, in center.
- Push pencil eraser onto tack. This will be how you hold the aluminum pan.
- Rub a piece of wool quickly on the styrofoam plate, for about 2 minutes
- Drop aluminum pan onto styrofoam plate, without touching the pan.
- Slowly move your finger toward the aluminum pan.
- You should be able to feel (as see, if dark) the lightning.

Week of Jan. 15 to Jan. 20: Jesus Feeds the 5000**Read God's Word:** John 6:5-15

Talk About It: Jesus fed the 5,000 directly after John the Baptist was beheaded (we learn this in the Matthew and Mark versions of the story). You can use your discretion on whether to tell this part of the story to your children. Jesus' plan was to take his disciples away to a desolate place to recover from this very disturbing development. But at this point in his ministry, Jesus was very popular because of the miracles he was performing.

Even though Jesus was trying to get alone with his disciples, Mark 6:34 tells us, "When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things." This shows us the incredible patience and compassion Jesus has for us!

Jesus was teaching and the day wore on. It was getting late and the crowd was getting hungry. Jesus was trying to get to a desolate place, so they weren't anywhere near a source of food for 5,000 men (and uncounted women and children). When they began talking about how to solve this problem, Jesus challenged his disciples to figure it out. They were stumped. They suggested Jesus just send them home since it would take more than 200 days' wages to feed them. They only had 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish from a boy in the crowd. Surely it wouldn't even be worth giving that out. It would probably just start a riot!

But Jesus told them to have everyone sit down. They had enough faith to obey him, and they started distributing food. We don't know exactly how the miracle occurred, but we know that when they were done distributing food and eating, they gathered up 12 baskets full of bread left over.

The people were amazed at this miracle, and Jesus knew that they planned to try and make him King of Israel by force. That wasn't his plan, so he withdrew to a mountain to be alone - this time where no one could find him.

(This story can also be found in [Matthew 14:13-21](#), [Mark 6:31-44](#), [Luke 9:10-17](#). This is the only miracle, other than the resurrection, that occurs in all four gospels. We strongly recommend you read all accounts of this story to get a full perspective on it.)

Family Activity: Making Baskets

Scripture: *So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten. John 6:13*

Supplies: supplies depend on which basket you choose, bread, Swedish fish candy or goldfish

- Follow directions to weave a basket. <https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/crafts/mbasketweave.htm>
- Place 5 small pieces of bread 2 Swedish fish in the basket.

Week of Jan. 22 – Jan. 27: Jesus Walks on Water**Read God's Word:** [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

Talk About It: Jesus walked on the water directly after the feeding of the 5000. If you remember, Jesus was trying to get to a solitary place after the death of John the Baptist when the crowd descended on him in Bethsaida. So, after he taught them and fed them, he went away to a solitary place to pray and sent his disciples ahead of him to cross the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum. Overnight, another storm popped up on the sea.

Jesus saw that they were struggling to handle the boat in the tough weather, and began walking on the water to go meet them. The disciples saw Jesus approaching and thought it was a ghost (wouldn't you!). Jesus called out to them and told them to be brave. "'Lord, is it you?' Peter asked. 'If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.' (Matthew 14:28) Jesus told him to come, so Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water towards Jesus. As Peter began fearing the winds and the waves, he began to sink. But Jesus picked him up and helped him into the boat. Jesus told Peter that he shouldn't have been afraid, and that he should have trusted him.

We learn from the account in John that as soon as Peter and Jesus got into the boat, it immediately arrived to the other side of the Sea of Galilee - an aspect of this miracle that is often left out.

(This story also appears in [Mark 6:45-52](#) and [John 6:16-21](#). Note that the Matthew account is the only one that explicitly mentions Peter walking on water along with Jesus. We strongly encourage you to read all three accounts to get a full picture of this story.)

Family Activity: Jesus Walks on Water Jello Snack

Heads up! Make jello cups ahead of time

Scripture: *Matthew 14:22-32*

Supplies: cups of blue jello, teddy grahams, banana, knife, cheese or melon-cut into triangle, pretzel sticks

- Make a boat using a banana slice.
- Stick a pretzel stick into the banana.
- Stick a triangle of cheese or melon onto the pretzel to make the sail.
- Have students place the boat on top of the jello.
- Stick a teddy graham into the jello, just far enough so he will stand up.

Week of Jan. 29 – Feb. 3: A Blind Man Sees**Read God's Word:** John 9:1-41

Talk About It: This particular miracle of Jesus healing the man blind from birth is only recorded in John. This miracle is notable for several reasons:

- *The theological question that preceded the miracle:* Jesus' disciples assumed that someone's sin caused this man to be blind. They weren't asking *if* this was the cause. They asked *who* was the cause. Jesus told them that his blindness was not because of sin, but instead would be used to show God's glory.
- *The method Jesus used:* instead of just healing the man with his words, Jesus spit in some dirt, made mud, and spread the mud over the man's eyes. Then, he told him to wash in the Pool of Siloam and the man could suddenly see.
- *The response of the Pharisees to the miracle:* Even in the face of this miracle, the Pharisees doubted and became angry. They were angry at Jesus for "working" on the Sabbath, which was to be a day of rest. They threw this man out of the synagogue because he insisted that Jesus healed him.
- *Jesus' clear claim of divinity after the miracle:* Jesus clearly claimed to be God after this miracle occurred. He did so directly to the man who was healed, and in the hearing of the Pharisees.

Family Activity: Blind Drawing

Scripture: *After he said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud with the spit. Then he put the mud on the man's eyes. John 9:6*

Supplies: paper, crayons, blindfolds

- Blindfold each student.
- Give them a piece of paper and crayons.
- Ask them to draw a picture of their house.
- Place newspaper or a plastic tablecloth on the table for easy clean up, especially if children are young and more apt to color on table.

Week of Feb. 5 – Feb. 10: Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers**Read God's Word:** Luke 17:11-19

Talk About It: : This story is short, but here are a couple things to note. Jesus entered a town on the border of Galilee and Samaria. Remind the children about the origin of Samaria - it was the area of the Northern Kingdom of Israel after the kingdoms divided after Solomon. The Northern Kingdom was taken over by the Assyrians, and the Israelites in those ten tribes intermarried with the Assyrians and ceased to exist as a separate nation. The Samaritans were hated by those in the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

The people Jesus healed were lepers. Leprosy was a terrible disease that was incurable during Jesus' time. Leprosy causes the skin to become scaly and white, it causes infections, and many times fingers, toes, and limbs became deformed. Lepers were considered outcasts. First, many were afraid of getting the disease from coming in contact with the disease. Also, they were considered ceremonially unclean and would not be allowed to enter the temple.

It is important to note that the men were not healed until they were on their way to show themselves to the priests. They would only show themselves to the priests to prove to them that they were healed, and thus ceremonially clean and allowed back into the Temple area. It took faith for them to begin walking to show themselves to the priests while they were still sick.

There were ten men Jesus healed, but the only one that came back to thank Jesus was a Samaritan. Jesus emphasizes this and he commends the man for his faith. It didn't matter to Jesus that he was a foreigner or a Samaritan. He was interested in the man's faith.

Family Activity: Giving Thanks Game

Scripture: *When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Weren't all ten healed? Where are the other nine?" Luke 17:15-17*

This is a great activity to do at the dinner table.

- Choose one child to begin by saying one thing they are thankful for.

- The next person should repeat what the first person said and then add their own thing they are thankful for.
- Go around the circle and have each person repeat what the other people were thankful for and add their own.

Week of Feb. 12 – Feb. 17: The Transfiguration

Read God's Word: [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

Talk About It: Jesus took his three closest disciples (Peter, James, and John) with him to a high mountain. There is not a lot of detail in this story about what exactly happened, but we know that Jesus' appearance changed in two ways. One, his face was extremely bright (it shone like the sun). Two, his clothes became extremely bright. This is why this is called the "Transfiguration" - "trans" means "change" and "figure" refers to Jesus' body. His body was changed in front of them.

Then, two other men from the Old Testament were seen walking with him: Moses and Elijah. Peter's first reaction was that they should stay there for a long time, so he suggested that they build tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah to stay in. Peter's suggestion was interrupted by a bright cloud moving in and voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!"

Can you imagine what Peter, James, and John were thinking and feeling during this episode? The story says that the three of them were terrified and fell on the ground. Jesus came and touched them and told them not to be afraid. When they looked up, only Jesus was there and Moses and Elijah were gone.

Jesus told them not to tell anyone about what happened until after he was raised from the dead (Jesus had just predicted his death and resurrection in the previous chapter, Matthew 16).

(This story can also be found in [Mark 9:2-8](#) and [Luke 9:28-36](#))

Family Activity: Things that Change

Scripture: *There in front of them his appearance was changed. His face shone like the sun. His clothes became as white as the light. Matthew 17:2*

Supplies: Varies depending on what part of the activity you decide to use. See below.

- Discuss things that change.
- Caterpillars change into butterflies- Have live butterflies and caterpillars or a cocoon or pictures of each.
- Trees change with the season- Have pictures of a tree in different seasons. If possible, bring in a branch.
- Seeds change into flowers and fruit. Provide seeds and the flowers and fruits that grow from each seed. (You can have students guess which seeds will grow into which flowers or seeds).

Week of Feb. 19 – Feb. 24: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Read God's Word: John 11:1-44; John 12:17-19

Talk About It: This is a famous story, and is a good conclusion to this series of lessons on Jesus' miracles. In this story, we clearly see both the divinity and humanity of Jesus. He has the power over death, communicates directly with the Father, and we see a clear confession of Christ as the Messiah from Martha. But we also see his humanity as he has close friends (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus), feels great emotion for them, and is deeply moved by their sorrow.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were from Bethany, a town about two miles outside of Jerusalem on the other side of the Mount of Olives. Jesus was good friends with all of them, and he heard that Lazarus was sick. He told his disciples that they would go back to Judea (the region Jerusalem was in), but the disciples were concerned because Jews there had recently threatened his life. But Jesus ignored that warning and told them that Lazarus had died and he was going to do something about it. Thomas, one of the disciples, was resigned to the fact that if they went, Jesus would die, and so they would die with him.

When they were coming near to Bethany, Martha came to meet Jesus. Lazarus had died and was in his tomb for four days at this point. She was distraught and cried out to Jesus that if he had just been there, Lazarus would not have died. Jesus reassured her that he would rise again. Martha didn't know that he meant he would rise again that very same day: "I know he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day", she said (John 11:24).

Jesus then gave her one of the clearest claims of his divinity that we have in the Bible: "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if he dies. And those who live and believe in me will never

die" (John 11:25-26). Martha affirmed her belief in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

Then, Mary came to Jesus, and was just as distraught as Martha. We see his incredible love for these people as he is moved by their sorrow. He knew he was getting ready to raise Lazarus from the dead, but he was still compassionate towards Mary and Martha and identified with their grief. When Jesus and the others came to the tomb, he instructed them to move the stone from in front of the grave. Martha protested that he had already been in there for four days, and surely he would stink by then! But Jesus told them that if they would just believe, they would see God's glory.

They moved the stone away, and out came Lazarus in his grave clothes. This was such an amazing miracle. There was no doubt Lazarus was dead. And there were many witnesses to Jesus being the one who raised him to life. That's why we see in the next chapter of John: "A crowd had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead. So they continued to tell everyone about what had happened. Many people went out to meet him. They had heard that he had done this miraculous sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, 'This isn't getting us anywhere. Look how the whole world is following him!'" (John 12:17-19)

Family Activity: Prayer Time

Scripture: *So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." John 11:41-42*

- Prior to Jesus calling for Lazarus, Jesus prayed to his father in heaven. He did this as an example to those nearby.
- Teach your children that prayer is talking to God.
- The Lord's prayer is Jesus' model prayer for us.
- Challenge your children to recite the Lord's prayer or have them begin learning it at home. Give them a reward when they can recite it completely.
- If you don't already, gather your children and have them take turns saying a short prayer at bedtime.
- Encourage them to pray out loud or provide several minutes of quiet time. Remind them their prayer does not have to be eloquent or elaborate.