

God's Power Works Through Jesus

Lesson 11a — Zacchæus

Lesson 11b — Jesus Stills the Tempest

Lesson 11c — The Palsied Man Healed

Lesson 11d — The Demoniac Healed

OVERVIEW

The time that Christ walked on earth was the greatest epoch of miracles in all recorded history. It was a period when the people were at a low ebb spiritually. After the time of the Exodus, His people were filled with complaint. At the time of Elijah and Elisha, they had turned to false gods. But at the time of Christ the religious leaders were so steeped in self-righteousness and hypocrisy that they crucified the Lord of Glory.

It was to this world that God sent His Son, Jesus. The miracles He worked while on earth were part of God's chosen method to reveal His power and His great sal-

vation to the sin-hardened world. Nearly 40 miracles wrought by Christ are recorded in the Gospels, but there were many more miracles performed than these (John 20:30).

Christ's miracles were evidence of the genuineness of His message (John 5:36) and the fact that the power of God was working through Him. In this unit, we will study His power to release man from the bondage of sin, His power to control the elements, His power to heal the sick, and His power to defeat Satan.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Use a large four-sided box. Call it a "miracle module" or "miracle machine." On each side illustrate one of the four lessons. Have a child spin the module and tell you the story of the picture shown. Keep spinning till all lessons are covered. Inside the box you can pull out examples of a modern-day miracle you might ask Jesus to perform.

Cut out a large number of footprints from construction paper. On each one, write the reference for one of the key verses, and the complete verse on the opposite side. Place the footprints at different places on the floor. Divide your group into teams. Taking turns, one-by-one have members of each team stand by a footprint, and try to say the verse. If they say it correctly, their team gets to keep that footprint. The verses may be repeated — try to have enough cut out so each child has a chance to say at least one verse.

Divide your group into two teams. Choose a word or phrase from one of the lessons, and on a chalkboard

draw a blank line for each of the letters in the word or words. Make a scoring column for each team at the side of the chalkboard. Let the teams take turns suggesting letters. If the letter does appear in a word, fill in the proper blank and give that team a point. When the proper word or phrase is guessed, award five points to the team who gave the correct answer. Then discuss the meaning of the word in relation to your lessons. This can be repeated several times with the winning team being the one with the highest total score.

Make a sequence of questions concerning the unit lessons. Glue them around the edge of a posterboard circle. Cut a second circle the same size and cut a window in it so that one question at a time is revealed. Fasten the two circles together with a brad. Divide your group into teams. Let one team member at a time come up and turn the wheel to reveal a question, then attempt to answer it. Keep score of which team answers the most questions correctly.

Take a copy of the lesson review circle to class (see

Patterns). Use a pencil and a paper clip to make a spinner. Have each student take a turn spinning the clip. Then let him briefly tell the events of the story pictured in the section where the clip stops.

CONTEST IDEAS

Put an electric outlet plate at the top of a board. Have each child's name across the bottom of the board. To each name attach a length of yarn that has a black paper cut-out plug-in at the end. Mark the board into levels — one for each Sunday (the outlet is for the last Sunday). The students move their yarn cord up each Sunday they are there to see who can plug into Jesus' power first.

Divide your group into two parts, perhaps boys against the girls. Show them a large blank bulletin board covered with a bright background paper. Across the top put the words "God's Power — In the News." In the center place a score sheet with the headings "Boys" and "Girls." Tell your group the winning side will be the one which brings the most clippings from magazines or newspapers telling of an event which illustrates God's power. Pin the articles around your score sheet on the bulletin board. (If duplicates are received, give points for each one but only put up the first one brought in.) The contest should continue through all four Sundays of the unit.

BULLETIN BOARD

Put Jesus in the middle of the board, Zacchæus hiding in a tree to the right, the demoniac next to the mountains and tombs on the left, a boat on a lake behind, and the palsied man on his bed in front (see Patterns).

Post a long scroll of paper across your board. Above it write the title "Capernaum News." If done as a department project, have each class compose and paste on the scroll a "news article" describing the events of one of the unit lessons. They may wish to illustrate the event as well. These articles could be read aloud each Sunday and then posted before your entire group.

Place the words, "God's Power Works Through" across

the top of the board with "JESUS" under it in giant letters, with lines (could be ribbons, yarn, etc.) radiating out to four vacant blocks (see Patterns). Have the students draw illustrations of the four lessons in the blocks.

UNIT SONGS

"My God Is So Great"
"Power in the Blood"
"His Name Is Wonderful"

UNIT PROJECTS

Have the pupils make (if there is time, otherwise teacher can make) blue ribbon bookmarks to remind them of Jesus and the power He has had in their lives. Use real ribbon. Cut big "V" in one end. On the other end attach a medallion. The medallion is made by cutting a circle from gold foil wrapping paper. Cut notches into the edge or use pinking shears to make it look like a seal. Glue to the top and place a sticker of Jesus (or Jesus stilling the tempest sticker) on the ribbon.

CHART IDEAS

For each child, cut out five of the block letters of the word "Jesus" (see Patterns) from different colors of construction paper. The first shape will have the letters drawn in so the word is readable. The other letters will be shapes only. On the first Sunday the students will receive the first two shapes. After that they will get one shape each Sunday, on which they may draw a symbol representing the lesson or a picture of it. The symbols could be a man in a tree, cloud and lightning, walking feet, sad and happy face. On the last Sunday, punch a hole in each and tie them together, book style, with a length of yarn. The cover for the book will be the shape with the letters filled in.

Reproduce, for each student, a copy of the stained glass window puzzle (see Patterns). Let each child make up their own color code to correspond with the numbers on the puzzle pieces. Write down their codes. On each of the four Sundays, have them color one piece of the puzzle according to their own code. On the last Sunday, assemble the puzzles to reveal the word "Jesus."

NOTES
