

date: **5/21/17****Bible Passage: John 9:1–12**  
(Healing the Blind Man)

## God Is Powerful

### Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

When I was a kid, I was known to be highly social and talkative. Passionately blurting out my thoughts and opinions without pause proved on more than one occasion to be detrimental to me and to others. I often felt as if my heart was misunderstood. How I was designed and my own humanity were at war, and this was a battle God had to win!

God did win this battle in my life. Every now and again a passionate blurt comes flying out, but I seek to choose my words and timing carefully. God has changed me and refined who I am. He has given me His Son as my model, and I truly experience freedom as a result. It is because of His transforming presence that people are able to see Christ in me.

Our lives were designed for a unique purpose—to display for the entire world the work of God in who we are. When God's power is at work in our lives, we're no longer identified by the things that bind us or break us. No, Christ identifies us as His and restores us. This serves as a model of Christ's power to those who have yet to find redemption through Christ. To God be the glory, forever and ever.

*Cristi Thomas*

Tru Team

### Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:1–3).

The narrative continues with Jesus healing the man and giving him sight. His life was completely transformed. In Jewish culture of the time, most trades would be very difficult to perform without sight. The testimony of the blind man's neighbors indicates that this man couldn't practice a trade. Instead, he sat and begged.

This healing wasn't just the gift of sight; it was also the gift of dignity and purpose. The man was now free to learn a skill, a trade that could take him off the street—freed from a life of begging and dependence upon the compassion of those who passed by. With his sight, he had a new position within his community. This man was now known by something other than his blindness.

Scripture tells us the people in the man's community questioned him about what had happened. The religious leaders didn't intimidate the blind man. When questioned, he answered boldly and with confidence in the truth. When he was thrown out of the synagogue, he was met by Jesus and proclaimed his faith in Him as Lord. The man who was once a blind beggar was now a man with physical and spiritual sight. He was completely transformed as a result of knowing Jesus and experiencing the power of God in his life. His new life was now on display for the world to see and know the power of God.

## Support

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Read John 9:1–12.

How ridiculous would it have been for this man, who was given sight, to return the very next day to the place where he would sit and beg? If he were to wake up the next morning, put on his beggar's clothes, and place a blindfold around his eyes, wouldn't you think he was crazy? At the very least, you'd have to think he was completely unaware of his transformation.

Pause for just a moment and think. Is there any area in your life where you're still wearing beggar's clothes? Are you living with the feeling of being trapped by circumstance or how you once lived? If we looked to the Lord Jesus as our model for all our life, how different would life be? How would our lives impact the lives of others? Would we be known by the things that enslaved us, or by the One who had freed us?

This week, as you're preparing for this lesson, may God reveal to you just how special you are. Ask Him to release you from the things that bind you and keep you from living in the freedom He has given you. May the power of our Lord be on display within your heart and in your life.

## EXPLORE:: 10 min.


### Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.*

## Marvelous Mud

In this part of The Big God Story, Jesus performed a miracle. A man blind from birth had his sight restored when Jesus applied everyday mud to his eyes.

### SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Cornstarch 
- Water

- Cup (large) or pitcher
- Bowl (large)
- Table covering
- Wet wipes
- Optional: food coloring

**SET UP**

Cover the table and place the materials on the table.

**RELATE**

Welcome children to the table. Show them the cornstarch and pour about half the box in the bowl. **I have this white powder here. Does anyone know what it is?** Interact with children's responses. **This is cornstarch, and it's usually used to make certain foods thicker. Cornstarch and water create a really interesting substance. What do you think it will be like?** Children respond. **Let's find out together.**

Add water gradually to the cornstarch as you mix it. Add enough water to create the consistency of a thick pancake batter. You should be able to roll the mixture into a ball with your hands, but when released, it will flow like liquid. Once the mixture is ready, let kids play with the goo. **How does it feel? Is it a liquid like water or solid like clay? Does it splash when you hit it? What does it remind you of?**

When it's time to move on, use wet wipes to clean children's hands. Throw the goo away in the trash; don't discard down the drain.

**DISCOVER:: 25 min.**

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.*

**Ponder Point****God Is Powerful****Chloe's Rules**

Host/Worship Leader

**SUPPLIES**

- [Chloe's Rules videos](#)

**RELATE**

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

## Mail Time

**Host/Worship Leader**

### SUPPLIES

- [Mail Time intro clip and image](#) (see Resources)
- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)
- [Remember Verse cards](#) (see Resources)
- [Mail Time envelope art](#) (see Resources)
- Envelope (large)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Mail Time envelope art and attach to a large envelope. Print or copy one Remember Verse card and put it inside the envelope.

### RELATE

*Tech:* Cue the Mail Time intro clip and image. Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the “Seeker” close her eyes while the “Hider” finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out “hot” and “cold.”

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with children.

Lead children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

**Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.**

**Psalms 147:5**

### REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

**Understanding:** Things you know

**Limit:** End

### REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

**Great is our Lord:** Make “L” with right index finger and thumb. Move the “L” from right shoulder to left hip.

**and mighty in power:** Bring arms up to strong man pose.


**his understanding:** Place open palm at forehead and move outward.

**has no limit:** Shake head.

## Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

### SUPPLIES

- What's/it: Dirt (see optional image in Resources) 
- Wardrobe of Wonder
- Small stools or chairs (2)

### What's/it: Dirt

The dirt reminds us of the miraculous healing of the man who was blind from birth. He had faith in Jesus and His power and ability to give him sight. God was able to use the need for healing in this man's life as a way to dramatically display His transforming power to others.

### RELATE

*Tech:* Cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder* intro clip and image. Invite a child volunteer to “spy” on the What's/it by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder* sound effect. Have him whisper the identity of the What's/it in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What's/it. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What's/it from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

### ASK

(Volunteer's name), **what does the dirt feel like? Where do we find dirt?** Allow all children to answer. **What do we do with it?** Interact with responses. **We grow things with it. I wonder how it will be a part of The Big God Story today. Let's find out! Do you know what time it is? It's time for ...**

# The Big God Story

John 9:1–12

God Is Powerful

Storytelling Technique: Visual and Sensory Aids

### SUPPLIES

- **Storytelling video (see Resources)**

## RESPOND:: 20 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.*

## Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

**SUPPLIES** (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)
- Crayons

### RELATE

**In today's part of The Big God Story, we heard just how powerful God can be in our lives. God made you special. He gave you everything you have so other people can see His love and power in your life.**

**I wonder ... How did the man feel when he saw his friends and family for the first time?**

**I wonder ... What did the man think about when he saw Jesus?**

**I wonder ... How does God want to show His power in my life?**

## BLESS::: 5 min.

**Small Group Leaders**

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

**SUPPLIES** (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)

### RELATE

Send your little ones out with a blessing by praying Scripture over them. The time of blessing is an opportunity for children to practice another physical posture of worship. Have children place their hands out in front of themselves, palms up as if cupping them together to hold water. This is a posture that demonstrates our willingness to receive what God has for us. Read the Remember Verse over the children (you may choose to read through the Scripture more than once as God's Spirit leads you): **"Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. Psalm 147:5."**

Then bless each child with the following words:

(Child's name), **may you see God's great power every day of your life.**

Have leaders come up to the front of the room and bless the group in unison.

**May you follow Jesus each day. May you always remember that God made you, and He loves you. May the people who don't yet know Jesus see His love and power in your life.**