

date: **3/26/17**

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1–4; 9:18–26; Mark 5:21–43
(Healing of the Leper, Jairus's Daughter, Sick Woman)

God Is Help

REMEMBER VERSE

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Inspire

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

I've seen amazing miracles of healing and faith. I know someone who has been healed of lymphoma. I know other people who have been healed of injuries. I've watched God transform the hearts of my father, my friends, and myself. God has answered my prayers and the prayers of people around me.

However, I've cried out to God for certain things, and it's felt like He never heard me. After a while I felt discouraged and stopped crying out for these needs to be fulfilled. I thought, "What's the point? He's not responding, so I might as well stop asking."

But many times in my life, I've realized that this experience, this moment, this feeling of freedom or peace is exactly what I'd prayed for. I realized that even when I stopped begging God to free me of an emotional plague or heal my friend's mom of cancer, God was still working on His response to that prayer. He isn't hindered by time. He has all the patience in the world. I'm the one who became impatient and lost sight of the fact that He's in control and responds in His own timing.

God is big and powerful as well as attentive and loving. Though He could choose to ignore us, He hears our cries. Though He could choose to leave us to suffer alone, He responds to us in our need. He is our help.

Tori Funkhouser
ROCKHARBOR Church

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

A simple touch from Jesus—but it was so much more. These three accounts in Scripture describe a touch between Jesus and someone who needed Him.

A man with leprosy called out to Jesus for help, and Jesus did the unthinkable. Jesus didn't just heal the man; He touched him. We don't know how long this man had been suffering from leprosy, a contagious skin disease, but it could have been years since he'd felt the warmth of human touch. Lepers were forced to walk on the other side of the street. One simple act of kindness healed this man's heart as well as his body.

Then, a woman who had been suffering with a malady for 12 long years stepped way outside of her comfort zone to ask for help from Jesus. Because her illness involved an issue of blood, she was perpetually unclean and not allowed to enter the temple to worship. And anyone she touched would be unclean for a time as well. So she gathered up her courage and reached out for the hem of the Rabbi's robe—for this was where a rabbi's authority was displayed. Just like a modern-day soldier exhibits his rank and honors on his uniform, rabbis and other leaders sewed their symbols of authority into the hems of their robes. So this woman with an issue of blood touched the symbol of authority on Jesus' robe, and even though she knew she would be despised and cast out for making this Rabbi unclean, she trusted in God—and Jesus healed her.

Finally, the touch of Jesus brought a young child back to life and returned hope to a family previously lost in despair. A touch from Jesus brings life. When we call out to God, He responds.

Support

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

In this lesson, Jesus commends a woman for her faith to crawl through the crowd to touch Him. Jesus also encourages faith from Jairus when the man hears from his friends that his daughter has died. Though God is faithful, faith isn't an automatic formula for getting what we want or even what we think we need. Though we might have to wait patiently, God always turns to us and hears our cries. He might not respond in the way we would have imagined, but He hears, and He is help.

Is there a place in your life where you need God to hear your cry? Have you given up hope that He will hear you in this area? Take hope. God is listening, and He will help in His timing.

Pray the children would know that God will hear them and respond to them too. God loves them and cares about them because they are His children. Though they might need to be patient, they can trust that God will hear and respond.

SMALL GROUP
SECTION

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.

Today the children will hear how Jesus healed three people through touch. Invite the children to participate in the following EXPLORE activity to get them thinking about the sense of touch.

Sorting Fabrics

SUPPLIES

- Fabrics (10–20 varieties of textures; suggestions: fur, felt, fleece, vinyl, etc.)
- Scissors
- Blindfold
- Paper bag

PREPARE AHEAD

Cut each type of fabric into strips about one inch wide and 12 inches long. Place the strips in the paper bag.

RELATE

Have children take turns wearing the blindfold, reaching into the bag to touch a fabric strip, and describing what it feels like. Then, have children form a circle. Lay out all the fabric strips in the center, and have children touch the fabrics and work together to sort them into different piles according to how they feel (examples: furry, slippery, fluffy, etc.). Once all the fabrics are sorted, repeat the activity and ask children to come up with different categories for the fabric piles (examples: thick, thin, etc.).

Isn't it amazing how not being able to see helps you focus on what you're touching? Today in The Big God Story, we're going to hear about three people—a leper, a little girl, and a sick woman—whose lives were changed by touching Jesus.

LARGE GROUP

SECTION

DISCOVER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

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

Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse image (see Resources)
- Remember Verse animation (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

RELATE

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the

Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure, and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Connect

Question

Would you rather visit the doctor or the dentist? Why?

The Big God Story

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1–4; 9:18–26; Mark 5:21–43

Storytelling Technique: Calling for Help and Images

God Is Help

SUPPLIES

- [Timeline image](#) (see Resources)
- [Timeline animation](#) (see Resources)
- Images: [Leper](#), [Jairus's Daughter](#), [Sick Woman](#) (see Resources)
- Bibles

RELATE

Have the children stay in their groups from the Connect activity. If you didn't do the Connect activity, have the children form three groups, and have each group sit together. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

As we hear today's part of The Big God Story, I'm going to need your help. Group one, you'll represent the leper. Group two, you'll represent Jairus. Group three, you'll represent the sick woman. When I point to your group, you'll shout, "Jesus, help!" Practice a few times. Jesus responded to all of these people when they called for help. He is help.

The leper was a man with a terrible skin disease called leprosy. In Bible times, if someone suffered from a disease, people sometimes believed that person deserved it because that person was sinful. Sick people were considered unclean. Religious leaders and Jews were taught to stay away from unclean people so they themselves wouldn't become unclean! That's why people with leprosy were forced to live outside the city.

As Jesus traveled around preaching, healing, casting out demons, and demonstrating God's love, He came upon this man with leprosy. Tech: Cue Leper image. Point to group one and prompt them to shout,

“Jesus, help!” **Great job! Let’s all turn to Matthew 8:2 in our Bibles. The leper knelt before Jesus and said (get on knees and beg), “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean” (Matthew 8:2). The leper had faith that Jesus could heal him and make him clean. But no religious person would go near an unclean leper, let alone touch him. Even so, “Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’” (v. 3).**

Another man named Jairus, a leader in the synagogue, had a 12-year-old daughter who was dying. *Tech: Cue Jairus’s Daughter image.* Point to group two and prompt them to shout, “Jesus, help!” Then invite children to turn to Mark 5:23. **Jairus pleaded with Jesus (fold your hands and beg), “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live” (v. 23). Jesus started walking to Jairus’s house to heal the girl. But crowds pressed in all around him. A lot of people wanted to hear and see Jesus. Have any of you ever been in a crowd with a lot of people? What was that like? Pause for responses.**

One person in the crowd was a woman who had been sick for 12 years. *Tech: Cue Sick Woman image.* **The Bible says she had gone to many doctors and spent all her money but had only gotten worse! The woman was desperate for healing.** Point to group three and prompt them to shout, “Jesus, help!” Then invite kids to follow along in Mark 5:27–28. **The woman thought (get on knees and reach out hand as if touching someone), “If I just touch [Jesus’] clothes, I will be healed” (v. 28). When the woman touched the hem of Jesus’ robe, she was showing radical faith and believing that Jesus was the Messiah and could heal her. And He did! Immediately she knew she’d been healed.**

In verse 30, the Bible says, “At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched my clothes?’” The woman was “trembling with fear” (v. 33). She, a woman who had been unclean, had touched this religious teacher! She came forward and explained what had happened. Jesus replied, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering” (v. 34). Jesus responded to her cry by healing her.

While Jesus was talking to the woman, some men came from Jairus’s house and told him his daughter was dead. Point to group two and prompt them to shout, “Jesus, help!” **Jairus must have been very upset, but Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe” (v. 36).**

When Jesus got to Jairus’s house, people were already crying. But Jesus said to them (invite kids to follow along starting with verse 39), “Why all this ... wailing? The child is not dead but asleep” (v. 39). The people thought Jesus was crazy. They didn’t know Jesus was God and could do anything. Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, “Little girl ... get up!” (v. 41). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (v. 42). Wow! Everyone in the house was completely amazed.

All three of these people—the leper, Jairus, and the sick woman—cried out to Jesus for help. Point to all three groups and prompt the kids to shout, “Jesus, help!” **And Jesus responded with healing.**

When we call out to God for help, He responds to us too. Sometimes He heals us, sometimes He sends people to help carry our burdens, sometimes He uses His Holy Spirit to bring comfort and strength while we wait for healing—but He always responds. When you call out to God, He will respond to you because He loves you. Share a personal story of a time God responded to your cries for help.

SMALL GROUP
SECTION**RESPOND//** 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

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

Reflect: God Is Help

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

Questions for Younger Kids

- **What is a leper?** Matthew 8:2
- **Why was it so amazing that Jesus touched the leper?** Leviticus 13:9, 11
- **Why did the woman touch Jesus' clothes?** Mark 5:28
- **Have you ever cried out to God for help before? How did you see Him respond?**
- **Is there anything for which you need God's help today?**

Questions for Older Kids

- **Who were the three people whom Jesus healed?** Matthew 8:2; Mark 5:22–23, 25
- **Why was it so amazing that Jesus touched the leper?** Leviticus 13:9, 11
- **Why do you think God wants us to have faith in Him?** Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 11:1, 6; 1 John 5:4
- **Have you ever cried out to God for help before? How did you see Him respond?**
- **Is there anything for which you need God's help today?**

BLESS// 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

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

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Bible

RELATE

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. Then open a Bible and read Psalm 103:1–5:

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your

life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things.

Now encourage the kids to respond by saying, “Yes, praise the Lord” after every sentence of blessing.

Leader: **May God come quickly to you when you call to Him.**

Children: Yes, praise the Lord.

Leader: **May He comfort you, heal you, and give you peace as you know the presence of His Holy Spirit.**

Children: Yes, praise the Lord.