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# EDITORIAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first edition of our GC Week of Prayer magazine, designed especially for children! We are so excited to have you with us as we explore some of the wonderful miracles Jesus performed when He was living here on earth—and see how these miracles still speak to us today.

Miracles are extraordinary events that go beyond the natural—things only God can do. Every one of the miracles Jesus performed is a powerful message of God's love, compassion, and authority. These miracles weren't just amazing acts; they were signs pointing to who Jesus truly is— the Son of God.

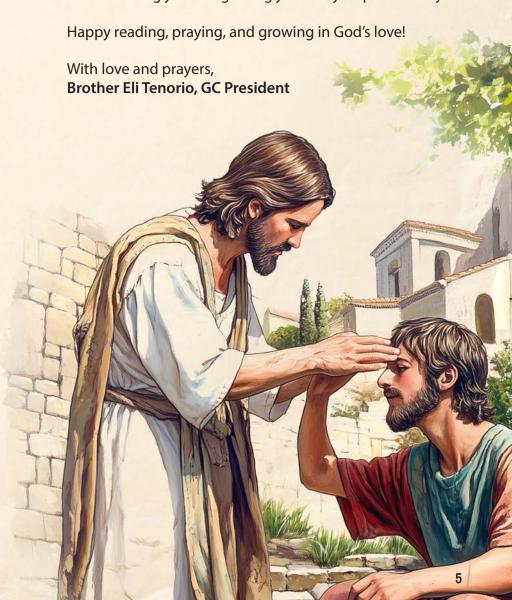
Jesus healed the sick, the blind, the lame, and even raised people from the dead. Imagine how happy these people must have felt when Jesus gave them those blessings they most wanted and which for some time they thought were impossible ever to receive!

Jesus didn't just give them material things; He gave them a new life, full of hope and light. These miracles remind us that Jesus cares deeply about each of us, and He has the power to heal not just our bodies, but our hearts too.

As we go through this Children's Week of Prayer, we hope you will help each of your children to understand that the miracles of Jesus weren't just for the people of His time—they are for us, too. Each miracle shows us that Jesus is powerful, loving, and always ready to help us. When we face challenges, feel afraid, or need something, we can turn to Jesus in prayer and trust that He will take care of us.

Let's open our hearts this week, together with our children, to learn more about Jesus, to grow in faith, and to experience the joy of knowing that the same Jesus who performed these amazing miracles is with us every day.

So, let's embark on this exciting journey of faith together! I hope that as you read through these pages, you'll feel God's love surrounding you and guiding you every step of the way.



## INTRODUCTION: MIRACLES OF JESUS

ave you ever been sick with a fever, cough, or sore throat? It's really bad not being able to play or study because we're tired or unwell. However, when your parents take care of you with some natural care or give you some medicine, the problem goes away. You get better again.

There are some diseases that are difficult to treat or have no cure to this day. Even so, Jesus healed the blind, the mute, turned water into wine, multiplied food, cured rare diseases and even resurrected people. Do you know why? He is the Creator; He shaped you and takes care of you. He knows every cell in your body and how your organism works.

Healing is a miracle! Only Jesus has the power to fix what evil has caused.

Do you know what a miracle is? It's something that happens and has no explanation either by natural laws or by scientific knowledge. It is the power of God.

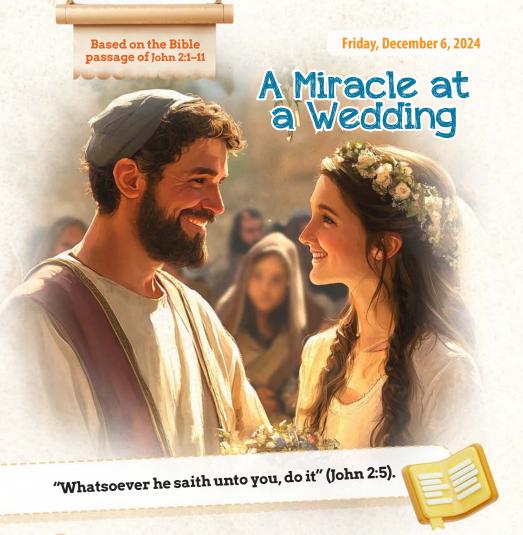
In the days that Jesus lived on Earth, He performed many miracles to help people. He healed the sick with the touch of His hands and with the power of His word. Jesus is very good, He feels compassion

for every person who suffers and understands very well what sin has caused in the minds and bodies of men. Separated from God, we cannot escape. That is why Jesus came here personally to show that we need Him in order to make peace with God.

Jesus wants to perform the greatest miracle in your life. He wants to transform you so that everyone will know that He still performs miracles today!

May this Children's Week of Prayer help us all to accept the miracles that Jesus wants to perform for out benefit!





o you like wedding receptions? Most people love going to receptions, especially weddings. The music, the pretty decorations, the delicious sweets and snacks, the refreshing drinks and meeting up with friends are very important details to please everyone.

There is one Person who loves attending wedding receptions, too. When He was on earth, Jesus loved to see the happiness of the bride and groom, and the satisfaction on the faces of their relatives and guests. He was always present at social gatherings when He was invited. He enjoyed these gatherings so much that the first miracle He performed was at the wedding

feast in the town of Cana. His mother Mary had been invited because she was a relative of the bride and groom, and Jesus accompanied her.

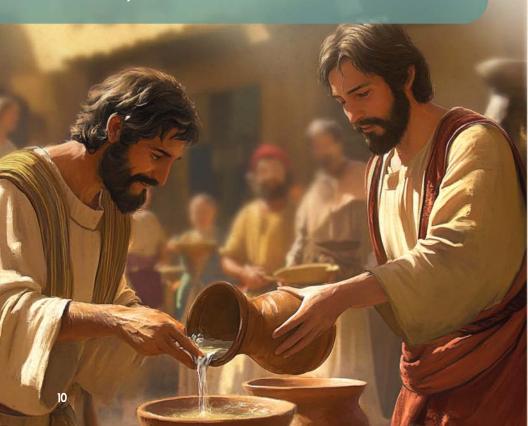
Marriage ceremonies in those days were a little different from what we see today. The bride and groom got ready in their parents' homes with the help of their best friends. At sunset, the groom would leave his family home accompanied by his friends. They were like the best man. Each of them carried a lamp filled with olive oil, so the fire for the light wouldn't go out. The young men would light the groom's way to the bride's house. When they got there, someone would announce: "Here is the groom, go out to meet him." Then the bride came out of the house accompanied by her bridesmaids. They also carried lamps. The two processions came together and took the future couple to the place of the party, which was the house where they would live. It was a beautiful scene to see that group of young people lighting the way for the bride and groom! In those days, wedding feasts lasted a few days. The guests drank, ate, talked, sang and played riddles for a week.

It was all joy. But can you imagine how much food they had to prepare to feed so many people? Nothing could be missing. If that happened, it would be a shame for the bride and groom's families. Despite all the preparations, the fresh grape juice (called wine in the Bible) ran out. The servants were desperate, thinking: "What are we going to do now?" Mary overheard the conversation between the servants and her relatives. She knew that if there was anyone who could solve the lack of juice, it was her son. She ran to tell Jesus what was happening. He heard his mother's concern and said, "But my time has not come." However, this didn't stop Jesus from taking action. Mary called some servants and said, "Do whatever He tells you." There were six stone jars on the site that could hold between 20 to 30 gallons (75 and 115 liters) of water. Jesus looked at those who were helping with the feast and said: "Fill these jars with water." He then commanded: "Now take some out and take it to the master of ceremonies." The master of ceremonies was responsible for organizing the whole event. When the man tasted the grape juice, he was amazed, because he didn't know where the delicious juice had come from. Only the servants knew. After tasting it, he went to talk to the groom: "The custom at wedding receptions I've organized has been to offer the worst quality juice after people had had enough of the good. However, you did the opposite: you offered the best now."

How many things we can learn from this story! First, we see that Jesus loved to see people happy. He liked to be with them at all times.

Today Jesus wants to be with you, too. He enjoys your company. And He cares whether you're sad or happy. Second, when you have a problem, the best thing to do is tell Jesus. If there's anyone who can solve anything for you, He is the One.

Do you want Jesus to be present at your parties, in your classes and in your home? Invite Him to be with you all the time. Just as He did at the wedding in Cana, He can work a miracle in your life, too.



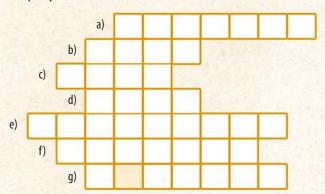


Color the contents of the jars after Jesus' miracle:



Complete the sentences by filling in the answers in the crossword, and use the word formed in the shaded area to complete the sentence.

- a) After Jesus performed the first miracle, the disciples believed He was the . . .
- b) At this party Jesus turned water into ...
- c) ... told Jesus that the wine had run out.
- d) The party where Jesus went was in the city of . . .
- e) Some of his . . . were also at the party.
- f) The city of Cana was in the region of . . .
- g) At the . . . party Jesus turned water into wine.



Jesus can perform any kind of \_\_\_\_\_





"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

### Jesus Muliplies the Loaves

ave you ever felt hungry? Missed a meal? Some people only feel hungry when lunch is delayed. Yet, about one in nine people in the world suffers from real hunger. How is this possible on a planet so full of fruits, vegetables, seeds, and more? This is one consequence of evil, of sin. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, we still suffer today because of it. Before, you could just reach out and pick almost any fruit you wanted. Not anymore, Jesus told Adam in Genesis 3:17, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life" (Genesis 3:17). Since then, people have had to cultivate, fertilize. and water the earth to harvest what they plant. Sin affected not only Adam, Eve, and their children—but the whole planet as well.

When the Lord Jesus was here on Earth, He wanted to change this. During the Sermon on the Mount, He taught His followers, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink." (Matthew 6:25, first part). If God can care for the birds that do not plant their own food, imagine how much more He can do to care for you!

Sometimes God does very big things to show His care and love for His children. That's what Jesus did. He crossed the Sea of Galilee in a boat with His disciples. A crowd of people followed Him on this journey. There were almost 5,000 grownups. They spent the day listening to Jesus teach. It must have been wonderful to hear Him speak. Everyone listened quietly, and no one wanted to leave.

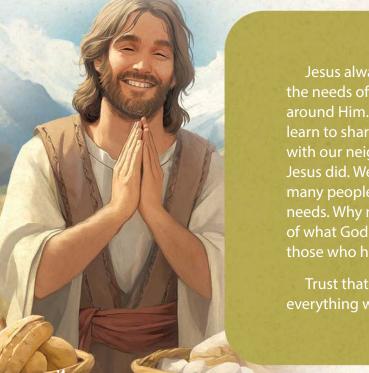
After a whole day of learning from Jesus, it was natural for the crowd to be hungry. At one point, the Master asked one of His disciples, Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" Jesus asked Philip because he was from there and should know the nearby cities.

Philip thought for a moment and replied that even if they had a lot of money to buy food, there wouldn't be enough for such a large crowd. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, overheard the conversation and mentioned that there were only five barley loaves and two small fish from a boy nearby. Barley bread was the basic food for Jews. It was made from barley, also used to feed the animals. However, this boy was hungry, too, and his offering was not coming from a rich person. But when he saw that Jesus needed help, he gave everything he had. So Jesus asked His disciples to organize the crowd into groups of fifty. Then He prayed to God, thanking Him for the five loaves and two fish, and gave the baskets to the disciples to start distributing. The more they distributed, the more bread and fish appeared in the baskets.

After everyone finished eating, Jesus instructed them to gather up the leftovers. They filled twelve baskets with leftover bread and gave them to the Master.

At that moment, Jesus took the opportunity to teach three important lessons:

- First, God cares about what you eat, too. He provides everything you need because He cares for you!
- Second, God sends so many blessings that there is always more than enough. There's plenty for everyone around us friends, neighbors, and relatives.
- Third, just because there's extra doesn't mean we should waste it. He ordered that the leftovers should be gathered and not thrown away. Some people buy too much and throw it away when they get tired of it, even though they don't need to.

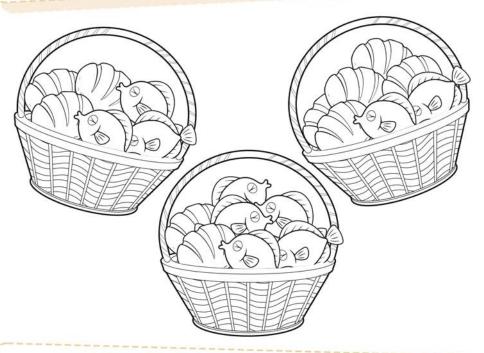


Jesus always cared about the needs of everyone around Him. We need to learn to share what we have with our neighbors, just as Jesus did. We live among many people with many needs. Why not share some of what God gives us with those who have less?

Trust that He will give us everything we need.



Color the basket containing the bread and fish that Jesus multiplied.



Find seven differences in the drawing below.





### Find the following words in the table below:

## Jesus | crowd | disciples | Andrew | bread fish | kindness | share | boy

S Α S Z Q M E V F 0 I V T V Y Q H L J Α N D R E W В C Ν R E Τ Υ 1 Α U N Τ D C 1 W X Q Α T 1 В E Υ U R U S K I S S Α 0 N D N Ε Υ В C C N R E T Υ 1 Α U N T C 1 W 0 0 A T I В Ε Y U R G M P 0 X K D S Α V C Z J S S Z S M V E V E 0 L I 1 V E Y Q Н L H Α P Q W U S S U V В 0 Α G Α В F H Υ U J J Υ I S В 0 Н 0 R R ٧ Q В U Υ Τ K N Ε Н Α V M 0 W R E Υ Н R L S ٧ 0 Α N S Z Z E ٧ C G Y R Α ٧ T Y 1 H R W Α C 0 J 1 F В D Υ C R K D U N T V N G C N W X Q

Based on the Bible passage of John 5:1-9



"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." Psalm 103:3.

# The Healing of a Paralytic

very city is built near rivers for water to drink and grow crops. However, Jerusalem doesn't have rivers to supply it, which is a problem for a capital city. En-

emies could take advantage of this to force the people to surrender. To prevent this weakness, some canals and reservoirs were built in the city. The Bible mentions the pools of Bethesda, near the Sheep Gate. Here, animals destined for sacrifice at the temple were washed. There were two pools surrounded by five rows of columns supporting the roof.

Bethesda means "house of mercy" or "house of grace" in Hebrew. Sometimes a bubble would form and stir the waters of the pools. People created a myth that this happened whenever an angel touched the waters. They believed the first person to enter the pool would receive a miracle. Many believed they would be cured of physical deformities, illnesses, and other health problems. So many people believed in this that it was hard to know if the miracle actually happened.

#### Do you know what it's like to wait a year for a miracle? It's a long time!

The Bible tells the story of a man who had been waiting for a healing miracle for 38 years. He hoped to be the first to enter the water when it stirred. He was always focused, waiting for the blessing to come at any moment.

One day, Jesus visited the pool of Bethesda. It was a public and well-known place. Among all the people there, Jesus noticed

someone desperate for a miracle in his life. Common people believed illness was punishment from God for sins they had done. The worse the sin, the greater the punishment. This physically disabled man didn't just need healing; he also desperately wanted forgiveness for his sins. Jesus approached the paralyzed man and asked, "Do you want to get well?" The man replied, "Yes, I want to, but I don't have anyone to help me get into the water when it stirs up." He didn't know Jesus or that Jesus could solve his problem. Then, unexpectedly, Jesus gave him a command: "Get up, take your mat, and walk."

The Bible says the man felt something different in his heart. Jesus didn't make any promises or tell the man to believe in His power. The sick man wasn't expecting a miracle at all. Yet He obeyed and Jesus began healing him from the inside out, performing a wonderful work in his life. The paralyzed man immediately felt the healing. He simply obeyed and stood up. He picked up the mat he had been lying on, and after 38 years, he could

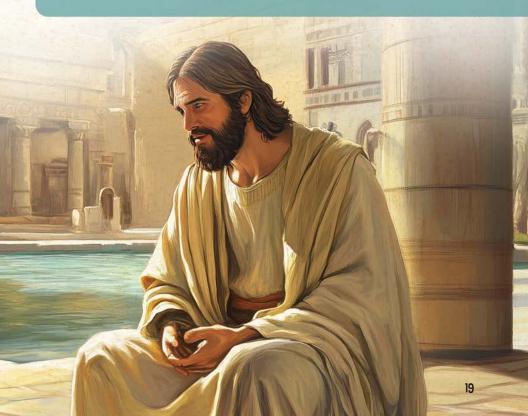


walk again! What joy, what happiness, because God had heard his prayer. It was worth the wait!

This miracle happened because Jesus appeared in that man's life. His visit to the pool that Sabbath made a difference in the man's life.

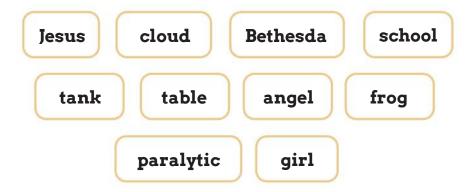
This week, you've been invited to participate in the Children's Week of Prayer. It might just seem like another meeting to you. But there's a difference. Jesus is visiting your class right now. He knows we are sick and burdened with sins that paralyze us from serving Him. He wants to work a miracle in your life today. He wants you to follow the advice He gives for your happiness.

Do you want to receive the forgiveness that Jesus wants to give you? Take this opportunity to become a child of God right now.

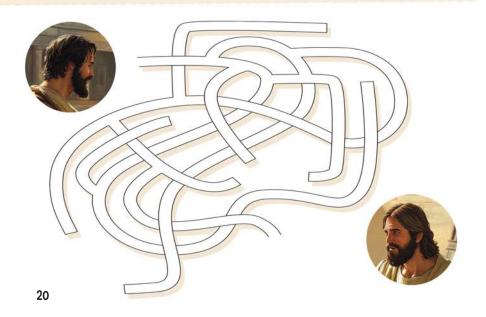




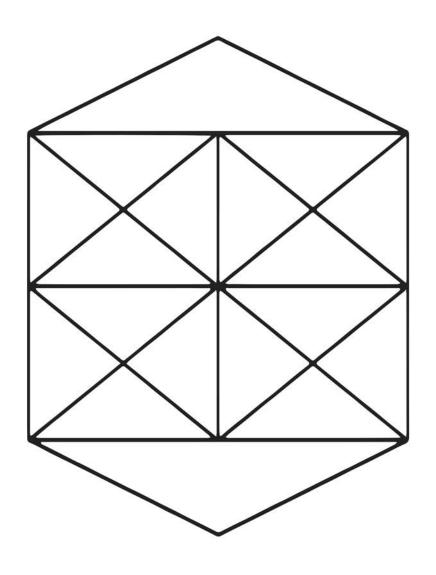
## Color the words that are part of the story:



Where did the paralytic find his miracle? Lead the paralytic through the maze to the correct answer. (You are allowed to go under or over the road crossings.)



Count the triangles and find out how many years the man had been sick:





# The Healing of a Nobleman's Son

"The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him" (John 4:50).



eing sick is really bad, isn't it? You don't feel like eating, playing, or talking. You just want to stay quietly in a corner. May I tell you a secret? When you're sick, the ones who suffer the most are your parents. They get very worried and will do almost anything to see you healthy again.

Jesus met many parents when He lived here on Earth. They came to Him because their children needed help. The parents wanted to see their children healed from their illnesses.



The region of Galilee was a small Roman province in Jesus' time. It was in the northern part of Palestine, the land where Jesus lived. Despite its size, it was divided into two parts due to its terrain: Upper Galilee and Lower Galilee. The lower lands were along the shores of the Sea of Galilee where the cities of Magdala, Capernaum, and Bethsaida were located. The higher lands included Cana and Nazareth.

The city of Cana became famous because it was where Jesus performed His first miracle. But other miracles also happened there. Once, when Jesus was returning from a trip to Jerusalem with His disciples, He visited Cana again. By then, Jesus was famous for the miracles He performed. Wherever He went, it was like a celebration. Everyone wanted to see Him.

The Bible tells us about a nobleman (Roman royal official) whose little son was very sick. Even though the family had enough money, the doctors couldn't find a cure for the boy's illness. The father was desperate. He didn't know where else to turn. He was a noble Roman who overheard people talking on the street. One day he heard about a young preacher who was healing people's health problems. He thought to himself, "Could Jesus help my son?" He had doubts because the Jews hated the Romans, and now the Roman army controlled their lives and even taxed them.

But his love for his son was so strong that he decided to take a risk and ask for help. He heard someone say that the Master was going to Cana. This would be his big chance. He left Capernaum, where he lived, and went to Cana to find Jesus. He approached Jesus and asked Him to come to Capernaum because his son was dying. Jesus decided to test the man's faith. He said to him, "You will only believe if you see a miracle." The father wasn't sure if Jesus could heal his son.

Refusing to believe can prevent someone from receiving a blessing. The father recognized that his faith was small, so he pleaded with Jesus, "Lord, come down before my son dies!"

Something changed. He realized that with doubt he couldn't receive anything. He had to believe that Jesus had the power to save his little son.

Jesus knew that the nobleman had changed his attitude and told him, "Go, your son will live." The man was so certain that Jesus had healed his son that he stayed in the city for an extra day. He was no longer in a hurry to return home. On the day he went home, a soldier ran to meet him with the happy news that the boy was healthy. He just asked, "When did the fever leave him?" The soldier said, "Yesterday around 1 p.m." The faither smiled with satisfaction, remembering the exact moment when Jesus said his son was healed.

The nobleman had no confirmation that his son was well. Jesus' word was enough for him to feel at peace. That is faith. It's believing even without seeing the miracle. It's trusting in God's word, knowing that He keeps His promises.

Do you trust Jesus' word? Ask with faith, and He will answer your request right now. 👻





Color the nobleman's encounter with Jesus.



Cross out the letters X and K and rewrite what the nobleman replied to Jesus, after the Master told him that he would heal his son.

Jkexsus sxaikth uknxto hxikm, Gkox tkhxy wkaxy; tkhxy skoxn lkxivekth. Aknxd tkhxe mkaxn bxelkiexved tkhxe wkorxd tkhaxt Jkexsus haxd sxpokexn uknto hkim, aknd hxe wkent hxis wkaxy.

Based on the Bible passage of John 9:1-12

### Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).



ave you ever played blindfolded? Maybe walking in the middle of the room? It's hard, isn't it? It might seem fun, but you can't stay without seeing for long. Soon, you take off the blindfold to look at things around you.

Imagine if you were born blind. How many beautiful and wonderful things would you miss out on seeing? The Bible tells the story of a young man who was blind from birth. In those days, someone in this condition could only beg. There were no schools for the blind or jobs. He was completely dependent on the kindness of people passing by on the street. One day, Jesus was passing by with His disciples and saw this blind man begging by the roadside. He must have been near the Temple in Jerusalem, a place where many people passed. The young blind man heard a group of people approaching and asked for alms. The group stopped near the young man, and one of them asked, "Was this young man born blind because of his parents' sin or because of something wrong he did?"

At that time, people believed that someone was born with a defect or became ill because God was punishing either them or their parents for sin. The greater the suffering, the greater the guilt. Jesus took the opportunity to correct His disciples' way of thinking and said, "Neither this young man sinned nor his parents. But this happened so that the power of God could be seen."

Do you know what Jesus wanted to teach? Many times, we don't understand all the reasons why things happen, but everything occurs because God has a plan for us. The Lord knows every case of suffering.

Jesus cared about that young man. He knew how sad his life story was, but He wanted to do something the young man couldn't even imagine.

Jesus spat on the ground and with His saliva, made mud out of the clay. Then He applied it to the eyes of the blind man. After that, He told him to go and wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam. Even though he didn't understand, the young man obeyed.

What a surprise he had when he opened his eyes after washing his face. He could see! He looked all around, blinking in amazement that he was seeing. What joy, what happiness! He was so radiant that some doubted he had ever been blind. He was different. It wasn't just the fact that he could see. His face had changed. His heart had changed. He was a different person now. This happened on a Sabbath. To the religious leaders, the fact that the young man had been healed was unimportant. But for them it was a crime for Jesus to do such a thing on the sacred day. They didn't understand that we should do good every day, but the Sabbath is the best day for that.

The Bible says that the healed young man only knew the name of his benefactor. He didn't know His face. Later, when Jesus met him on the road, He asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The young man honestly replied, "Who is He, sir?" Jesus explained, "I am the One who healed you." The young man fell to the ground, worshiped Jesus, and said, "I believe, Lord."

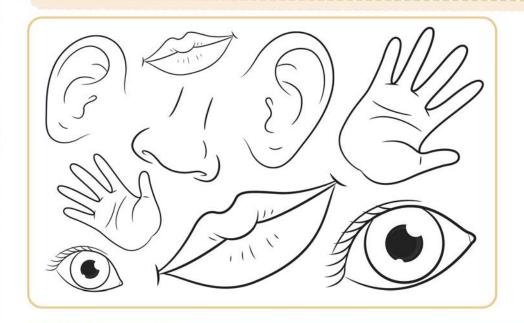
Jesus took the opportunity to teach another lesson to His disciples. The worst blindness is not of the eyes, but of the spirit. The worst blind person is the one who claims to see but doesn't understand the things of God. The worst blind person is the one who doesn't want to see the truth. That was the problem with the religious leaders in Jesus' day. They prided themselves on knowing many Bible verses but did not recognize Jesus as the Savior. How awful it is for someone to attend church every service, know many Bible verses, say they believe in God their whole life, and in the end find out they are lost because they didn't want to recognize what is most important.

How do you treat Jesus? Is He important to you? If you want to understand Him better, talk to Him. Ask Jesus for help in recognizing who can truly heal you inside and out.





Color the part of the body that Jesus healed.



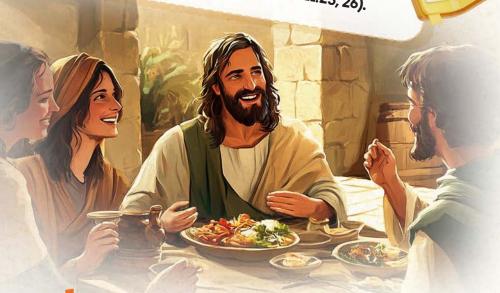
Look for words in the hunt: blind, clay, light, eye, temple.

0 7 G M E S P Y H I W Q P Α U R E G F H 0 Z Α 0 В J Н Α В Α F Y F R N S В L 0 I Y Q E N E D T M R P Α H L S G Ε Z F F 0 A В Q J Υ C 7 Α Υ R Α ٧ Т E E M P B В M Q T J 0 M M Ε F Α U N T K G H T X Q T A R L 1

Based on the Bible passage of John 11:1-46

### Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26).



esus loved everyone, but like any person, He had a group of people who were His closest friends. He felt at home in their house.

Do you know who Jesus' best friends were?

There was a small family that lived in Bethany. They were three siblings: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. The village they lived in was three kilometers from the eastern entrance of the city of Jerusalem. It was on the Mount of Olives, along the road that went from the capital to Jericho.

It seems that whenever Jesus visited Jerusalem, He preferred to stay at the home of these three siblings. The Master's visit brought great joy. The Bible says that Jesus loved their company. However, one day Lazarus fell ill. His sisters sought help from doctors and tried to care for their brother as best as they could, but it seemed that nothing was working. Jesus wasn't nearby; He was in the north, preaching in Galilee. Lazarus' sisters sent a messenger to inform Jesus that Lazarus was very ill.

When Jesus finally heard, He said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Even though He knew His friend was ill, Jesus stayed where He was for two more days. It seemed as if He wasn't in a hurry and wasn't worried about His friend's health. Then Jesus decided to go to Bethany to visit His friends and said, "Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." The disciples commented, "If he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Then Jesus explained that Lazarus had actually died.

It took four days of walking until Jesus reached Bethany. As He was entering the town, Martha went out to meet Him and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus was deeply moved and troubled. He suffered greatly over the death of Lazarus. When He met Mary, she said the same thing as her sister Martha. They felt very, very sad about Jesus' absence because they were certain He could have healed their brother.

But God had other plans that they didn't understand at that moment of sadness and pain. Many times, we also don't understand God's will in our lives, just like Martha and Mary. Then Jesus turned to Martha and said, "Your brother will rise again." She confirmed, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus explained that He was talking about a different kind of resurrection. He would raise Lazarus on that day. Imagine how this must have filled the hearts of Lazarus' sisters with joy!

Jesus asked to be taken to the place where Lazarus was buried. Then the Bible says, "Jesus wept." He suffered at the feeling of separation caused by death. He was moved by the suffering of the people. He ordered the stone to be taken away from the tomb, and Martha questioned, "Lord, by this time there will be a bad smell, for he has been dead four days." But the family obeyed.

Jesus prayed to the Father and thanked Him because He always hears His prayers and said, "Lazarus, come out."

The miracle happened. Lazarus was raised from the dead and came out wrapped in burial cloths. Witnessing this miracle, many began to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. However, some, without understanding what had happened, went to tell the religious leaders, who were enemies of Jesus.

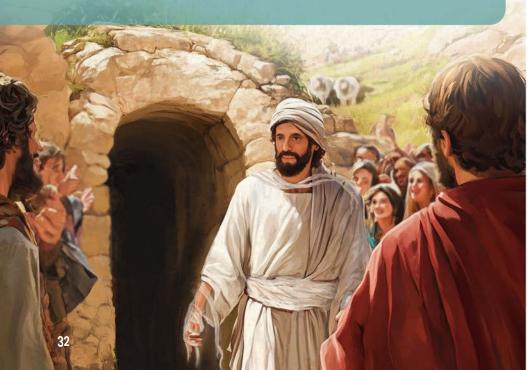
This was the greatest sign of Jesus' ministry. He gives life and gives it again.

What do we learn from this story?

Those who accept Jesus as their Creator and Savior do not die; they only sleep, awaiting the day of resurrection.

Do you want to live forever with Jesus? Do you want to have the hope of meeting all those who have passed away, knowing that you will be resurrected and meet Him?

Seek to be Jesus' best friend. Talk to Him always and study the Bible stories He left for us. He will fill your heart with joy and hope.





### Find the answers to the word search in the table below.

a) Names of the three siblings that Jesus loved very much:											
M, M											
and L											
b) Jes	us or	_ be removed.									
c) Laz	arus	him from									
the dead.											
d) Jesus turned crying into J											
О	Α	S	L	Α	Z	Α	R	U	S	S	М
M	N	Υ	Q	Н	L		Α	P	Q	W	Α
Α	Q	Α	J	О	Υ	Н	L	O	F	Н	R
R	W	В	Α	F	L	Н	О	F	R	V	Υ
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Н	I	Υ	Α	Н	L	S	I	0	Α	В	Ε
Α	Υ	C	Z	S	T	0	Ν	Ε	В	E	W
Rearrange the letters and write what Jesus came into the world to give us.											
Jesus came to give us											
(alsintoav)											
and eternal (leif)											

Based on the Bible passage of John 3:1-15.

# The Greatest of All Miracles



"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).



hroughout this week of prayer, we've explored fantastic stories of some miracles that Jesus performed. These were recounted by John for our learning. Do you know what Jesus can do because He loves us? Do you understand the power He has to transform your heart?

If you paid attention to these stories, you noticed that Jesus has the power to perform any kind of miracle. He cares about you and can make something wonderful happen. There's a miracle that Jesus can do in the heart of every child. It's the greatest miracle of all.

When the time came, Jesus began preaching about God's love. He sparked curiosity in many people. They wanted to know if He truly was the expected Messiah. This same doubt was on Nicodemus' mind. The Bible tells us Nicodemus was a very important person. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, a council of church leaders. Because he cared about his reputation, he arranged a nighttime meeting with Jesus, so no one would find out. Nicodemus started the conversation by praising Jesus: "You must be a Teacher sent by God because no one can do what you do unless the Lord is with him." It was as if Nicodemus was saying, "Let's talk as Teacher to Teacher."

Jesus didn't pay much attention to the compliment He received and spoke directly to Nicodemus' heart: "Unless someone is born again, they cannot understand the things of God's kingdom." Nicodemus was puzzled because he didn't really understand: "That's not possible. It doesn't make sense. How can I be born again if I'm already old? I can't go back into my mother's womb and be born again," he said.

So Jesus explained that He wasn't talking about natural birth. The Jews believed that someone who accepted the Jewish faith was like a young child. Speaking about someone newly converted, someone beginning to believe in the Jewish faith made sense to Nicodemus. What he didn't grasp was how he, a Jewish leader, could be born again.

Some people think being a Christian means eating like a Christian, dressing like a Christian, following all the church rules, attending all the services, and giving large offerings. That might seem like a perfect believer. But being a true Christian isn't exactly that. To be a true Christian, a person needs to first get closer to the Savior and know Him. Then, to obey Jesus will be a delight.

Jesus began explaining to Nicodemus that being born again requires letting the Holy Spirit work in the heart every day. The transformation starts inside, not because the person decides to change their behavior in their own strength. Rather, they allow the Holy Spirit to touch them. It's like the wind that we don't know where it comes from or where it goes. We can't see it, but we can see it moving the leaves of trees, feel its freshness on our face, and hear the sound of its movement.

This is how the Holy Spirit transforms the heart. Nicodemus began to understand that he needed to know the Savior more deeply.

To touch Nicodemus' heart more deeply, Jesus recalled the story of the Israelites in the desert. Do you remember the story of the snakes? The people of Israel were wandering in the desert and started to complain. Their favorite pastime was to be complaining about everything. God removed the protection He had given them, and the camp was attacked by venomous snakes. People began to feel much pain, and many even died.

The people became desperate and recognized their lack of faith, asking God for forgiveness. Then the Lord commanded Moses to make a brass snake and hang it on a pole, so that anyone who looked at it would be healed. Can you believe that many didn't look, even though they knew that that snake represented Jesus, the only way to be saved? The Creator came into the world and became like one of us. He never sinned, He conquered evil, and then died in our place.

When we look at His sacrifice on the cross, we see that we are contaminated with the poison of sin. How can we live? Who can help us?

Only Jesus has the antidote to this poison. You and I need to recognize that without Jesus, we cannot escape.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are born again. When we believe that Jesus died in our place, we will be different. Jesus will transform us day by day as we are born again.

Today, the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and me. He wants to show us the extent of God's love for us.

Do you know Jesus? Jesus knows you! He wants to perform a great miracle in your life, just as He did with Nicodemus. He wants to transform your heart and neutralize the effect of the poison of sin that is within each of us.

Do you want to be born again? Don't wait until tomorrow. Open the door of your heart today and let Jesus come in.





## Activities

Discover the secret message! Match each symbol to the letter and write the message below:



Through the study of this week of prayer we learned that Jesus performed many miracles to demonstrate His love and power. Our trust must be only in Him. Find the bold words in the word search:

"To **HIM** who is able to do **INFINITELY** more than all we **ASK** or **THINK** according to His **POWER** that works within us, to Him be **GLORY** in the **CHURCH** and in **CHRIST JESUS** throughout all **GENERATIONS** forever and **EVER**, Amen" (Ephesians 3:20, 21).

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٧	C	Υ	Q	Н	Ε	Ε	Α	Р	Н	W	U	Q	R	1
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