



Jesus Has Power Over Disease

3

Key Theme

- Jesus is God.

Key Passages

- John 9:1–7, 9:32–33; Mark 2:3–5, 2:10–12

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify why Jesus healed the blind man.
- Identify the two ways Jesus healed the paralytic.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet using the letter clues. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the class using only the letter clues.



Activity 1: Jesus Has Power Over Disease Class Notes

Students will fill out the Jesus Has Power Over Disease Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

Jesus was compassionate and loving toward people who were sick. He often showed His compassion by healing them. But this was not the main reason Jesus healed. Jesus healed so others would see the power of God in Him and God would be glorified. Not only did Jesus heal physical disease, but He was able to forgive sins—healing men's souls for all eternity!



Activity 2: Team Review

Teams will choose Review Question Cards and answer the questions to earn points.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



JESUS HAS POWER OVER DISEASE CLASS NOTES

- Print one Jesus Has Power Over Disease Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Jesus Has Power Over Disease Class Notes for each student
- Jesus Has Power Over Disease Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



TEAM REVIEW

- Print the Team Review Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Print and cut out the 24 Review Question Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Team Review Teacher Guide
- 24 Review Question Cards



Memory Verse

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

Jesus came to do His Father's will. Part of that mission was to present who He was and who had sent Him. The miracles He performed confirmed these things. Jesus truly was God in the flesh, the Creator, the Messiah, and the Son of God.

The Gospel of Mark reveals Jesus as the compassionate, suffering servant who came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45). He often revealed His servant's heart and compassion to the people He ministered to, especially those He encountered who were sick (Mark 1:41, 5:19, 6:34, 8:2).

But Jesus was not concerned primarily with physical healing. He came to do His Father's will. And that included providing a way for sinners to have eternal life (John 5:24). This could only be accomplished through spiritual healing—through the forgiveness of sins wrought by sincere repentance and faith in the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The account of Jesus healing the paralytic is an example of His ability and desire to heal physically as well as spiritually. As Jesus preached in a house in Capernaum, a large crowd had gathered and the house became full (Mark 2:2). Four men came to the house with a paralytic friend on a bed, presumably to be healed. Seeing the crowded house, they went up on the clay roof, dug a hole in the roof, and lowered their friend down to Jesus (Mark 2:3–4). Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

Jesus ignored the physical condition of the man and spoke directly to the man's more serious problem—the sin in his heart. The scribes immediately accused Jesus of blasphemy as they considered that no one can forgive sins except God (Mark 2:6–7).

Jesus answered, "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?'" There is some irony here. It is easier to say the words, "Your sins are forgiven you," since the forgiveness cannot be seen. And yet, forgiving sins is the more difficult of the tasks since only God can forgive sins—and the price He demands for that forgiveness is immeasurable.

Jesus continued in order to confirm plainly that He is God. He told the man to rise, take his bed, and go home (Mark 2:11). This healing revealed and confirmed that Jesus, as God, not only has power to heal, but to forgive sins and grant eternal life!

Another healing miracle of Jesus is recorded in John 9. This miracle concerned a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples wondered if the reason that this man was born blind was because he or his parents had sinned. Jesus replied, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him" (John 9:3). This man's blindness was not a direct result of personal sin, but rather that Jesus might heal his blindness, and thus display the glory of God, and His own deity.

Jesus showed His compassion and His mercy to those who were both physically sick and spiritually sick. He has power over disease and sickness. And He can forgive sins! He is truly God.

And for all who receive Him, repent of their sins, and accept the forgiveness He offers, there is a greater promise: that one day, our lowly bodies will be transformed to be like His glorious body. In heaven, sin will be conquered, and there will be no more sickness, sorrow, or death (Revelation 21:4).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

There are those today who claim that God's will is for everyone be healed. They assert that physical healing is guaranteed to believers based on Jesus's death on the Cross. All we have to do is believe—to name it and claim it. But is this what the Bible teaches? Is it God's will that everyone be healed of sickness during their earthly lives?

We know that in God's original creation there was no sickness or death. God created everything "very good." But when Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed the world, and it is now under bondage to corruption (Romans 8:20–22). Now people get sick and die. There are natural causes of disease, such as viruses, bacteria, defective genes, and so forth. Then we have war, accidents, and disasters that may result in injury, paralysis, and disfigurement. The record of Scripture, history, and our own experience tells us that believers are not exempt from any of these difficulties.

Were believers in the New Testament always healed? The answer is "No." There are several biblical examples where God did not heal people. Take the Apostle Paul, for example. He had a "thorn in the flesh" from Satan that afflicted him. He prayed three times that the Lord might heal him of this infirmity, but God did not (2 Corinthians 12:9). Timothy was

another who suffered from an ailment. We don't know the exact nature of it, but Paul encouraged Timothy to "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities" (1 Timothy 5:23).

In 2 Timothy 4:20, Paul says, "Erastus stayed at Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick." Paul, who had healed others, could not or did not heal Trophimus. He left him sick. Paul no doubt prayed for Trophimus, but for some reason God chose not to heal him. And then there was Epaphroditus, a helper to Paul and servant to the Philippians. He was sick to the point of death, but the Lord spared his life (Philippians 2:25–30). Why did God allow this righteous servant of God to almost die? When he finally recovered, Paul said it was because "God had mercy on him."

If it were God's will that all believers be healed, then why would God not heal these men of faith? Why doesn't God heal everyone? There are several biblical reasons.

First, God does not always respond to our desires in the way that we would want Him to. He frequently allows circumstances that we would not have chosen for ourselves. We call this sovereignty. God is sovereign over His creation, over us, over our circumstances. God sovereignly directs the circumstances of our lives and allows or permits things as He wills (Daniel 4:35; Psalm 115:3). As the potter, He has the right to do with the clay (us!) as He wishes (Jeremiah 18; Romans 9). Is God supposed to give us what we want, even if He knows that something else is better? Doesn't God reserve the right to give us the best possible good according to His wisdom and knowledge (Romans 8:28)? Maybe more than being healed, God wants us to see and understand life from His perspective—something we cannot do as long as we think the world revolves around us.

A second reason that God may choose not to heal is to reveal His power in another way. Paul asked God to remove his thorn in the flesh. God responded, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul understood that the weakness caused by his infirmity was an avenue for God's power to be shown in his life. He wrote, "Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9–10).

Suffering can be a tool of sanctification, like rough sandpaper that smooths and finishes.

A third reason that God may not heal us is because our physical condition is not His primary concern. Our Father's first priority is His own glory. Sometimes He may be best glorified when someone is healed, as in the case of the man born blind in John 9. But sometimes God's glory may be better revealed by how a child of His responds to difficulties, sicknesses, and trials. Throughout history, God has been glorified and honored in the lives of faithful saints who have clung to Him no matter the difficulty, pain, or distress.

A fourth reason that God may not heal us is to equip us to help others. When we undergo suffering and trials, we are comforted by God. And that comfort that we receive is not just for ourselves, but we are to comfort others who are experiencing the same things with the comfort that we have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:3–11).

And finally we must realize that if we are believers, we can look forward to the day when God will wipe away our tears and remove all pain and grief (Revelation 21:4). God will heal all our diseases, but that day has not yet come. We are still in our mortal bodies, subject to pain, disease, and death. And there is a present purpose for our suffering as it shapes us, challenges us, conforms us to the image of Christ, reveals God's power in weakness, and draws our hope toward eternity (James 1:2–4; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Jesus, I am delighted to discover new things about you each time I study your Word. I never want to presume to already know everything about you. How could I ever fully know your infinite character and nature? Through this lesson, I see that the decision to heal is based more on your glory than our faith. And more importantly, Lord, I know you came to heal spiritually through the forgiveness of sins so that sinners could live for eternity with you. I pray, Lord, that my students will one day come to that healing of their souls as they repent and trust in you.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Jesus Has Power Over Disease Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Jesus Has Power Over Disease Class Notes for each student
- Jesus Has Power Over Disease Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill in something.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that Jesus healed people of their diseases, but more importantly, He forgave their sins and healed them spiritually. He did all of this for God's glory!



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 2 Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus is the Word. The Word was with God and the Word IS God. And all things were made through Him. Jesus is the Creator God. He showed His power as Creator God by demonstrating His power over nature!

- ? **What did Jesus do that showed His power over nature?** *He walked on water. He calmed the storm. He helped Simon catch a huge bunch of fish!*

Jesus also had power over disease. He healed people in order to glorify His heavenly Father. We will read about that today.

- ? Turn in your Bibles to John 9:1-7. This will set the stage for our lesson today. Who will read that? *John 9:1-7. Choose students to read the verses.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

A blind man's life was changed after he met Jesus! Let's take a closer look at what happened by answering some questions about those verses.

Observe the Text

- ? First, who are the two people mentioned in John 9:1? *Jesus and a blind man.*

The disciples were with Jesus. They passed by a blind man—a man who had been blind from birth.

- ? And what did the disciples ask Jesus about the blind man? *John 9:2. Who sinned—this blind man or his parents?*

That's a strange question. But the disciples thought that the man's blindness was a punishment for sin—either his sin or his parents' sin. But Jesus was about to show that the reason he was blind didn't have to do with anyone's sin.

- ? Someone read John 9:3 again. *John 9:3. Assign a reader.*

- ? How did Jesus answer? Why was the man born blind? *John 9:3. That the works of God should be revealed in him.*

Jesus explained that this man was blind so that the works of God would be seen in him. God is sovereign—in control—of everything, even this man's blindness. And God's purpose for this blindness was so God would be glorified.

- ? Look at your class notes. Will someone read #1 for us? How will you finish that sentence? *Assign a reader. Sin. Have students complete #1.*

- ? And what was Jesus's answer? Will someone read #2? *Assign a reader. Not. Have students complete #2.*

- ? And why was the man born blind? Will someone read #3? *Assign a reader. Glorified. Have students complete #3.*

- ? Now someone read John 9:6 again. What did Jesus do for the blind man? *John 9:6. He made clay with His spit and put it on the man's eyes.*

- ? And what was the man supposed to do now that the clay was on his eyes? *John 9:7. Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.*

- ? What happened to the blind man after he washed? *John 9:7. He returned seeing!*

What? He was blind, and now he could see! This is amazing! Jesus made clay with His spit, put it on the blind man's eyes, and told him to wash it

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

off. And then the man could see! We sometimes don't think about the miracles of Jesus too much. But this man was blind from birth! And now he could see. It was a great miracle!

? Someone read #4 on your class notes. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Healed. Have students complete #4 on the class notes.*

Jesus had healed this blind man. You would think everyone would be amazed at this miracle! But many people hated Jesus. They did not want to believe that Jesus could open the eyes of a blind man. They did not want to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. They questioned the blind man about what happened. They said that Jesus was NOT from God. They thought Jesus was a sinner! But the blind man knew better. He defended Jesus.

? Go to John 9:32–33. This is what the blind man who now could see said. Will someone read that? *John 9:32–33. Assign a reader.*

John 9:32–33

? The man who now could see was amazed! Something had happened that had never been heard of! What was it? *John 9:32. That someone could open the eyes of a man born blind.*

? And what did the blind man know about Jesus? Who had sent Jesus? *John 9:33. God.*

? What could Jesus do apart from God? *John 9:33. Nothing.*

? Let's go to the class notes for a quick review. Will someone read #5? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Believe. Have students complete #5.*

? And will someone read #6? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #6.*

Discover the Truth

Jesus healed the blind man. Many did not want to believe Jesus is God. But only God could heal a man who was blind from birth. Jesus made clay with His spit in the dirt. He put that on the blind man's eyes. And after the blind man washed, he could see.

This was an amazing miracle. God was glorified! The blind man believed! He knew that if Jesus had not been from God, He could not have healed his blindness. Jesus is God! And Jesus's works gave God glory!

? Look at #7 on your class notes. What is the answer there? Will someone read it? *Assign a reader. Glory. Have students complete #7.*



READ THE WORD

Jesus had compassion on the blind, the sick, and the hurting. There are many accounts in the Bible telling how Jesus helped these people. We will read about another time in Mark. This is about a man who was paralyzed.

? What does that mean? That someone is paralyzed? *Allow discussion.*

It means that something happened to him, and he couldn't move. In fact, he couldn't even walk! He had to lie down on a mat or a stretcher, and his friends carried him around when he wanted to go somewhere. Well, we are going to read about a day he wanted to go somewhere! A day he wanted to go and see Jesus! A day that would change his life forever!

? Why do you think this man wanted to see Jesus? *Allow discussion. So he could be healed.*

It is likely that the man had heard that Jesus could heal diseases. And that could be why he wanted to go to see Him. But it wouldn't be easy for him to get to Jesus. Jesus was very popular. A crowd would gather wherever He went. On this day, Jesus was teaching in a house, and the house was packed full of people. There were even people outside the house crowded around to hear and see Jesus.

What would the paralyzed man do? He couldn't possibly reach Jesus through the crowd. Remember, he was on a stretcher, or mat, and four of his friends had to carry him. Let's read and find out what happened! Someone read Mark 2:3–4. *Assign a reader.*

Mark 2:3–4

EXAMINE THE WORD

Wow! The man had some determined friends helping him. Let's answer some questions about those verses so we can understand them better.

Observe the Text

? How many men were carrying the paralytic—the man on the stretcher? *Mark 2:3. Four.*

? And when the four friends got to the house with their friend and saw the great crowd, what did they do? *Mark 2:4. They went up on the roof, broke through it, and lowered their friend through the hole to where Jesus was in the house.*

I can't imagine that! They had to lift their friend to the roof, cut a hole in the roof, and then lower him—very carefully, I'm sure—through the hole in the roof to where Jesus was teaching in the house.

? Let's review. Someone read #8 on your class notes. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #8.*

? And what about #9. What did the determined friends do? *Assign a reader. Roof. Have students complete #9.*

The man's friends were very clever. I wonder what Jesus did when He saw the man coming down on his bed from the roof—right into the house?

What Jesus said might surprise you! Let's read Mark 2:5. *Choose a student to read the verse.*

Mark 2:5

- ? First this verse mentions something Jesus saw. What was that? *Their faith.*
- ? Jesus saw their faith in Him. And then what did Jesus say? *Son, your sins are forgiven.*

The paralytic had faith in Jesus. He believed that Jesus was God. And Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven.

Other men in the house heard what Jesus said. They did not like it one bit. They said among themselves that Jesus was speaking blasphemies—or lies. They said that only God could forgive sins. And they were right! Only God *can* forgive sins.

- ? But who is Jesus? *God.*

Yes. Jesus is God. So Jesus *can* forgive sins. And that is what Jesus did when He saw the man's faith.

- ? Someone read #10 on your class notes. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Forgiven. Have students complete #10.*

Like I said, some didn't believe Jesus had the power to forgive sins. So Jesus did something that would show the people in the house that He could forgive sins—that He was God!

- ? Let's keep reading! Who wants to read Mark 2:10–12? *Mark 2:10–12. Assign a reader.*

Mark 2:10–12

- ? What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man after He forgave his sins? *Mark 2:11. Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.*

- ? And what did the man do? *Mark 2:12. He arose, took up the bed, and went out.*

- ? Yes, he did! How did the people in the house react? What did they say? *Mark 2:12. They were amazed and glorified God. They said they had never seen anything like this before.*

Discover the Truth

Jesus is God! No one else could do what Jesus did that day. Jesus saw the man's faith and forgave the man's sins. When Jesus forgives sins, people are healed *spiritually*.

But, Jesus also told him to take up his mat and go home. He may never have walked before. But he did that day! Jesus healed the man *physically* by healing his body so he could walk again.

The people in the house were amazed that Jesus could forgive sins AND that Jesus could heal the man's disease. They glorified God when they saw it and said, "We never saw anything like this!" Jesus is God! He did things on earth that only God could have done. Jesus is able to heal both spiritually and physically. And as healer and sovereign, Almighty God, Jesus is worthy of praise and worship!

► If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.

? **Let's go back to the class notes. Look at #11. What is the answer?** *Assign a reader. Spiritually. Have students complete #11.*

? **And what about #12? How will you answer that?** *Assign a reader. Physically. Have students complete #12.*

? **And someone read #13. What is the answer to that?** *Assign a reader. Amazed. Have students complete #13.*



Team Review

MATERIALS

- Team Review Teacher Guide
- 24 Review Question Cards

INSTRUCTIONS

Place the Review Question Cards face down at the front of the class—on the floor, a table, your desk, etc. Divide the class into two or more teams. Each team will select one Review Question Card at a time and answer. If they answer correctly, remove the card and award them points based on the number on the question card. If the answer is not correct, give the answer and replace the card at the front of the class. Keep track of each team's score.

We are going to divide into teams. Each team will earn points by answering the questions from today's lesson on the Review Question Cards. Each card is

numbered. Your team will get points according to the number on the card. Let's get started! *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good job, everyone! Many people were amazed by Jesus's miracles. They came to hear Him teach, and many wanted Jesus to heal them. Today we read about the blind man who was healed by Jesus and the paralytic whose friends lowered him down through a roof. Jesus healed diseases and was able to forgive sins. He did these things so the people would see that what He said was true. God is deserving of all glory. And Jesus is God!



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Jesus is God. And in this lesson we saw the power of God demonstrated when He healed a blind man and healed a paralyzed man.

? **What is the attribute of God that means all-powerful?** *Omnipotent.*

Right! Jesus was omnipotent. He showed that when He healed people. Jesus had power over disease. He healed people of their physical illnesses. He healed the blind man and made him see.

OMNIPOTENT

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

But Jesus also healed people spiritually. In the account of the paralyzed man, Jesus told the him to get up and walk. Jesus healed the man's physical problem. But more importantly, Jesus told the man, "Your sins are forgiven." This man not only walked home with a new body, but he had been given a new heart—one that had been forgiven of sin. And through that forgiveness, he was given eternal life. Jesus had power over disease. And He had power over sin and could forgive men who turned to Him in repentance and faith.

Jesus wanted everyone to know who He was—God in the flesh. And He wanted everything He did to glorify God! He healed physically, and He healed spiritually—and through all of it, God got the glory!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Some claim today that God wants everyone to be healed. They say if you have enough faith, you will be healed. But that is not the case. Let's see what the Bible has to say about healing.

The Bible tells us that Jesus healed many people during His years of ministry. But believers in the New Testament were not always healed. The Apostle Paul prayed three times for the Lord to heal him, but God did not heal him (2 Corinthians 12:8–9). Paul's disciple Timothy suffered an illness and was frequently sick (1 Timothy 5:23). And others are named in the New Testament as examples of men who were not healed.

So, based on biblical examples, we can say that God didn't always heal, and He still doesn't. So why wouldn't God heal us when we ask in faith? Is there a purpose for us to be sick? Every time Jesus healed, He did it for God's glory. And the Bible tells us that God wants to be glorified in *all* things.

? So, do you think that sometimes God gets more glory in a person's life when they are not healed? Does that seem crazy to you? I mean, how can God get the glory when a person is NOT healed? *Allow brief discussion or a pause for contemplation.*

Sometimes God's glory is seen in a person's life when they are very sick and miserable. Think about this. When a person is able to respond to their difficulties and pain with praise and patience and faith and trust in God's will, they are glorifying God in a mighty way. So, through their sickness God is glorified.

It may be that God does not heal us because He is preparing us to help someone else through a trial later on. And when we help others remain faithful to God, God is glorified.

You see, if we trust God to help us through a difficult time, we can encourage others who are going through a hard time because we know God can and will give strength, comfort, and courage.

God wants to be honored and glorified in all things. Sometimes being healed from a disease gives God glory. And sometimes God is glorified best when we are not healed.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

We should always keep in mind that the most important kind of healing is spiritual—when Jesus forgives sin! Everyone needs this healing because we are all sinners. And this healing is available to everyone who comes to God and asks for forgiveness and salvation. For those who repent, believe, and receive that free gift, they will spend eternity in heaven where there will be no more tears and no more disease.



MEMORY VERSE

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God that we can trust and believe that His sovereign will for us is always best.
- Ask God to help us to glorify Him in everything we do.
- Thank God for the spiritual healing He offers through forgiveness of sins to everyone who believes in Him.