

Bible Story 35: JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

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| SCRIPTURE: | Feeds 4,000: | Matthew 15:29-39; Mark 8:1-10 |
| | Heals Blind Man: | Mark 8:22-26 |
| | Called "Son of God": | Matthew 16:13-16 |
| | Transfiguration: | Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-9 |
| | Pays Temple Tax: | Matthew 17:24-27 |

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 5:16

BIBLE STORY:

On a certain occasion Jesus was on a mountain side near the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was healing the blind, deaf, lame and crippled. The people were with Him for three days and they were very hungry. With compassion for the people, Jesus told His disciples not to send them home without eating. They might collapse along the way.

The disciples asked, **"How can we find a place to get food to feed 4,000 men, plus these women and children?"**

Jesus asked, **"What food do we have?"**

They replied, **"We have seven loaves of bread and just a few small fish."**

Then Jesus instructed the crowd to sit down and He gave thanks to God for the food. Then Jesus tore the loaves of bread and fish into pieces, giving them to His disciples to distribute to the people. After everyone ate until they were satisfied, the disciples gathered up what was left over. Seven basketfuls of pieces of bread and fish were left over!

Then Jesus went to Bethsaida. When He arrived, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, begging Him to heal him. So holding the man's hand, Jesus guided him outside the village. Jesus spit on the blind man's eyes. Jesus asked the blind man, **"Do you see anything?"**

The man replied, **"I see people. The people are like trees that are walking around."**

Again Jesus placed His hands on the man's eyes. When the man opened his eyes, he could see everything very clearly! Jesus told the man to go home and not to go into the village.

One day as Jesus was traveling alone with His disciples, Jesus asked them, **"Who do the people say is the Son of God? Who do people say I am?"**

His disciples replied, **"Well, different people say you are John the Baptist or Elijah or Jeremiah or perhaps another prophet."**

Then Jesus asked, **"Now tell me. Who do you say that I am?"**

Simon Peter replied, **"Jesus, You are the Son**

of the living God. You are Christ."

Jesus was pleased and said that God revealed this to him.

On another occasion, Jesus went up a high mountain with His disciples Peter, James and John. Jesus was transfigured. How? His clothes changed and became white as light. His face was shining like the sun. Beside Jesus stood Moses and Elijah, talking with Him.

Simon Peter wanted to put up three shelters: one shelter for Jesus, one shelter for Moses and one shelter for Elijah.

Then a cloud covered them as Peter was speaking. A voice from the cloud said, **"This is my Son. I love Him. I am well pleased with Him. Listen to His words!"**

The three disciples were terrified and fell to the ground. Touching them, Jesus said, **"Don't be afraid. Get up on your feet."**

The disciples looked around and Moses and Elijah were gone. Only Jesus was standing before them.

Jesus told them not to say anything about what happened to anyone else until after His resurrection. Then they went down the mountain side.

One day Jesus and His disciples arrived in Capernaum. Some tax collectors asked Simon Peter, **"Does your Teacher, Jesus, pay the temple tax or not?"** (Once a year each Jew was required to pay Temple Tax: two drachma, worth approximately two days' wages.)

Peter replied, **"Yes."** Peter went inside the house to talk with Jesus. Before he could say anything, Jesus asked, **"Peter, do kings collect duty and taxes from their sons or from other people?"**

Peter replied, **"From other people."**

Then Jesus said, **"So the king's sons do not pay. Well, we do not want to offend them. So Peter go and throw your fishing line out into the lake. When you catch your first fish, you will find a four-drachma coin inside the fish's mouth. Give this coin to the tax collectors to pay my temple tax and yours too."**

Jesus continued His third year of ministry.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. Jesus went about doing good to others. Do good wherever you go. (Examples: help members in your family, your neighbors, acquaintances, colleagues, church members, victims of disaster...)
2. Peter declared that Jesus was the Son of God. God spoke from a cloud saying, **"This is my Son. I love Him. I am well pleased with Him. Listen to His words."** Believe and trust in Jesus, who is the Son of God.
3. Jesus instructed Peter to pay the Temple tax. Be a good citizen and pay taxes that are required by law.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who are some people that Jesus healed?
2. What are some special physical needs that people have today?
3. Should we ever make fun or ridicule someone with physical needs? Why?
4. What are some ways to help people with special needs at home? Work? Neighborhood? Shopping center? Church? While traveling?
5. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do the people say I am?" What was their answer?
6. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Who answered? What did he say?
7. Who do your family and friends say Jesus is? Who do you say Jesus is?
8. When Jesus was up on a mountain with Peter, James and John, what happened? Who was speaking with Jesus? What did Peter want to do?
9. Speaking from heaven, what did God say about Jesus?
10. What did the Temple tax collectors ask Peter? What did Jesus tell Peter to do?
11. Does God want us to pay taxes that are required by law? Why?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Do some activities that show difficulties people face when they are crippled, blind, deaf, etc. Examples:
 - (1) Have ones use crutches as they go across a room to get a snack at a table and bring the snack back to their seat.
 - (2) Blindfold someone. Have him prepare food, such as a sandwich. (Example: If no one is allergic to peanuts, fix a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.)
 - (3) Hand out different phrases on a sheet of paper. One person mouths the words without speaking. The others have to guess what is said.
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Immediately after telling the story, make applications of the lessons taken from the Bible story and apply to the lives of the listeners.
- Discuss ways to help people who are crippled, deaf, blind, etc.

DEAF ACTIVITIES:

- **Activity 1:** Invite someone to come and share about deaf people and explain how they can help them. (Some difficulties are understanding programs on television and not talking on a telephone.)
- **Activity 2:** Learn a song using sign language.
- **Activity 3:** Talk about ways to protect your hearing:
 - (1) Do not put objects in your ears.
 - (2) Avoid listening to loud sounds. Turn the sound down.
 - (3) Use protection for your ears when loud noise is around you, such as mowing the yard, construction work, etc.

USER FRIENDLY:

- Look at your meeting place, home or church and see if it is user friendly for people with special needs. If not, make it user friendly for those who come with special needs. Such as:
 - (1) Ramp for a wheel chair
 - (2) A wide door for a wheel chair
 - (3) Railings along a walkway or steps
 - (4) Distinctive sounds each time the elevator reaches a floor in the building
 - (5) A person using sign language, interpreting the words of the songs and speaker
 - (6) Holiday and birthday cards in braille for the blind

GAME: "What is it?"

- **Option 1:** Pass a paper sack around with objects inside it. Without looking inside, each person must get an object and tell what it is before taking it out of the sack.
- **Option 2:** Write names of sounds and hand them out. Each one mimics his sound without saying a word while the others guess what it is. Examples: car horn, train, whistle, dog's bark, etc.

MISSION ACTIVITY:

- Plan an activity to help someone in your neighborhood, such as building a ramp for someone who is in a wheel chair, putting in a railing next to steps, baking cookies, cutting someone's grass, take someone shopping, etc.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Matthew 15:29-39; 16:13-16; 17:1-8,24-27; Mark 8:1-10, 22-26; 9:2-9

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