

Bible Story 36: JESUS CONTINUES THIRD YEAR OF MINISTRY

SCRIPTURE: Jesus, "The Living Water": John 7:10-17, 25-26, 37-38
Jesus, "The Light of the World": John 8:12
Heals the Blind Man: John 9:1-15, 24-25, 34-38
Jesus, "The Good Shepherd": John 10:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: John 10:14

BIBLE STORY:

After the death of John the Baptist, some people began to doubt Jesus. The Pharisees and the Sadducees were religious leaders who were jealous of Jesus and wanted to seize Jesus. Yet, many people admired Jesus and the miracles He performed.

Privately Jesus went to the Feast of the Tabernacles in the Temple in Jerusalem held once a year. This Jewish feast was in memory of when the Israelite people fled slavery in Egypt, walked through the desert for forty years, lived in tents and entered the Promised Land. The people remembered God's protection upon the Israelites. During the feast, water from a golden jar was poured upon the altar. This water was in memory of the water that came from the rock God provided. When the Israelites were in the desert, the people were very thirsty. Moses did as God commanded, hitting the rock with his staff. Water came out of the rock! The people drank the water and they were no longer thirsty. On the last day of the feast, Jesus loudly said, **"If anyone is thirsty, come drink from me."**

During the Feast of the Tabernacles, the candles on four golden lamps were lit in the Temple. This helped the people remember the column of fire that was sent to give light and direction while the Israelites were in the desert. After the feast Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world. Each one who follows me will have light in his life and never walk in darkness."**

As Jesus was walking one Sabbath day, He saw a blind man. The man was blind from birth. Jesus spit on the ground and made mud from the dirt with His saliva. Then He put the mud on the blind man's eyes. Jesus said, **"Go to the Pool of Siloam and wash your eyes."**

The blind man obeyed, washing his eyes at the pool. He could see! He told others, **"Because of Jesus, I can see!"** The Pharisees did not allow any kind of work on the Sabbath. The Pharisees said that Jesus did not heal the man and they threw the man out. Later Jesus went to the man and spoke to him. The man told Jesus, **"I believe you are the Son of God."**

Later Jesus said, **"Sheep are kept in a pen and there is only one door to the pen. Whoever enters that door to the pen is the shepherd of the sheep. The shepherd opens the door and calls each sheep by its name. When each sheep hears his shepherd's voice, he will follow him."**

Then Jesus said, **"I am the door. My sheep must pass through me."**

Jesus continued saying, **"A good shepherd protects his sheep. In fact, the shepherd will give his life for the sheep. When a wolf attacks the sheep, the good shepherd does not flee, but protects his sheep's life."**

Then Jesus said, **"I am the Good Shepherd. Just as I know My sheep, My sheep know Me. In fact, I am ready to die for My sheep."**

LIFE LESSONS:

1. **Jesus is the Living Water.** When you feel thirsty, you drink water. When you feel thirsty to know more about God, turn to Jesus. (How? Accept Jesus as your Savior, read the Bible, pray to Jesus, go to church...) Jesus will satisfy your desire to know God.
2. **Jesus is the Light.** The light is bright, allowing people to see in the dark. As the column of fire gave light for the people in the desert, Jesus gives spiritual light. When everything seems dark because of problems and difficulties, seek Jesus. Jesus gives hope and victory.
3. **Jesus is the Door.** Sheep enter the pen through the door. To enter heaven, pass through the door, which is Jesus. Believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior so you can enter heaven.
4. **Jesus is the Good Shepherd.** The good shepherd protects the life of each of his sheep. Jesus gave His life in order to save us. Become a sheep of Jesus by believing that Jesus is the Son of God who died to save you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was the Feast of the Tabernacles?
2. During the celebration, why was water from the golden jar poured over the altar?
3. Jesus said, **“If anyone is thirsty, come drink from me.”** What does that mean?
4. How can Jesus satisfy your thirst - physically and spiritually?
5. Why were candles lit during the Feast of the Tabernacles?
6. Jesus said, **“I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will have light in his life and never walk in darkness.”** What does that mean?
7. How can Jesus help you when you go through dark times because of problems and difficulties?
8. What is the Sabbath? How did Jesus heal the blind man on the Sabbath? What happened?
9. Who did the blind man believe Jesus was?
10. Jesus said, **“I am the door. My sheep must pass through me.”** What does that mean?
11. Jesus said, **“I am the Good Shepherd. Just as I know my sheep, my sheep know me. In fact, I am ready to die for my sheep.”** What does that mean?
12. Who is Jesus to you?

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:

- Show a cup of water. Ask: *“Why do you drink a cup of water?”*
- Show a flashlight or candle that is lighted. Ask: *“When do you use a flashlight? a candle? Why?”*
- Show pictures of doors to houses and buildings. Ask: *“Why do houses and buildings have doors?”*
- Show a picture of a shepherd protecting and taking care of his sheep. Ask: *“What does a shepherd do to protect and take care of his sheep?”*
- 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.

- (4) House** (Memorize where furniture is located.)
- (5) Clothing** (Outfits that match are coded in closet.)

CHECK EYESIGHT:

- Invite an optometrist to come and donate his time to check the eyesight of people in your group, children at a church or project, older people at a rest home, etc.
- Ask the optometrist or another person to explain ways to take care of one’s eyesight. **Examples:** Protect eyes with sunglasses in the hot sun; use safety glasses while playing sports; wear protective glasses while working on certain projects, such as sawing, metal work...

MISSION ACTIVITY:

- Choose and do a mission project: **Examples:**
 - (1) Send used eyeglasses to missionaries to distribute to those who need glasses.
 - (2) Send birthday or holiday cards to the blind in your neighborhood. **Suggestion:** Send a musical card, a card where you can record a message, or a card written in Braille.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Invite a blind person or someone who takes care of blind people to come and talk about blindness.
 - Discuss difficulties blind people have and how each person can help people who are blind.
- Examples:**
- (1) Crossing a street** (Some intersections have a buzzer sound when the light changes.)
 - (2) Going up an elevator** (Some elevators have a beeping noise: one beep - 1st floor; two beeps - 2nd floor, etc.)
 - (3) Reading** (Braille is a means for blind people to read. If possible, show an example.)

GAME: “Sheep Finds the Shepherd”

- Distribute a drawing of a sheep. (Option: Each person decorates his sheep. May glue cotton to the drawing.)
- Game:**
- On a wall, place a picture of a shepherd. Blind fold a person and he must place his sheep on the wall, wanting to place it near the shepherd. Continue so that everyone has a chance to play. See who has his sheep closest to the shepherd.

DAILY BIBLE READING - John 7:10-17,25-26,37-38; 8:12; 9:1-15,24-25,34-38; 10:1-15

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
John 7:10-17	John 7:25-26,37-38	John 8:12	John 9:1-15	John 9:24-25	John 9:34-38	John 10:1-15