

Bible Story 39: JESUS SHOWS LOVE

SCRIPTURE:	Heals Leprosy:	Luke 17:11-19
	Blesses the Children:	Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16
	Heals Blind Man:	Mark 10:46-52
	Speaks to Zacchaeus:	Luke 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 10:16

BIBLE STORY:

One day Jesus left Galilee and traveled through Samaria to get to Jerusalem. On the way, Jesus saw from a distance ten men with leprosy. When they saw Jesus they called loudly, **“Have compassion for us!”**

Jesus replied, **“Go and present yourselves to your priests.”**

They left and on the way all ten men were healed. Jesus had healed them! When the Samaritan man saw that he was healed, he returned to Jesus. He kneeled before Jesus, saying, **“Jesus, thank you for healing me of leprosy.”**

Jesus said, **“Where are the other nine men? Were they not healed of leprosy? Only this Samaritan man came back to thank me.”**

Then Jesus said to the Samaritan man, **“Get up. Your faith has healed you.”**

On another day, Jesus was teaching the people about the Kingdom of God. Some children were brought to Jesus. His disciples would not let the children get close to Jesus. When Jesus saw what was happening, He called the children to come close to Him. Jesus said, **“Let the children come to me. Do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God is like these children.”** Then Jesus embraced and blessed the children.

On another occasion, Jesus, His disciples and a large group of people were coming out of a town called Jericho. Bartimaeus was a blind man, begging on the side of the road. He heard that Jesus was passing by him and called out, **“Jesus, have mercy and compassion for me!”**

The people told Bartimaeus to be quiet, but the blind man called out even louder. Jesus called

the blind man to come to Him. Jesus asked, **“What do you want me to do?”**

The blind man replied, **“Heal me so I can see.”**

Jesus replied, **“Because of your faith, I will heal you.”** Immediately Jesus healed the blind man! He could see!

Jesus was passing through the town of Jericho and a wealthy chief tax collector named Zacchaeus was there.

(Tax collectors were Jews who collected taxes from their Jewish people to give to the ruling Roman government. Often the tax collectors demanded more money than required. Then they would keep the extra money for themselves.)

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he could not see Him. Why? Zacchaeus was a short man, and he could not see Him through the crowd that surrounded Jesus. So Zacchaeus ran on ahead and climbed a sycamore fig tree. He thought that he would be able to see Jesus when He came walking by the tree.

When Jesus reached the sycamore fig tree, he looked up and said: **“Zacchaeus, you come down immediately. I want to go to your house.”** Zacchaeus climbed down and gladly welcomed Jesus, taking Him to his home.

In his home, Zacchaeus said to Jesus: **“Lord, I will now give half of my possessions to the poor. Also, if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount taken.”**

Jesus replied, **“Salvation has come to this house today.”**

LIFE LESSONS:

1. Only one of the ten men who had leprosy came back to Jesus to thank Him for healing him. Thank God for your life, your family, your home, your health, etc.
2. Jesus called the children to come to Him. Jesus embraced the children and blessed them. Jesus loves all the children in the world.
3. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. People did not like him, because he collected taxes from them. Jesus loved Zacchaeus, stopped and talked to him. It does not matter if you are short or tall, or if you have blond, brown, black or red hair, or where you live, or what language you speak. Jesus loves you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is leprosy? How many men asked Jesus to heal them from leprosy?
2. What did Jesus tell the men with leprosy to do? What happened? Who returned to thank Jesus?
3. Why is it important to thank God for things that He does for you? Name some things you are thankful for that God has done for you.
4. What did the disciples do when children were brought to see Jesus? What did Jesus do?
5. What are some ways you can help children know that Jesus loves them?
6. What did the blind man do? What did the people tell the blind man to do? What did Jesus do?
7. What is faith? Why can you have faith and trust in Jesus to help you?
8. Who are some needy people that you can help? How?
9. Who were the tax collectors? Who was the chief tax collector in the story? Who did he want to see? What happened?
10. What did Jesus do when He came to the sycamore fig tree? What did Zacchaeus do?
11. Should we help people that we do not like? Why? What are some things you can do for people that you do not like?
12. Zacchaeus called Jesus "Lord." What does calling Jesus "Lord" mean? Then Jesus said, "**Salvation has come to this house.**" What did Jesus mean?
13. How can salvation come to your house?

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:

- Ask: "Have you ever been sick? Do you know someone who is seriously sick? Who?" Suggestion: Have prayer for them.
- Explain: "In Jesus' day, there were sick people who had leprosy. Leprosy is a slow progressing skin disease. In Jesus' day, there was no cure, although today there is a cure. In Jesus' day, people with leprosy could not live with their families nor go to any church or social functions. They had to always remain a long distance away from anyone."
- 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.

SHOW KINDNESS TO THE HOME BOUND:

- Reach out to the home bound, such as people who are sick, elderly or disabled. Examples:
 - (1) Take music tapes and CDs/DVDs to them.
 - (2) Take books, magazines, and/or a Bible for them to read. May need "large" print.
 - (3) Take game books and board games for them. Take time to play a game with them.
 - (4) Volunteer to read, write letters or cards, run errands, etc. for them.

VISITOR:

- Invite a nurse or doctor to come and talk with the group:
 - (1) Share ways to have good health care.
 - (2) Share what to do in case there is a medical emergency, who to call, where to go, etc.
 - (3) Share ways to keep medicine safe from small children, people who are confused, etc.

REACH OUT TO NEEDY CHILDREN:

- Help needy children and families. Examples:
 - (1) Provide school supplies and backpacks.
 - (2) Give scholarships for a church trip, a school outing, a special event, etc.
 - (3) Give gift cards to stores to buy shoes, clothing, etc.
 - (4) Volunteer time to tutor children and youth in school work, music lessons, sports, etc.

GAME TIME:

- Plan a game day or night with your group. May invite friends and family members to join in the fun. Examples:
 - (1) Have a picnic and play games outside, such as soft ball, soccer, tag ball, toss horse shoes...
 - (2) Have a swimming party at a lake, park, home...
 - (3) Play indoor table games, ping pong...
 - (4) Eat popcorn and watch a movie...

DAILY BIBLE READING - Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16,46-52; Luke 17:11-19; 19:1-10

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Luke 17:11-14	Luke 17:15-19	Matthew 19:13-15	Mark 10:13-16	Mark 10:46-52	Luke 19:1-4	Luke 19:5-10