

Unit 21 • Session 1  
**Jesus' Early Miracles**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:**

Mark 1

**Story Point:**

People came to Jesus, and He healed them.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

John 3:16

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.

## **LEADER Bible Study**

Early in His ministry, Jesus and His disciples traveled to Capernaum, a town on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum became Jesus' home and headquarters. (See Matt. 4:13.) He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, when people would gather to hear and learn from the Scriptures.

Jesus quickly set Himself apart from the scribes and other religious teachers. Unlike the scribes, who relied completely on traditional interpretations of the Torah from other teachers, Jesus spoke with authority. His teaching came from His own authority as the Author of truth, and it had a profound effect on His listeners—they were astonished!

The early miracles recorded in Mark 1 demonstrate Jesus' power and authority as the Son of God. Jesus drove an unclean spirit from a man in the synagogue; even the demons obey His commands. Then Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, and that evening the people in the town brought to Jesus all those who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits. What did Jesus do? He healed them! (Mark 1:34)

Jesus' miracles continued, and He healed a man with leprosy. *Leprosy* is a skin disease that would have marked a person as "unclean," requiring him to be separated from the community. Jesus had compassion on the man and healed him immediately.

Jesus' miracles brought many people to faith in Him. They also proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. These miracles strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Isaiah prophesied that the promised Messiah would bear our sickness and carry our pain. (Isa. 53:4) Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He healed people.

Help kids make the connection that through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life for all who would trust in Him.

# The **BIBLE** Story

## Jesus' Early Miracles

### *Mark 1*

#### Bible Storytelling Tips

**Change pace:** Draw attention to dialogue by slowing your pace slightly when speaking dialogue.

**Pause for effect:** Use pauses and silence between paragraphs to capture kids' attention.

**Jesus** traveled to Capernaum (kuh PUHR nay uhm) with His disciples Simon, Andrew, James, and John. He **went into the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. The people there were very surprised. Jesus' teaching was not like the scribes' teaching. He spoke with authority.**

**Just then, a man with an unclean spirit shouted, "What do You have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus commanded the spirit to be quiet and come out of the man. The spirit yelled again and then came out.**

**Everyone was amazed! "Who is this Jesus?" they asked. "He teaches with authority, and the unclean spirits obey Him!"** News about Jesus spread quickly throughout all of Galilee.

**Next, Jesus and His disciples went to Simon and Andrew's house. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her, took her hand, and healed her. She got up and began to serve them. That evening, large crowds of people came to the house with others who were sick or bothered by evil spirits, and Jesus healed them.**

Early the next morning, Jesus went out by Himself to pray. Simon and the other disciples found Him and said, "Everyone is looking for You."

Jesus said, "Let's go on to the nearby villages so I can preach there too. This is why I have come."

**Jesus traveled throughout Galilee. He preached and drove out demons. A man with a skin disease came to Jesus. He got on his knees and begged: "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Jesus was willing, and He healed the man.**

*Christ Connection: Jesus' miracles proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. They strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.*

# APPLY THE STORY

Session Title: Jesus' Early Miracles

Bible Passage: Mark 1

**Story Point:** People came to Jesus, and He healed them.

Key Passage: John 3:16

Big Picture Question: What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.

## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Key Passage Poster

marker

large sheet of paper or poster board

Bibles (optional)

Read the key passage aloud with the kids multiple times. Then hide or cover the key passage poster. Write the key passage incorrectly on a large sheet of paper or poster board, and challenge the kids to help you correct it. You may give out Bibles and challenge the kids to use their Bibles to find the verse.

Suggested incorrect passage:

“

For *Jesus liked* the world in this way: He *took* His one and only *Father* so that everyone who *wonders* in Him will not *sneeze* but have *eventual* life.”

Say • Great job fixing those mistakes. God's Word is perfect and true, and memorizing it is a wonderful way to make sure we have the truth with us all the time. This key passage, when read correctly, helps us understand the gospel. God loves people and showed His love by sending Jesus to save us from sin.

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Bibles, 1 per kid

Story Point Poster

Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Mark 1. You may select a strong reader to find and read aloud select verses. Show where the story took place on the New Testament Israel Map. (D6)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Where was the synagogue in which Jesus taught? (*Capernaum, Mark 1:21*)

Why did Jesus say He came? (*to teach, Mark 1:38*)

Why did Jesus heal the man with leprosy? (*Jesus had compassion on him, Mark 1:41*)

What do these miracles show about Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss Jesus' power as God's Son. Jesus had authority over evil spirits and over the sickness people faced. We also see Jesus' love and kindness toward people. Jesus meets physical needs and spiritual needs.*

Why was Jesus' preaching more important than His miracles? *Help kids understand that Jesus' miracles helped to show His power and authority, but the purpose was to support the truth of His teaching. A person healed of a sickness might later become sick again and is still spiritually dead in sin. A person who understands Jesus' teaching and has faith in His death and resurrection is forgiven and gains eternal life.*

How can we be like Jesus? *Discuss Jesus' compassion, kindness, and preaching. Help kids see that we can show God's*

Younger Kids Leader Guide

Unit 21, Session 1

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*love in the way we treat others. Explain that our love and kindness will help support the message of truth when we share the gospel. Actions may “speak louder” than words, but words are still essential for explaining the gospel.*

Say • **People came to Jesus, and He healed them.** Jesus loves people. His greatest miracle happened when Jesus died and rose again to destroy sin’s power. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is saved from sin and can be healed of the damage sin causes.

#### Activity choice (10 minutes)

##### Option 1: On mission

“On Mission Statements” printable

scissors

tape

basketball

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

Print the “On Missions Statements” printable and cut apart each statement. Tape the statements to a basketball. Then invite kids to sit in a circle and roll the basketball to one another. When you say stop, the person with the ball will complete the statement facing him. If you prefer, let the player choose the statement he wants to answer. Continue play as time allows.

Say • Each of us can be part of God’s mission to reach the world with the message of Jesus. Some missionaries, like Heiden Ratner in Nevada, use basketball or other sports to bring people to Jesus. God wants to use us—no matter our gifts or skills—to share the good news with the world.

##### Option 2: Prayer time

Bible

Open your Bible to Mark 1:35.

Say • **People came to Jesus, and He healed them.** Jesus has power because He is the Son of God. Even though Jesus has incredible power to work miracles, He still needed time to pray to God. If Jesus chose to spend time praying, it must be extremely important for us to spend time praying too. Prayer is talking to God. We can talk to God just as we would talk to a friend or our parents. We can pray about anything.

Lead the kids in a time of guided prayer. Remind them that they do not have to pray aloud if they feel uncomfortable doing so. Encourage them to pray about more than just things they want, but also to pray as a way to praise God and thank Him.

#### Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

pencils and crayons

paper

Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

Tip: Give parents this week’s *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.



**“For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in  
him should not perish but  
have eternal life.”**

**John 3:16**

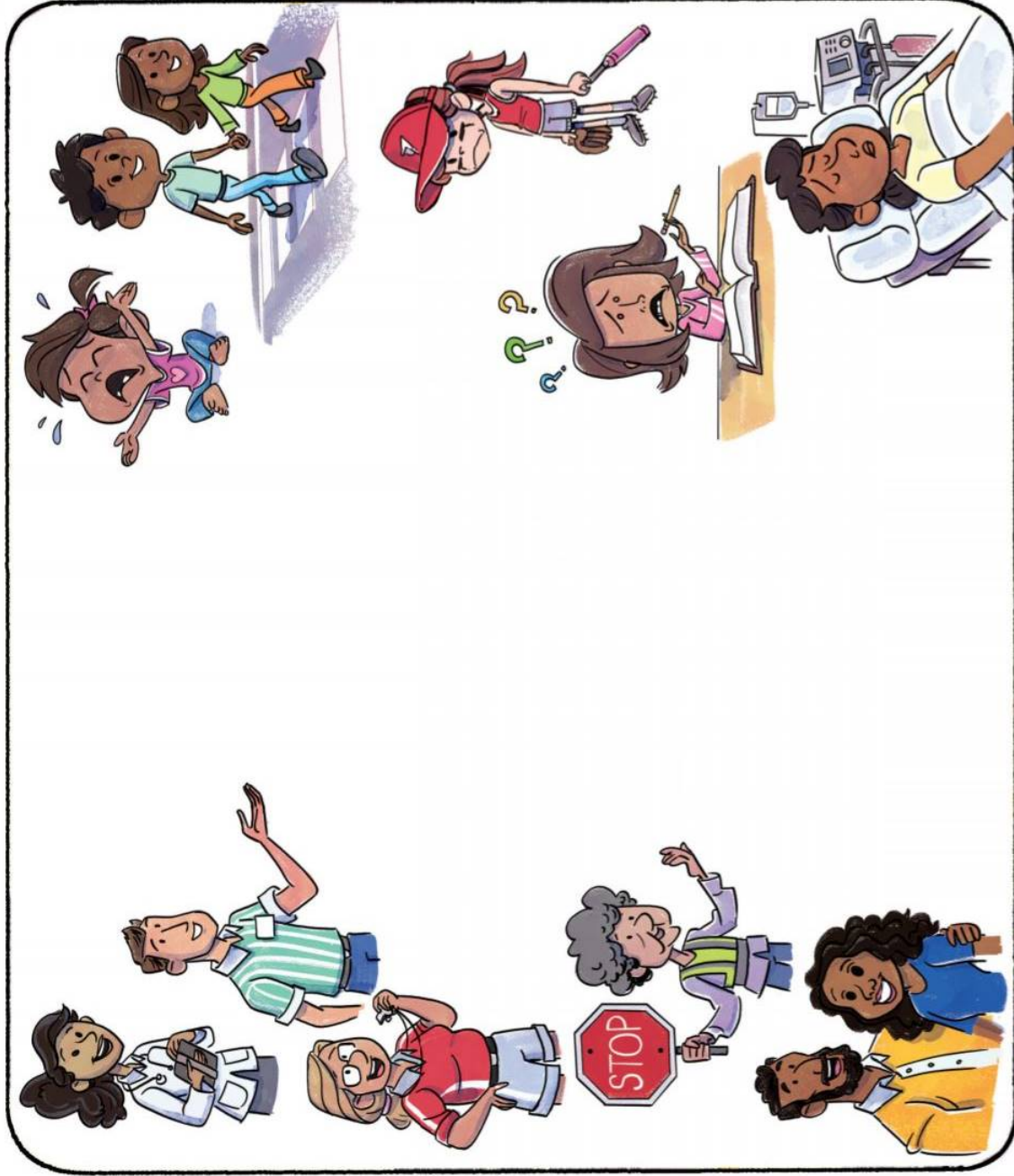






# Helpers Gonna Help

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Match the helpers with the person or people they would help.



## Younger Kids Activity Pages Unit 21 • Session 1 Jesus' Early Miracles

### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Jesus traveled around teaching people about God and working miracles.
- Jesus sent away evil spirits and healed all kinds of diseases.
- Jesus showed His love by helping others.
- People came to Jesus, and He healed them.

**KEY PASSAGE:** John 3:16

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why do you think Jesus healed people and did miracles?
- What is the most important miracle Jesus did?

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- When driving with your kids, point out different road signs. Ask your kids to explain what the signs mean. Discuss Jesus' miracles as signs that proved He is God the Son. Remind your kids that Jesus' miracles supported His teaching.



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# What makes people special?





# What makes people special?

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because we are  
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## **Jesus' Early Miracles**

Mark 1

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Mark 1

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**Christ Connection:** Jesus' miracles proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. They strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

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