

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

## 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' Early Miracles**

### *Mark 1*

**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

paper

crayons or markers

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 3:16 together. Give each kid a piece of paper and some crayons. Assign key words or phrases from the passage for kids to illustrate. (Examples: *God, loved, world, gave, Son, everyone, eternal life*) Multiple kids may illustrate the same word. Then lead kids in saying the key passage again, holding up their pictures for the key words.

Say • John 3:16 tells us the good news of the gospel in one sentence! Work on memorizing our key passage this week. Memorizing God's Word helps us remember what is true. Next week we will see if you can say it from memory.

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Bibles, 1 per kid

Story Point Poster

Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Mark 1. Explain that the Gospel of Mark tells stories about things Jesus did—healing people, casting out demons, commanding the wind and the waves—to show that Jesus is the Son of God. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Mark 1:40-42.

Say • Jesus traveled all over Galilee. He taught in synagogues and told people the good news about God's kingdom. **People came to Jesus, and He healed them.** Large crowds of people followed Jesus around—from Capernaum in Galilee [*point to Capernaum (C6) on the New Testament Israel Map*] to Jerusalem (H4) to Judea (J3) and across the Jordan

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

River (G6).

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

How did Jesus' miracles show His care for creation? *Guide kids to discuss how Jesus' miracles restored parts of creation that were affected by sin coming into the world. Jesus cast out unclean spirits, made sick people well, and healed skin diseases. Explain that later in His ministry, Jesus also raised people from the dead, gave sight to people who were blind, and ultimately brought the greatest healing—forgiveness of sins—through His death and resurrection.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 77:14.)

Do we need to see miracles to believe in Jesus? Why or why not? *Point out that many people saw Jesus' miracles and believed, but Jesus said those who do not see and still believe are blessed. The Bible tells us everything we need to believe in Jesus.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 20:29-31.)

In what ways does God reveal Himself today? *Lead kids to recognize that God shows us what He is like through the Word—the Bible. The Bible says we can also understand what God is like by looking at His creation. Invite kids to*

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*share observations of creation that tell them something about what God is like.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 1:19-20.)

#### Activity choice (10 minutes)

##### Option 1: On mission

“On Mission Statements” printable

basketball or inflatable beach ball

whistle (optional)

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

Cut out each statement and tape it to a ball. Invite kids to stand in a circle and toss the ball to one another. When you blow the whistle or yell “stop” ask the person holding the ball to 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. ***What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God’s image, as male and female, to know Him.***

##### Option 2: Make get-well-soon cards

construction paper

envelopes

crayons, markers, or colored pencils

adhesive bandages

googly eyes

glue

permanent marker

Provide supplies for kids to make get-well-soon cards. Suggest kids use the adhesive bandages like stickers. They can turn the bandages into people by gluing on googly eyes and adding arms, legs, and a smile with a permanent marker. Encourage them to write a message such as *Get well soon!* or *Praying for you!*

If someone from your class or church is ill or injured, consider making cards for that person. Otherwise, kids can leave the cards blank and give them to friends who get sick in the future. You may collect the cards to deliver to specific people or provide envelopes and allow kids to take the cards home for later use.

Say • Being sick or hurt is no fun! When our bodies don’t work like they should, we might feel sad or frustrated. **People came to Jesus, and He healed them.** Jesus is the Son of God! One day, Jesus will take away all sickness and pain.

When we trust in Him, we have forgiveness, salvation, and life with Him forever.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

#### Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

pencils

Journal Page

“Scripture Survey” activity page, 1 per kid

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

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

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, praising God for His power to perform miracles. Ask Him to meet kids' needs. Thank Him for sending His Son, Jesus, to meet their greatest need of all—to be rescued from sin and death.

As time allows, lead kids to complete “Scripture Survey” on the activity page. Kids should look up each Bible reference to answer the questions.

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**







# Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- How did people respond to Jesus' miracles?
- What three words would you use to describe Jesus?
- To whom can you show care and kindness? Tell that person about the care Jesus has for all people.

## Jesus' Early Miracles

Mark 1

**STORY POINT: PEOPLE CAME TO JESUS, AND HE HEALED THEM.**

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Just then, a man with an unclean spirit shouted, "What do You have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? 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.

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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.



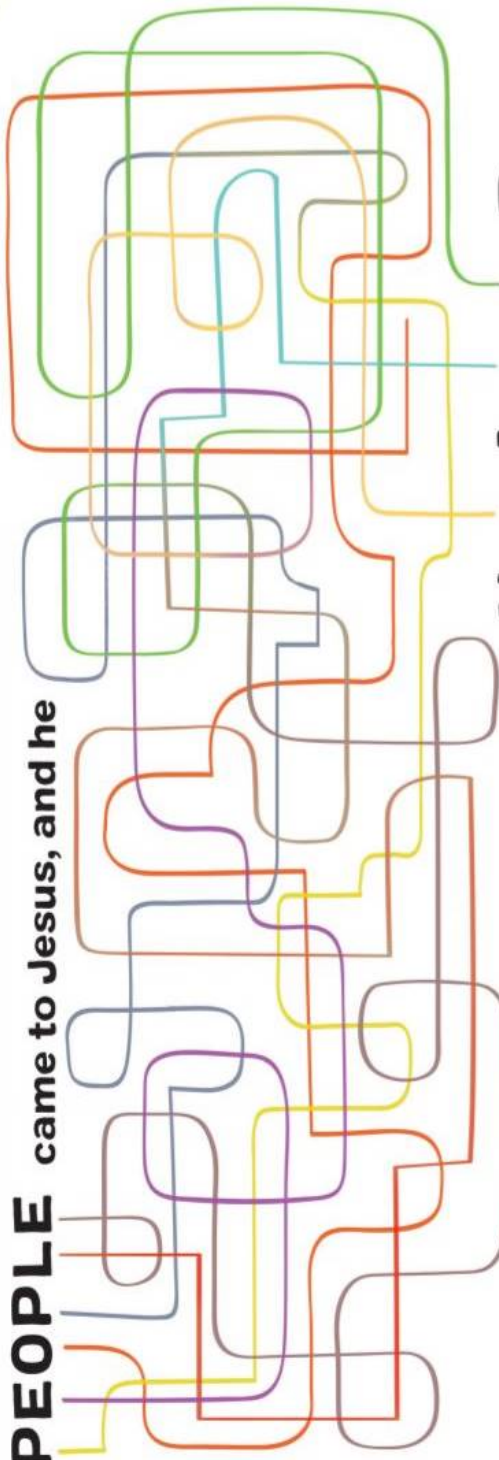
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## Story Tangle |

Follow the lines to find which letters go in the blanks.

**PEOPLE** came to Jesus, and he



**H \_ A \_ \_ D** them.

## Scripture Survey |

Look up each Bible reference to answer the questions.

	Who was healed?	Where did it happen?	How did people react?
Mark 1:21-28			
Mark 1:29-34			
Mark 1:39-45			

# What makes people special?





# What makes people special?

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because we are  
made in God's image,  
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Mark 1



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**Key Passage:** John 3:16