

The Man by the Pool

Bible Verse

I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do. John 13:15

Did You Know?

This month we have been reading stories about people Jesus met. We began the month with a story about a man Jesus healed. In today's Bible story, Jesus met another man whom he healed. As was the case with the man with the withered hand, Jesus cured the man in today's story on a Sabbath.

There was a pool in Jerusalem called Bethsaida. At times, the water in the pool would stir, probably the result of an underground spring. People believed that when the water stirred, the first people in the water would be healed. Because of this belief, people in need of healing would wait beside the pool. When the water bubbled, people would push their way to the pool to get in the water first or to put their friends in the water first.

When Jesus walked by the pool, he saw a man who had been sick for 38 years. From the context, it can be inferred that the man was unable to walk; however, the man's particular ailment is not described. When Jesus asked the man if he wanted to get well, the man explained that he had no one to help him into the pool. Every time he tried to make it to the pool, someone else got there first. By the man's response, it is obvious that he did not know who Jesus was and didn't realize Jesus had the power to heal him. In fact, when the Jewish authorities later asked him about what had happened, he described Jesus as "the man who made me well."

After Jesus healed the man, the story took a turn. It changed from a healing story to a conflict story. We discover that the healing took place on the Sabbath. Jewish laws forbidding work on the Sabbath were strict. When the healed man was asked by the Jewish authorities why he was carrying his mat, the reason for the question was that carrying your bed was considered work, and therefore not allowed on the Sabbath. When the Jewish authorities discovered the man had been healed, they immediately became upset because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath. The authorities were more concerned with being upset with Jesus for breaking Sabbath law than they were with celebrating that a man who had been sick for 38 years had been healed!

Today is the last Sunday of the mission offering raising money for UMCOR Armenia. Celebrate the good work that will be done because of the children's offerings.

Bible Story

John 5:1-17

Anchor Point

We can follow
Jesus' example.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- Welcome
 - Kids Stuff:
Get-Well Card
 - Exploration Station:
Bubbles of Fun
- ### DIVE DEEPER:
- Bible Story Time
 - Experience the Story:
The Man by the Pool

Look It Up!

My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- Life Connection:
Ways to Help
- Learn & Serve with
the Deep Blue Kids:
Missions Around
the World
- Craft Activity:
Paint with
Pool Noodles
- Spiritual Practice:
Bubble Prayers

WORSHIP:

- Gather, Sing, and Sign
- Praise and Reflect

 Requires
preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “The People Who Knew Jesus” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: GET-WELL CARD

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 29-30, crayons or markers, glue sticks, scissors

- Distribute the Get-Well Card.

SAY: In the Bible story today, a man was sick for a long time.

ASK: Who do you know that is sick?

SAY: Let’s make a card for someone who might need some love and encouragement.

- Encourage children to cut out and decorate the card.
- Let them fold the inserts and place in cards. Tape tabs in place.

EXPLORATION STATION: BUBBLES OF FUN

Supplies: beads (optional), bubbles, chenille stems

- Give children chenille stems.
- Let them bend the chenille stems into shapes to make bubble wands. Remind children to leave part of the stem sticking out to create a handle for dipping.
- Invite children to blow bubbles with their bubble wands.

SAY: In the Bible story, there is a bubbling pool of water.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 13, then watch video.

ASK: Why was the man by the pool? How was the man healed?



TIP

Collect a list of persons in your congregation who might need a get-well card. Share these names with the children.



TIP

For sturdier handles on the bubble wands, string beads on the handle.

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE MAN BY THE POOL

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 13, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles John 5:1-17, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the six parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 11:28-30.

ASK: What do these verses teach us about our difficulties and burdens?

SAY: It can be difficult to turn to God when things get hard. Remember, God's loving presence is always with you.

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: The man by the pool needed help and Jesus helped him. We all need help sometimes. Maybe you need help doing your math homework or learning how to play an instrument.

ASK: What do you need help with? What does this Scripture teach us about helping others?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: WAYS TO HELP

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

ASK: Did you know we can all help?

SAY: Let's come up with ways we can help others.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Ways to Help.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 84; Class Staff—pp. 2-3, 31; colored pencils, crayons, markers, and other coloring tools; star stickers

 Photocopy Missions Around the World, one for each child.

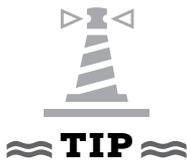
SAY: This is our last Sunday in Armenia.

ASK: What have you learned about Armenia?



≈ OPTION ≈

Encourage children to mark their own location on the map, then draw lines from their location to Guatemala, Kenya, Alaska, and Armenia.



For further discussion, let children mark their location on the map. Discuss the distance between their home and the locations of the Deep Blue Kids and friends.



- Distribute Missions Around the World.

SAY: We have traveled all over the world with the Deep Blue Kids. Let's mark all the places we have gone.

- Invite children to use the star stickers to mark on the paper Guatemala, Kenya, Alaska, and Armenia. Then let the children color the map.

SAY: It has been so much fun learning about other places around the world.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: PAINT WITH POOL NOODLES

Supplies: washable paint, painting smocks, paint trays, paper, pool noodles, table coverings



Protect the work area. Cut pool noodles into rings about one to two inches thick. Place paint on paint trays.

- Give children several pool-noodle rings.
- Invite children to dip pool-noodle rings into the paint and stamp them on the paper.

SAY: When you stamp your paper, it looks like bubbles. Our pictures can remind us of today's Bible story about the man by the bubbling pool.

- Place pictures somewhere safe to dry.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: BUBBLE PRAYERS

SAY: Today we have been talking about bubbles. While bubbles are a lot of fun, we can also use them to say a prayer.

ASK: What prayers do you have that you might want to give to God?

SAY: This week, spend some time blowing bubbles. When you blow the bubble, imagine you are blowing a prayer to God. Remember, God is always listening to our prayers.

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—pp. 10 & 23, Leader Guide—p. 88, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 3 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 88 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "The People Who Knew Jesus" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 3 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

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PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 5-6, 8 & 25, 10 & 23, 29; envelope of poster-piece footprints; tape

- Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia and envelope of poster-piece footprints.

SAY: Let's learn more about God's wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: We are learning about the people Jesus met.

ASK: Who did Jesus meet in the story today?

- Display the final poster-piece footprint. Invite a volunteer to attach the figure of The Man by the Pool to Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse.

SAY: Jesus met lots of new friends in the Bible. These stories teach us about living by Jesus' example.

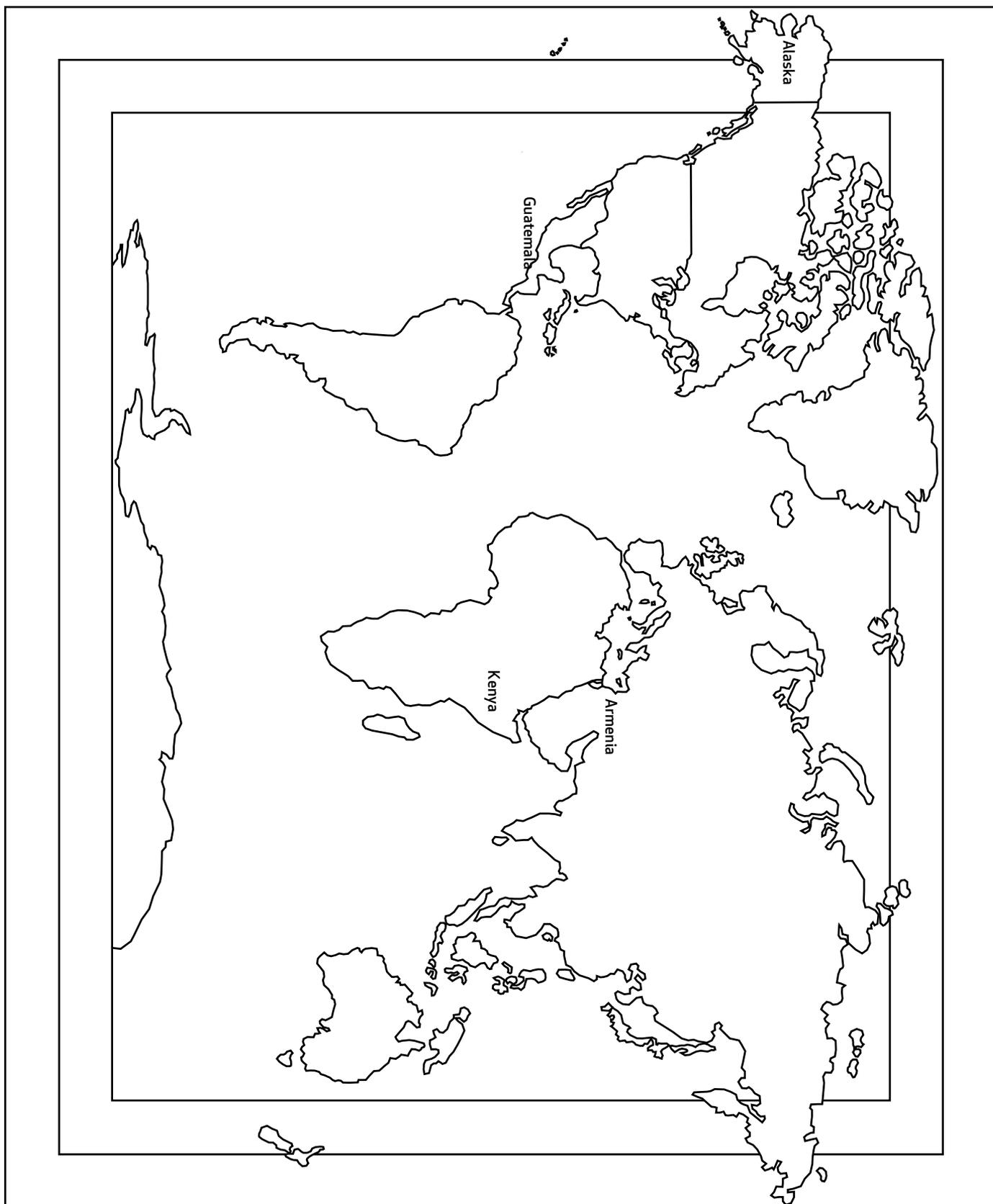
ASK: How can you live by Jesus' example?

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.
- Invite them to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us live by the example of Jesus by caring for those who are sick and by loving everyone. Amen.



Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Missions Around the World



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