



Lesson Four

Jesus Heals a Man at the Pool

Heart Preparation & Bible Background

What was the invalid thinking and feeling as he lay among the sick and disabled by the pool of Bethesda? His situation seemed sad and hopeless. He wanted to be well but had no way to get to the water when the healing spring bubbled up.

It was to this man that God extended his mercy and grace and gave the gift of faith. “Do you want to get well?” Jesus asked. And the invalid responded by pouring out his troubles to the Savior whom he did not yet recognize or know.

So when Jesus told him to get up and walk, the man obeyed and was healed. Can you imagine his sense of joy, freedom and purpose as he picked up his mat and walked away from the pool that day? But Jesus had something greater to offer. . . .

Later on, he found the man at the temple and warned him to stop sinning and be reconciled to God, whose mercy heals and saves. The man, who had longed for physical healing, now found the source of spiritual healing as well. Then he went off and gladly testified that it was the Lord Jesus who had healed him.

Whatever your needs may be, the Lord Jesus is able and willing to help. He knows what you experience and the hidden condition of your heart. He may not always choose to remove problems, heal physical ailments or change circumstances, but he doesn't leave his people alone, without his sustaining power or sovereign guidance.

What the Lord wants from his people is repentance, trust and obedience. He teaches us that in his loving hands, we are safe and protected.

And he wants us to rely on him for spiritually healthy hearts— hearts that love God and live in a way that please him.



Bible Truth

God the Son heals a lame man and tells him to stop sinning.

Scripture

John 5:1–15



Lesson Focus

Only God can make sick people well.

Goals for the Children

- Learn that Jesus healed the lame man to show that he is God.
- Learn that Jesus did miracles so that people would trust him as God their Savior.
- Thank God that he has power over everything.
- Pray for those who are sick.



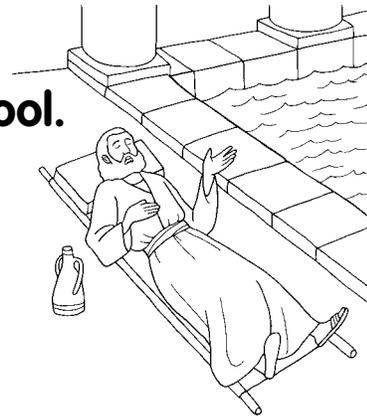
Memory Minute

Review Acts 10:38

Jesus . . . went around doing good.

Jesus healed a lame man at the pool.

John 5:1–15



☆Let's Talk

SAY Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem.

ASK Look at the picture. *What did Jesus see there?*

SAY Jesus saw a man lying by the pool who could not walk. Like the other sick, blind, and crippled people there, he waited for the water to bubble up. Everyone believed that the first person to get in the pool when the water moved would be healed of any sickness.

ASK *What do you think Jesus said to the man?*

SAY Jesus asked the man if he wanted to get well. Then Jesus healed him. The man got up, picked up his mat, and walked away. Later on, Jesus saw him at the temple and told the man to stop sinning or something worse might happen to him. Now the man knew that it was the Lord Jesus who had made him well. Jesus is God the Savior. He has power to heal and to forgive sins!

☆Let's Play

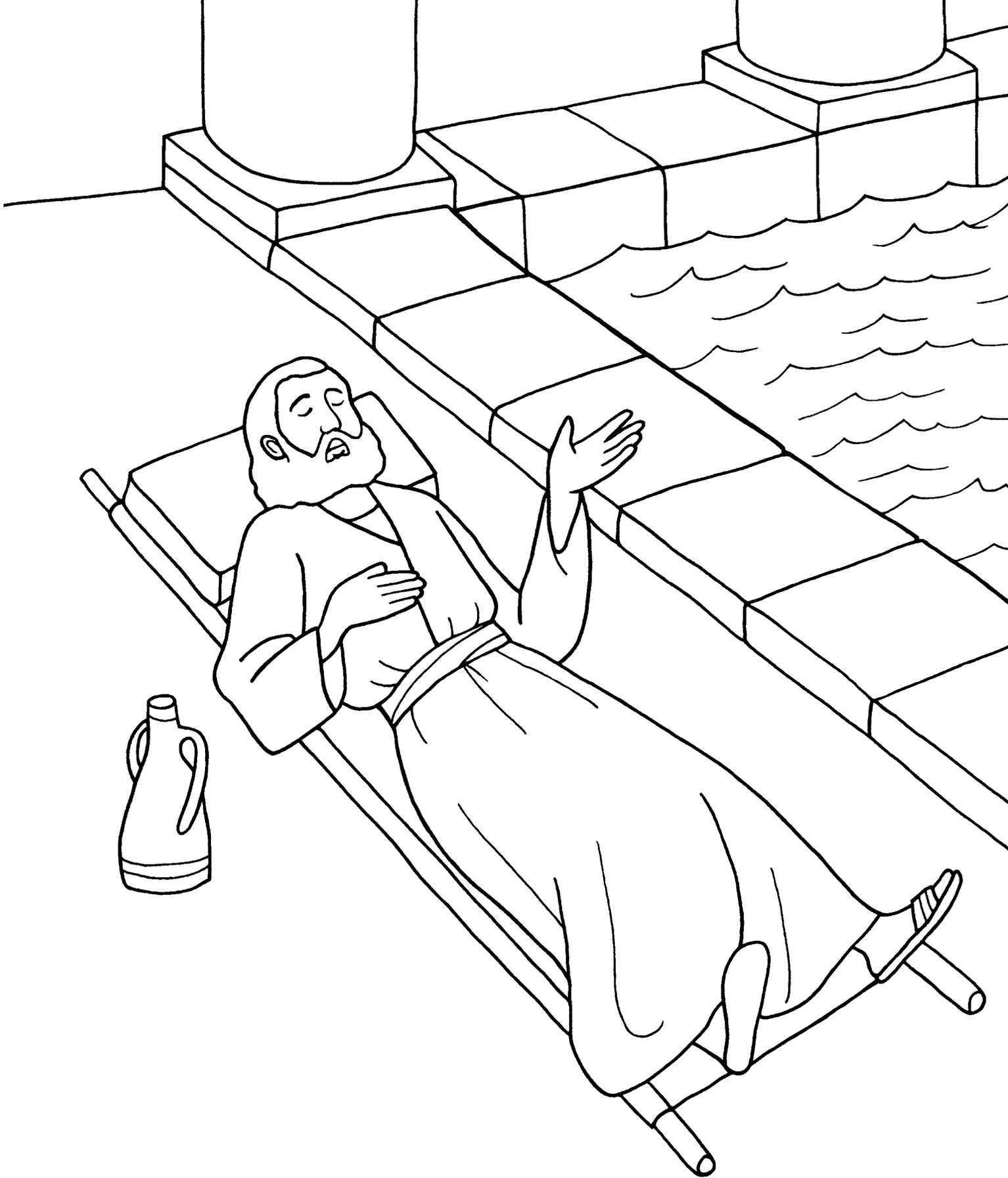
Have the children line up at one end of the room. At the other end of the room, spread a large **blue beach towel or blanket** on the floor to represent the pool of Bethesda. Stand by the blanket to lead *Race to the Pool*. At your command, children try to be the first to get to the pool as they *walk quickly* across the room. Then have them line up once again. Continue the game by calling out a different action. For example, children can *run* to the pool, *jump* to the pool, *tiptoe* to the pool, and so on. Play continues until several or all children have had an opportunity to be the first to reach the pool.

☆Let's Do and Say

Put a number of **first-aid objects** in a **bag**. Let children take turns pulling an item from the bag and telling what the item is used for. When everyone has had a turn, talk about how Jesus healed people in ways that medicine, doctors, nurses, and parents cannot.

☆Let's Pray

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you that you have power over everything because you are God. We pray for those who are sick and ask you to help them. Please forgive our sins, and help us to trust and obey you. In your name we pray, Amen.



Jesus healed a lame man at the pool.

John 5:1–15