

Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 35a — Jesus' First Miracle

Lesson 35b — The Centurion's Servant Healed

Lesson 35c — The Widow's Son Raised From the Dead

Lesson 35d — Walking on the Water

OVERVIEW

The theme of this unit is the miracles of Jesus. Your students should understand that these miracles were not works of magic or just pretend, like the fantasies or make-believe stories in their reading books. The word *miracle* literally means "a marvelous event, or an event which causes wonder."

Jesus' miracles were real happenings that showed He had power beyond that of an ordinary man. The laws of the natural world, which He had helped His Father create, were not limitations to Him. His miracles prove that He is the Son of God, for who else could raise the dead, heal the sick, and control the natural elements? It

seems strange that the very people who should have recognized that these miracles proved His divinity failed to do so. He was rejected by most of the religious leaders of His time, though many times they acknowledged the supernatural characteristics of what took place.

Most of Jesus' miracles were of a person-to-person nature; for instance, healing the lame, giving sight to the blind, raising the dead to life. Your students should conclude this unit with an understanding that Jesus still works miracles on a personal level in our lives today, if we believe on Him.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

For this game use an overhead projector, blackboard, or a large piece of paper. (As an alternative, the material could be printed on individual sheets of paper and given out to each student on the last Sunday of the quarter.) Title the contest MIRACLES OF JESUS and label three columns as follows: "Problem or Need," "What Did Jesus Say?" and "What Did Jesus Do?" In the first column print or write:

1. Not enough wine for wedding feast.
2. Centurion's servant sick, near death.
3. Widow's son had died.
4. The disciples, in their ship, were being tossed about by big waves.

Fill in the answers for the next two columns as they are given by the students.

Have a true/false quiz for the whole department with questions from each of the lessons. Tell the students to call out the answer "true" or "false" together. Have a small prize for everyone.

Have four groups, each picking one of the lessons to act out in charades and have the department guess which story it is.

On one side of a blackboard have the students list as many of the Biblical miracles as they can think of that Jesus performed. On the other side have them list miracles that they know Christ has done in our day and age.

CONTEST IDEAS

Use a sheet of 9" x 12" paper for each child. On the left side of the paper, draw a stick figure of a boy or girl (see Patterns). Draw lines of different lengths radiating from the figure's hand. You will need one line for each attendance "balloon," missionary effort balloon, knowing the memory verse balloon, etc. Each time a balloon is earned put a colored round sticker at the end of one of the lines. You might like to use a different-colored sticker for each thing: red — attendance, blue — knowing the memory verse, etc.

In this contest the girls and boys will need to work together as a class to earn points. Points are earned by attendance, knowing the memory verse, bringing Bible, missionary efforts, etc. Each time the chart reaches a certain number of points a balloon can be popped. Inside each balloon is a surprise message for the whole class! To prepare for this contest, blow up balloons and

insert your messages before tying. Some suggested messages are: 1. A prize for everyone today. 2. There will be chocolate chip cookies for everyone next week. 3. Choose a time for a special outing for the class. There are so many things you can do with your class. Every age group will be able to do different activities. Amount of points earned should be determined by the average of your particular Sunday school.

Since nobody should be sad when a miracle takes place, have a happy-face contest. You'll need to copy and cut out lots of happy faces. Choose one color for each accomplishment: yellow — attendance, blue — bringing Bible, pink — knowing the memory verse, etc. Punch a hole at the top of the circles and lace a piece of yarn through the hole. When a child earns one have him write his name on the back. These can then be hung from the ceiling as a decoration or made into individual mobiles for the children. It isn't really necessary, but you might wish to award a prize to the child or class who has the most happy faces.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Make the GOD CAN! bulletin board for your class (see Patterns). Along the top of your board write the question, "Who can do a miracle?" Under that, in large letters, write, "God Can!" Enlarge the symbols from the Primary Pals handout and back them with colored paper before putting them on your board. Under each symbol write the memory verse for that lesson.

Use a bright yellow background and title your board MIRACLES OF JESUS (see Patterns). Make five different frames for Before and After pictures. Make a set for each of the miracles in this unit and make one to illustrate the fact that each student is a miracle too. Put a baby in the Before side and a mirror (or piece of aluminum foil) in the After side. Jesus has been with them this far in life and with His help they will never fail.

UNIT SONGS

"Got Any Rivers?"

"Jesus Never Fails"

"God Can" — Bill Gaither Trio for Kids

"It's a Miracle" — Gaither

"God Can Do Anything But Fail"

"Who Can Do Anything?"

"My God Is So Great"

"I Believe in Miracles"

"What's a Miracle?" — Zondervan's Sunbeam Songs for Boys and Girls

"He's Able"

CHART IDEAS

Enlarge the Miracle Poster (see Patterns) and copy one onto construction paper for each child. Each week let them write their memory verse on the proper lines.

Give each child a copy of the Jesus' Miracles chart (see Patterns). After they have learned all the lessons, let them circle the correct words to complete each sentence.

Glue a white paper cloud to a colored background. Attach four ribbon or yarn streamers from the cloud to pictures depicting the four lessons of the month (see Patterns). Title the cloud MIRACLES and place a sticker of Jesus in the center of the cloud. Praying hands or Jesus stickers may be used for attendance.

Make copies of the kite chart for your students (see Patterns). Each week let them color the symbol that goes with that week's lesson. If you wish, hang kites from the ceiling and add bows to a yarn tail on each kite for each memory verse learned.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

100 New Testament Stories — Retold by Norman J. Bull, Abingdon Press

Egermeier's Picture-Story Life of Jesus — Warner Press

Jesus — The Friend of Children — Illustrated by Richard and Frances Hook, David C. Cook