

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 5 • Unit 7 • Week 4

### THE LESSON OF FAITH AND A BLIND MAN

#### OBJECTIVE:

To understand the action that a blind man had to take in order to have Christ heal him (John 9) and how that shows us that if we act in faith things will work out for the best.

#### ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Jesus Christ healed many people by the power of God. We're going to start out class by doing a matching game.

Do: Have the students complete the matching exercise (see end of lesson) either individually or in pairs..

Answers: 1. E, 2. A, 3. H, 4. B, 5. D, 6. G, 7. C, 8. F

#### BIBLE LESSON:

Say: We don't know what his name was, so we will call him Reuben. We will guess that he was about 20 years old. Reuben lived at the time that Jesus Christ walked the earth as a human being.

At that time many people Reuben's age were working at a trade. Some were farmers and some were shepherds. Unfortunately Reuben didn't have these types of opportunities. You see Reuben was born blind.

Handicapped people back in Jesus' day had very few opportunities. There were no schools to help them, and many of them were just cast off by society. Many of them had to become beggars and ask people to give them money in order to stay alive. This is what Reuben had to do.

Ask: What are some of the opportunities that handicapped people have today?

Say Reuben, like many beggars of his day, situated himself near the temple. His parents may have brought him there each day. The temple area in Jerusalem was busy. Since many people traveling to and fro there, it was a good place to ask for alms.

Ask: What are alms? [Charity—money or food—given to the poor.]

Say: One morning he was begging at his usual spot at the temple when Jesus and His disciples passed by.

Ask: Does anyone know what the disciples asked Jesus when they saw the blind man?

Say: They asked, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" The disciples had the mistaken idea that if anyone was sick or disabled sin must have been involved. Sometimes this is true, but not always. Jesus said that in Reuben's case he was born blind so that people could see God do a great work by healing him. There was no sin involved.

Ask: What did Jesus tell Reuben to do in order to be healed?

Say: First Jesus mixed saliva with dirt to make clay and spread it on Reuben's eyes, then Jesus told him to go wash in a nearby pool called Siloam.

Jesus could have just healed Reuben without putting clay on his eyes and or without having him wash in the pool. Jesus wanted to see if Reuben believed that God could really heal him. If he did, he would feel his way over to the pool and wash as Jesus directed. It would also cause Reuben to center his attention on Jesus' words and not his own doubts.

Reuben believed the words of Jesus and he showed this by going over and washing in the pool.

God wants us to believe that he will really help us when we ask Him to. Maybe you are facing a trial or problem at school and are afraid to go. You can ask God to help you. God is ready to help us in the best way possible. So even though it can be very hard to face whatever problem we have, we must show God that we really believe He will help us by going ahead and facing it and doing what God tells us to do. Remember if we ask God to help us and then do what we fear, then our fear will disappear.

Ask: Do any of you remember something you were scared of or a problem that you had and how God helped you?

Say: God promises that if we try to obey Him, His ears are surely open to our cry and He will hear us and help us.

When the blind man showed that he believed God and washed in the pool of Siloam, he rejoiced because his sight was restored. If we show God that we believe Him, in the long run all will work out well and we will rejoice.

**LESSON APPLICATION:**

Have the students complete the word puzzle (see end of lesson).

- Answers:
1. Siloam
  2. ask
  3. wash
  4. shout
  5. joined

Completed phrase: faith without works is dead

**MEMORY VERSE:**

James 2:18 "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

# family activity

## **THE POINT:**

To understand the action that a blind man had to take in order to have Christ heal him (John 9) and how that shows us that if we act in faith things will work out for the best.

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

1. Review how the blind man Jesus healed had to show his faith by washing in the pool of Siloam.
2. Look in the March/April 2000 issue of *The Good News* magazine and examine the article on archaeology and the pool of Siloam.
3. Look at the other past issues of *The Good News*, noting how archaeology has confirmed what the Bible tells us.
4. Talk about how the people in Hebrews 11 showed faith by their works. For example, Abraham showed faith by leaving his home country.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

James 2:18 "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

