

St. James Faith on the Go

March 14, 2021

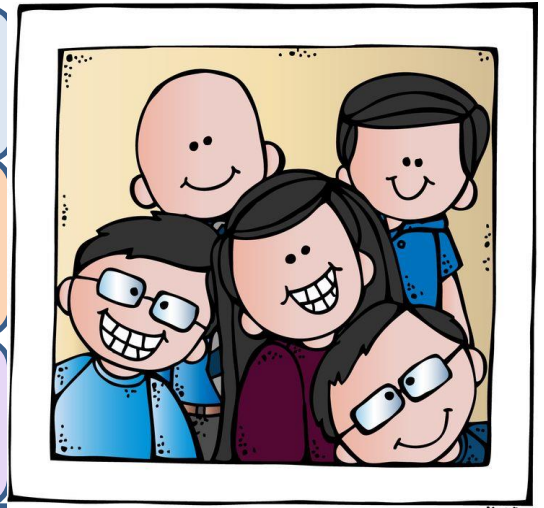
John 9:1-41 Miracles

Materials Needed: Bible, Faith journal,

Note: This lesson is designed to be used for all ages. Please tailor it to the age and need of your children.

Opening Prayer: Listen to Miracles by Hawk Nelson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNNbulojWcw>



Warm Up:

What is a miracle? The dictionary says a miracle is a surprising and welcome event that cannot be explained by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered the work of a divine agency.

In other words, a miracle is when something wonderful happens that we can't explain. Often, we have prayed for the thing to happen or we know God has worked a miracle, such as a very sick person getting better. God also uses people, such as doctors, to make His miracles happen. Some people have a difficult time believing in miracles.

Is there a miracle you would like to see happen?

In our Gospel story there is a man who is healed and those who refuse to believe.

Proclaiming the Gospel: John 9:1-41 or verses 1-11 for those with a short attention span.

Background: We are fortunate that in our society, if a person is blind there are people who help them. There are schools where they can learn to read and live normal, happy lives.

In Jesus' day, if a person was blind, there were no jobs for him so he would support himself by begging on the street where many people gather or walk by. People also believed that if someone had a disability it was because they or their parents had sinned. I imagine it was a sad life. That is where our story begins.

Reading: *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to You, Lord.*

John 9:1-41 or verses 1-11 for those with a short attention span.

Read Gospel slowly, explaining words or rereading sections as desired.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion:

The disciples asked Jesus why the man was blind. What was Jesus' answer?

How did Jesus demonstrate God's power?

Pharisees are leaders in the Jewish faith (Jesus' faith) and followed many strict laws, such as not doing any work on the Sabbath, their holy day. They could not believe that someone from God would break the Sabbath law.

But Jesus believes there are laws more important than the sabbath law.

Do you remember Jesus' greatest commandments? Love God and love your neighbor.

Jesus was showing love for His neighbor and God's power by healing. That makes the day more holy, doesn't it?

Making the Message Mine:

Do you believe that Jesus performed miracles?

Do you believe that He still works miracles today?

All the people recognized as saints by the Catholic Church, like St. Patrick, whose feast day is March 17th have miracles attributed to them. Blessed Solanus Casey of Detroit has many healings that happened because of his prayers. He wrote them all in small journals which you can see at the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit.

But did he do miracles with his own power?

Just as Jesus said, they are to show the power of God. God worked through Solanus Casey, St. Theresa of Calcutta and many others to show His love and His power.

Sometimes people can be like the Pharisees and try to explain away the miracles instead of giving the credit to God. But let's be believers! Let's thank God for all the good things that happen to us, like getting our homework done, or having snow to play in. Miracles can be big or small, so let's be grateful for them all!

Activity:

You will now look up and read about some of Jesus' other miracles. Some suggestions are below but you may know some other stories you'd like to find in your Bible. Read three miracle stories from the Bible. After each, retell the story as if you are one of the characters in it. **Note: First graders should focus on just one miracle story.**

Matthew 8:23-27

Mark 2:1-12

Luke 9:10-17

Luke 14:1-6

John 6: 16-21

John 11:1-44

There are some wonderful miracles that happened in the Old and New Testament of the Bible but do you know what is the greatest miracle of all? Hint: We will celebrate it in April when Lent is done.

It is Jesus' resurrection, which we will celebrate on Easter Sunday!

In your Faith Journal:

Rewrite one of the miracle stories telling it as if you were one of the characters. Add illustrations if you'd like.

Grade 1: Draw a few pictures showing how the miracle happened. Dictating sentences for a grown up to write would be great!

Faith Journal Prompt: Thank you, God for miracles, great and small! I am very grateful for.....

OR: Dear God, a miracle I pray for is...

Checking In:

Take a picture of your children's miracle story and email it to mfitzpatrick@sjnovi.net.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God for showing your love and power through miracles!

Some miracles I am thankful for:

Some miracles I'm praying for: You alone know what is best for me and my family so may Your will be done.
Amen.