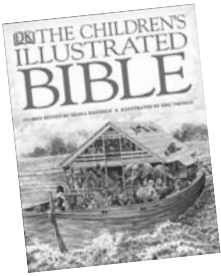


Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



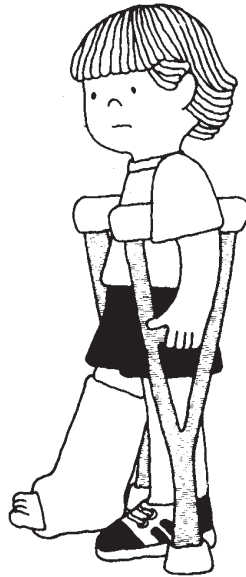
The Children's Illustrated Bible
pages 216–217

Jesus the Healer

Share the story of Jesus healing the leper from Mark 1:40-42 and *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Kids may wish to re-create this story in an impromptu style, wearing simple costumes and props.

Leprosy was the most feared illness of Bible times. It meant a lifetime of physical pain and living as a social outcast. People believed leprosy and other diseases were caused by sin. Leprosy is very rare today. We don't avoid lepers, but we sometimes avoid people for other reasons: we don't like their look, smell, disability, friends, family, or ideas. But we are looking at the outside only. Jesus looked at the inside. Discuss: What are some things we look at that cover up the inside person?

A leper came begging and kneeling before Jesus. He said, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus touched him and said, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him.
—Mark 1:40–42 adapted



A Healing Prayer

Discuss the sacrament of praying for the sick (administration) that the Community of Christ offers as a blessing of healing, reading Doctrine and Covenants 42:12d. Discuss: Have you been blessed this way? Have you seen someone blessed when they were sick or feeling bad? Who can we pray for today who may not be feeling well and may be needing a blessing? Have kids offer prayers for those in need.

You the Healer

Read Psalm 30:2, 11. This could have been the song sung by the man who Jesus healed! This man was healed in a way that others could see. But sometimes a healing occurs that is not visible to others. A healing is different than a cure. A person might still be disabled or blind or sick, but now they have assurance that God is with them. Maybe they've received a new understanding, or they feel healed because a person cared for them. Jesus always emphasized the internal healing, the spiritual change—more than the physical one. The psalmist wrote that his mourning turned into dancing!

Give kids water drop-shaped paper to write ideas on of who and how they can turn someone's mourning into dancing! Then ask them how they would dance if their sadness was turned into happiness. Invite kids to dance a dance of joy.



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—Mark 1:40–42 adapted

Write about a time when you (or someone you know) were healed.