LESSON 8

JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN



Aim: **To teach the children that Jesus showed his divine power as the light of the world.**

Scripture Reading: **John 9:1-41**

Not all the details of the story will be taught, but it would be better if you read the class the whole story.

Memory Verse:

John 1:6-7
There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light ...

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Play a short game of Blind Man's bluff. If the class is very big choose about 12 children to take part. One person should be blindfolded and everyone else should stand around him or her in a circle. Let the blindfolded person try to catch someone. When he or she does so, he or she can touch the person and guess who it is.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Life is much more difficult when you are blind. One day Jesus met a man who had been blind from birth. That is even more difficult than when you lose your sight later on in life, because if you have never seen anything you have no memory of what things look like. What made it worse for that man was that everybody thought his blindness was the punishment for some sin (9:1-2).
2. Jesus said the man had been born blind for a special purpose. It was so that everyone would witness God's power healing him, and was to show people that Jesus came as the light into this dark world (9:3-5). **Describe what Jesus did to heal the man. Show Picture 8.** The man obeyed Jesus' instructions and returned home no longer blind (9:6-7).
3. There are other people, too, who are blind in this story. They were not physically blind, for they could see with their eyes. However, they were spiritually blind, for they refused to believe Jesus is God. They refused to trust him.
   The **neighbours** of the man who used to be blind found it difficult to believe what they saw, even thought there was nothing wrong with their eyes! They asked him about Jesus (9:8-12).
   The **Pharisees,** who were important Jewish religious leaders, also were spiri-tually blind. They were angry because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath, when no-one was

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supposed to do any work. They were so blind that they even believed Jesus was a sinner for having performed that miracle! However, the healed man who knew that he had been physically blind and that it was Jesus who had given him sight, told those religious leaders so (9:13–17, 24–34). **Emphasise John 9:25.**
Even the healed man's **parents** were spiritually blind. They were so frightened of the powerful religious leaders that they did not even seem to rejoice that their son had been healed (9:18–23)!

4. Jesus went to find the healed man and talked to him. **Read 9:35–37 to the class.** He now had spiritual as well as physical sight, for he believed Jesus had come from God the Father. This is what is meant by the name "Son of Man" in verse 35. The man who used to be blind worshipped Jesus (9:38–39).

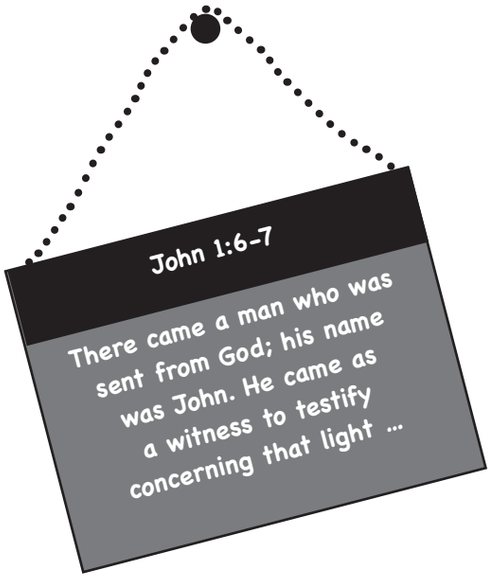
Our Response to the Story

If you are blind you cannot see the light. **Everybody, close your eyes.** You are in darkness now, but that does not mean the light has gone away. You just cannot see it.

Jesus is our spiritual light. He came to bring light into this dark world. We need spiritual light to believe in him; then we can see God's way and walk in it.

Instil the Memory Verse

John the Baptist was the one God the Father had sent to announce the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.



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