

Jesus, Lord of My Life

MIRACLE WORKER

UNIT

1

LESSON
THREE

From Our Hearts to God

When I have tried my hardest and still need help, I turn to you, Lord. I know you want me to do well and do right things, and I trust that you will give me the help I need. Amen.

MY WORLD

It's a miracle!

Today we use these words rather easily.

It's a miracle I passed my test. I didn't even study!

It's a miracle mom didn't crash the car. She swerved away just in time.

It's a miracle ... (You fill in the rest from your experiences.)

One of the things Jesus is best known for is performing miracles.

What is a miracle? Is it like magic?

A miracle is when God makes something happen that could not happen in any natural way. Magic is a clever trick that fools people into believing what they think they see.

A miracle is God's ability to change what we think of as normal into what is better. Jesus performed miracles to glorify his Father and fulfill the Old Testament prophecies.

Some Miracles of Jesus

Mark 4:35-41

Matthew 14:22-33

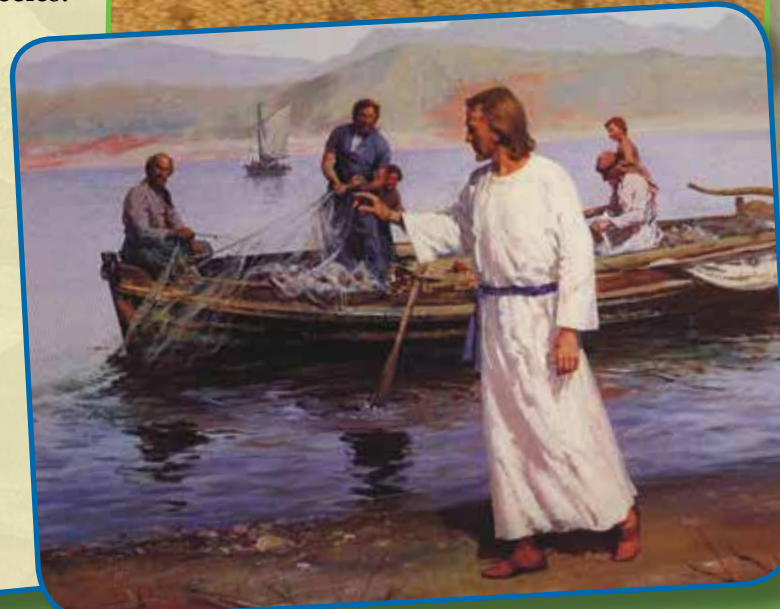
Luke 9:10-17

Luke 5:1-11

Mark 5:21-24; 35-42

John 2:1-11

Mark 1:29-31



Luke 7:11-17

Mark 7:31-37

Luke 13:10-17

Choose one of the miracle stories above. Read it. Write a title for it here:

Now be prepared to tell the class the story in a few sentences.



Taking a Closer Look

Why did these miracles happen?

Because Jesus wanted to share the greatness and glory of God through miracles. Jesus is God and with God nothing is impossible. God made the universe and he can change it as he pleases.

God changed the normal to what he wanted, the "real" normal.

Questions and answers about miracles

Q. Why did Jesus perform miracles?

A. To give people a glimpse of God's glory, out of love for people who were suffering, and to fulfill the prophecies about him.

Q. Was Jesus the only person who performed miracles?

A. No. Many of Jesus' disciples performed miracles with Jesus' help.

Q. Can miracles happen now?

A. Yes, but we need to be looking to truly see the miracles God sends our way.

Q. Should we ask for a miracle such as when someone is hurt or sick and you want them to get well?

A. Yes. You can pray to God and ask him to change things to an outcome you would like. But remember, sometimes it will not happen for reasons we don't understand now.

Q. What is the final miracle we will experience ourselves?

A. Heaven. There we will be in the presence of God. There we will find complete peace and happiness.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Everyone was amazed at God's great power.

Luke 9:45



Getting Closer to God

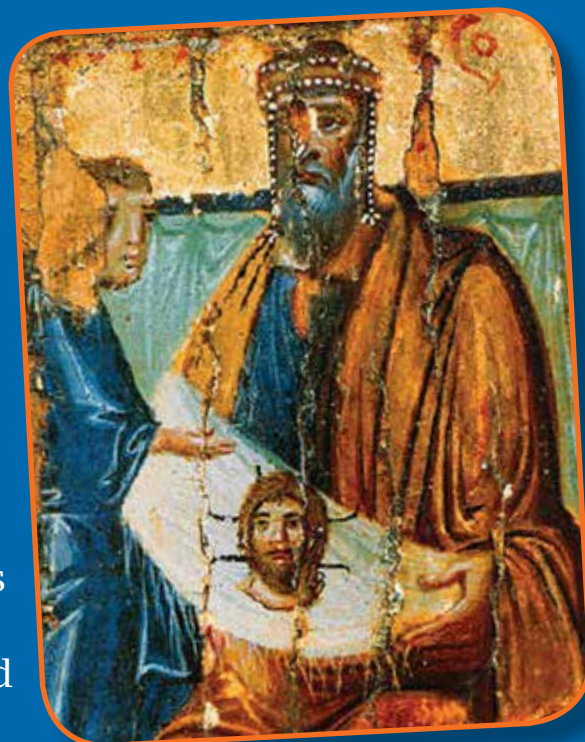
Jesus' enemies even demanded a miracle from him. Read Matthew 12:38-40. The Pharisees are asking Jesus to perform a miracle. They don't really think he can do it. They think what Jesus does is a trick and they want to trap him. Jesus scolds them calling them evil and godless because he knows their purpose. So Jesus tells them the only miracle they will experience is one like the miracle the Prophet Jonah experienced. Jonah was in the belly of the big fish for three days and came out alive and well. Jesus was telling those

people who didn't believe in him that he would be buried for three days just like Jonah was in the fish for three days and then he would be out and okay. They would see the miracle of Jesus' Resurrection.

Our Armenian Way

A MIRACLE IN ARMENIA

When Jesus was in Jerusalem, the Armenian King Apkar ruled the kingdom whose capital was Edessa. Armenia was a land of many kingdoms at that time. King Apkar had heard of Jesus and his miracle healings and sent a messenger to Jesus asking if Jesus could come to Edessa and heal him. He suffered from a terrible disease. Jesus was unable to go there, but said he would send his disciple Thaddeus. After the death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord, Thaddeus set out on his journey to King Apkar and healed him. The King had faith in Jesus and told others of Jesus' love and concern for him.



Time to Celebrate

Celebrate the Miracles of Jesus by creating Miracle Posters to place in your classroom.



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Help me, Lord, to always see the miracles you have performed for me. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we read and talked about Jesus' miracles. These were performed out of our Lord's love for people who were suffering, to give people a glimpse of God's glory, and to fulfill the prophecies about him. Today, we need to look for the miracles that God sends our way.

Living Our Faith

Sharing in God's Miracles

1. Take a family hike. Take a picture of your family on the hike. Pick up interesting items along the way. Use a box picture frame to display some of the items with your photo and call it *God Gave Us The Miracle of Nature*. Display it in your home.
2. At the dinner table have everyone take turns finishing the sentence "I'm glad God made ___ because..."
3. As a family, read the Bible stories of Jesus' miracles.

about your relationship with God. God always gives you time and opportunity to improve your relationship with him. Beginning again is more important than counting how many times you fail.”

Some students might question that they had no say in being baptized and chrismated - they did not choose it. Tell them that this choice was made for them by their parents. Their parents made the choice because they love them and wanted this for them. And their godparents made a life-long promise to help them grow in their relationship with God.

4. Read **God’s Guiding Words** to the students. Have them read it together out loud. Give the students the card of this passage and tell them to put it in their room at home so they can look at it every day. 15 min.

5. Read the Bible passage Luke 2:22-38; a good exercise for understanding is to have students quickly retell the story in their own words (time permitting). Now read **Getting Closer to God** but do not have the students write their thoughts on *What would you say if you met Jesus?* Ask a student to read the story “The Baby is Blessed” in the book *Jesus: Bible Stories for Children*. Point out how Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the Messiah, as one who was consecrated. Relate this to other stories of people who recognized Jesus as the Messiah – the shepherds, the Wise Men, John the Baptist. Now have the students share what they would say if they met Jesus. 10 min.

6. Review the information in **Our Armenian Way**. Ask students if they can think of other church customs that recall events in Jesus’ life. For example: Washing of the Feet, Blessing of Water, Christmas and Easter services, Transfiguration Day in the summer (with some fun water-throwing customs connected with it). Ceremonies like these help us acknowledge our relationship with God.

7. Read **Taking a Closer Look**. Have them practice saying *Dyarnuntarach* (*dyar-nun-ta-rach*). Add the word to your list of words to learn this term. If you have battery operated tea lights, you may want to put them together in a bunch and have the students jump over the “fire” to celebrate. 10 min.

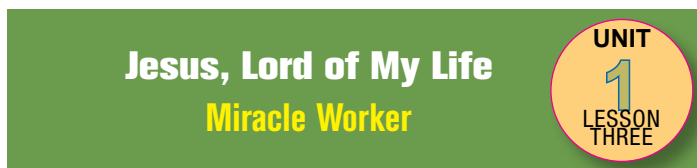
8. Now have children prepare their Pre-sen-CAKE-

tion cupcakes (**Time to Celebrate**) in celebration of their being born. They might want to decorate their cupcake with some religious symbols such as a cross. Enjoy your cupcakes! Have students help clean up and put away materials. If you have extra cupcakes, have students work together on decorating them and give them to the priest and others at hospitality hour.

9. Read the prayer in **Responding in Faith** together and dismiss the class. 15 min.

Evaluating Your Lesson

1. As students are working or creating their cupcake, ask individuals to define the words “righteous” and “consecrated” or to relate the story of *Dyarnuntarach*.
2. Are your students listening or distracted by each other? If the latter, what can you do to help them focus on your lesson? Try separating students who like to chat too much. Before starting a section, tell specific students who need to focus that you will be asking them questions about what was read, or to do something after listening. Examples: “John, after I read this part of the lesson, I will ask you to define the word ‘consecrated.’” “Mary, after we get through with our cupcake decorating, I want you to take a picture of everyone’s finished product.” By setting the stage for their listening, you help them focus and be more attentive.



Key Concepts

1. Jesus is God and all-powerful.
2. Miracles supersede what would seem natural and normal in everyday life.
3. Jesus performed miracles out of love and concern for his people and he empowered his disciples to perform miracles.
4. People of Jesus’ times were looking for “signs” of God at work on earth. Miracles were the signs the people could recognize as God’s interaction in their lives.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Complete a quiz on the Presentation.

2. Define the term “miracle.”
3. Read and discuss some of the miracles of Jesus.
4. Review the story of Jonah as the “only sign.”
5. Learn about the miracle of the healing of Armenian King Apkar.
6. Create posters on the miracles.

Materials Needed

Lined paper

Paper or poster paper (any size you like) for the students to make Miracle Posters

Crayons, markers, pencils.

A children’s Bible with the story of Jonah ready to read to students if you want to extend the lesson or if the children seem unfamiliar with the story when it is referenced in the text.

Procedure

1. Open with the prayer in **From Our Hearts to God**. Read prayer requests of children if any were submitted. Ask the students if they wish to offer a prayer of their own.
2. Give a “pop quiz” to review last week’s lesson. Distribute paper and have the students number it 1 – 5. Ask these questions: (You can put a “Word Box” on the chalkboard with the answers for the students to find and write – God, *Dyarnuntarach*, Jesus, chrismation, consecrated)
 - Who was presented at the Temple? (Jesus)
 - What word did we learn that means “set apart for God”? (consecrated)
 - What is the Armenian word for Feast of the Presentation?(*Dyarnuntarach*)
 - Who loves you even more than your mother and father? (God)
 - What is the name of the sacrament where a baby is marked with holy oil? (chrismation) 10 min.
3. Read **My World**. Have students restate the definition of miracle in their own words or use one of the two definitions in the text. Ask the students to explain why they think Jesus performed miracles. Write their answers on the chalkboard.
4. Now tell students that they will be taking a closer look at some of Jesus’ miracles as they are told to us in the Bible. Assign readings or have students choose one (in a small class you might want to double up to cover all stories), then read it and write a title for

it. When everyone’s ready, call on volunteers to share their story (in a quick recap) and title.

Jesus Calms the Storm. Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Walks on Water. Matthew 14: 22-33

Jesus Feeds Many People. Luke 9:10-17

The Great Catch of Fish. Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Revives an Official’s Daughter. Mark 5:21-24; 35-42

Jesus Turns Water into Wine. John 2:1-11

Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-Law. Mark 1:29-31

Jesus Raises A Widow’s Son from the Dead. Luke

7:11-17

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man. Mark 7:31-37

Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman. Luke 13:10-17

Conclude the activity by reciting **God’s Guiding**

Words together.

15 min.

5. Read **Taking a Closer Look** by having students take turns reading questions and answers. Allow some time for the students to ask their own questions.
6. Read or teach **Getting Closer to God**. If it helps, quickly review the story of Jonah. Say: “Jonah was a prophet who didn’t want to do as God commanded and tried to run away. He was eventually swallowed by a great whale-like creature and stayed there for three days but came out alive and well and then did what God asked him to do. The people of Israel knew the story of Jonah and his three days in the fish and believed in God’s power. Jesus told the people demanding a miracle as proof of his power that the only miracle they would see would be Jesus’ Resurrection. Some people believe in Jesus just because he is who he is. Some people can be helped to believe in Jesus, to believe in God, by seeing or hearing about Jesus’ miracles. Some people experience miracles and still don’t believe. What type of person are you?” (This question may just be rhetorical or your students may want to give their answers.) “Have you ever told someone something and they have said to you, ‘I don’t believe it. Prove it’? They don’t say that because they want to be shown you are right. They say it because they want to show you THEY are right. This is what is happening when the people questioned Jesus and wanted him to prove himself with a miracle. They wanted to show that Jesus did not have the power of God.”
7. Tell the class that Jesus gave the power to perform miracles to his disciples. **Our Armenian Way** tells about a miracle of Jesus that happened in Armenia. Read the

story of King Apkar. Conclude: “Isn’t it amazing that Jesus cared for our Armenian King?” 10 min.

8. **Time to Celebrate.** Distribute paper and markers and have students create their own mini-poster of the miracle story they read. They may work in pairs or alone. Post their work around the room. Direct them to have the Bible verses and the title appear somewhere on the paper.

9. Conclude with the prayer in **Responding in Faith**; have students read the prayer silently. 25 min.

Evaluating Your Lesson

How responsive have the children been? Have they been able to answer questions and give responses in class or have they been shy, bored, or unresponsive? Shy children may feel more at ease if you spend a little time each week talking to them before or after class. A bored child may respond more if given tasks (pass out the Bibles; be the secretary and write your classmates’ responses in my notebook; can I depend on you to bring in some magazines next Sunday so we can do our project?).

You might talk to a child who hardly ever responds in class *before* class and elicit what they might know about the lesson. In this case, ask if he knows anything about the miracles of Jesus. If the student shares something (for example, he knows Jesus fed lots of people with some fish and bread), then ask the student if you can call on him to tell the story to the class.

You might want to keep a list of your students on your desk during class and each time a child responds, make a check mark (or have your assistant or co-teacher do this). After a month review the list and see who might be monopolizing the discussion or who is not participating at all and needs to be encouraged more.

Extending the Lesson

Look up and read about some of the other miracles Jesus performed:

Lepers Healed (Mark 1:40-45) (Luke 17:11-19)

The Paralyzed Healed (Matthew 9:1-8) (Matthew 12:9-13)

The Blind See (Matthew 9:27-31) (Mark 10:46-52)

The Mute Talk (Matthew 9:32-34)

The Sick Cured (Matthew 8:5-13)

Lazarus is Raised from the Dead (John 11:1-44)

Curing a Demon-possessed Mute (Matthew 9:32-34)

Jesus, Lord of My Life

Teacher



Key Concepts

1. Jesus is God teaching us directly what he wants us to know.
2. He taught through stories such as parables.
3. He fulfilled and transformed Old Testament teachings.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Complete a review worksheet on the miracles.
2. Review the concept of Jesus as teacher.
3. Read and discuss the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
4. Explore the meaning of the Beatitudes.
5. Learn the two greatest commandments.
6. Create Do/Don't masks to review Jesus' basic teachings.
7. Recite the Lord's Prayer.

Materials Needed

Scissors

Glue

Worksheet on Miracles of Jesus

Prayer cards for children to write requests or prayers (an index card)

Bibles (Contemporary English Version is the one used in the Beatitudes text)

The Lord's Prayer from the back of this manual

Paper plates and tongue depressors (one for each child) for the DO/DON'T activity (see Procedure #8)

Markers, tape

Procedure

1. As a review of last week's lesson, ask students to describe a miracle Jesus performed that they remember from last session. Discuss. Then distribute the worksheet for students to complete.
2. Ask the students to read the prayer in **From Our Hearts to God** together. Read prayer requests of children from last week if any were submitted. Ask the students if they wish to offer a prayer of their own. Tell children they may fill out a prayer card for next week if they have a prayer they want the class to say. 15 min.