

LESSON PLAN

JESUS HEALS AND FEEDS Matthew 15:21-39; Mark 7:24-8:9

Lesson Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19 - "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Lesson Aim: Jesus will give us what we need if we humbly ask Him and believe He will do it.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Ask the children, who buys their clothes for them? Then ask them, who buys their food, their house, their furniture and their toys? Most of them will say that one of their parents does this. Then ask them, who takes care of their parents when they get sick? Who takes care of their parents if they lose their jobs? Who takes care of their parents when storms come?

HE (for Authority): Philippians 4:19 gives us God's promise that He will take care of us.

"My God" – Before we can have this promise from God, we must accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. Then we can say that He is "My God."

"Supply" – Provide, give, take care of

"All your need" – We can bring every one of our needs to Jesus. He will take care of everything that we need, but He does not promise to give us everything that we want.

"Riches" – God's riches include anything that is valuable; not only money. His riches include the fruit of the Spirit: "Love, joy, peace"... (Gal 5:22-23). They include Christ's power to help us overcome temptations and Satan's attacks. God has many kinds of riches to take care of all our needs.

"By Christ Jesus" – Jesus is the only one who makes it possible for us to get God's riches.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson, there are three stories that will tell us how Jesus cared for the needs of people. He will take care of us like He took care of them, if we trust Him. (Teachers, please do not feel that you must teach all three stories. Younger children will probably learn the lesson from one story better than from two or three stories. Use your best judgment; each class is different.)

I. Demon-possessed Daughter Healed - Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

A. A Gentile woman had a daughter with a demon in her. She wanted Jesus to cast the demon out of her (Mark 7:24-26). The woman had a serious problem, but when she came to Jesus, she came to the right person to help her.

WE: When we go to Jesus with our problems, He will help us solve them. He may direct us to the right person who can help us. He may remind us of some Scriptures that will give us the answer. Or, He may put the right answer into our mind. These are some of the ways that He can supply (care for) our needs.

B. This Gentile mother came to Jesus and asked for His help by calling Him "the son of David." God had promised to bless the Jews when Jesus Christ, the son of David, would be their King. Even though she had no promise for His help, being a Gentile, she begged Jesus for His help as though she were a Jew. This was wrong, so Jesus refused to listen to her cry for help.

WE: We must ask Jesus to help us according to His promises. We cannot expect Him to answer our prayers when we come to Him the wrong way. Today, He will hear the prayers of Gentiles as well as Jews, but they must come to Him the right way. They must come without known sin in their lives (Ps 66:18) and come with a love for Him and His word (Jn 15:7).

C. Then the mother corrected herself by calling Him, "Lord." This showed her attitude was right. Now she was humble and respected Jesus as her Master. Then Jesus spoke to her (Mt 15:25-26).

WE: When we are humble and respect Jesus as our Master, He will listen to our prayers and speak to us. We must come to Jesus with the right attitude when we ask for His help.

D. Next, Jesus tested the woman's humility (Mt 15:26-27). He wanted to find out how humble she was before He helped her. He told her that the children's bread was not supposed to be given to dogs. Jesus meant the help that He was giving to the Jews, who were God's children, was not meant for

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Gentiles, who were considered dogs. Jesus indicated she should be treated like a dog because she was a Gentile. Some people will lose their humility if they are going to be treated like a dog, but this woman agreed that she was like a dog. This proved that she had a humble attitude.

WE: We need to have a humble attitude. God resists the proud, but helps the humble (1 Pet 5:5-6).

E. Besides being humble, this woman had great faith (Mt 15:27-28). She showed her faith when she went on to say that even the dogs could eat the crumbs that fell from the children's table. She was telling Jesus that she wanted the blessings that the Jews were not receiving. She wanted the demon cast out of her daughter. When Jesus saw her humility and her great faith, He said her daughter was healed of the demon. The woman went home and found her daughter lying on her bed. Jesus took care of her need.

WE: If we are humble and have great faith in the Lord, He will hear us and take care of all our needs

II. Deaf and Dumb Man Healed (Mark 7:31-37)

This man's friends asked Jesus to lay His hands on him (so that he might be healed).

A. Jesus used sign language to help the man understand what He was about to do (Mk 7:33-35). Jesus put His fingers in his ears; then He spit and touched his tongue; and with a sigh He said, "Be opened!" Immediately the man was healed; he heard and spoke plainly.

WE: We know that whatever Jesus attempts to do, He does it well. If He does not heal someone, it is not His inability to heal him, but His will to accomplish something else through this person's sickness (2 Cor 12:7-9). Can we trust Jesus to heal our sickness? Can we trust Him if He does not heal our sickness?

B. Jesus commanded the people who saw the healing or heard about the healing to keep quiet about it, but the more He commanded them, the more they told others about it (7:36-37). He had healed this man so well that they were astonished and felt they must tell others, even though Jesus had told them not to do it. Jesus did not want publicity at this time, but the people refused to obey Jesus. They thought they knew better than He did.

WE: We must discipline ourselves to obey Jesus even when we do not understand what His reasons are.

III. Four Thousand Fed (Mark 8:1-10)

A. Jesus had compassion on the multitude because they had been with Him for three days and now had nothing left to eat (8:1-4). Some would faint on their long journey home if nothing were found for them to eat. He asked the disciples what should be done. They were not able to solve the problem.

WE: We must learn to trust in Jesus to solve all problems that we face. We must not forget what He has done for us in the past. The disciples should have remembered how the Lord fed the 5,000 with five small loaves and two fish, but they forgot. They looked at the problem and forgot the Lord's power to supply food miraculously. We must not forget the great things that Jesus has done for us. When problems come, we must look at them with faith in the Lord to solve them.

B. Jesus learned that His disciples had seven loaves and some small fish on hand. He commanded the people to sit down on the ground.

WE: We must give Jesus what little we have before He will supply the great need at hand (Lk 6:38). This takes faith in the Lord, but it is a principle that runs throughout the Bible (Lk 9:23-24; 1 Kgs 17:11-16).

C. Jesus gave thanks to His Father for the food and told His disciples to give to the 4,000 people as much as they needed. After feeding the people, seven large baskets of food were collected (8:6-9).

WE: We can trust God to give exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think (Eph 3:20). He wants us to trust Him to supply our need.

BE (for Action): Ask the children how many different kinds of people in today's lesson learned about God's care for them. Then ask them how each was helped. Finally, ask them if they can believe God will take care of them. Ask them to bow their heads. Find out which children want God's help to save them. Then ask the other children to pray out loud, one at a time, thanking God for His promise to care for them.