

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 23
Healing the Blind Man (John 9:1-7)

Theme: The Lord Does a Miracle

I. Underlying Ideas

- A. The Lord alone can perform miracles. Nothing is impossible for the Lord!
- B. The Lord performed miracles for two reasons: to strengthen the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and for the sake of the Word.
- C. Each miracle is really a parable teaching us of some good work in which the Lord can perform in our souls if we believe in Him and ask His help.
- D. All life is from the Lord, and so all healing power is in Him.
- E. The Lord wants us to have natural and spiritual sight.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Long ago, there was a blind man. He couldn't see. (Can you pretend that you are a blind man? Close your eyes. If you were blind, it would be like this all the time. You wouldn't be able to see anything!)
- 2. But the Lord helped the blind man. He helped the blind man see once again with his eyes! This was a miracle - something very special that the Lord does. The Lord did many miracles while He was here in this world.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Retell the story from John 9. (See attached retelling).

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. What was wrong with the man in our story? (He was blind - unable to see)
- 2. How long had he been blind? (Since birth)
- 3. What did the Lord tell the man to do? (Go wash in a pool of water)
- 4. Were people surprised that the man could see? (Yes)
- 5. Did everyone believe his story? (No)
- 6. At first, the man didn't know that Jesus was the Lord. But the Lord found the man again and talked with him. Then the man knew He was the Lord and worshiped Him.

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D. Further Ideas

1. What do you think would have happened if the blind man did not go wash in the pool of Siloam when the Lord told him to? Do you think the man would have been healed? No. The Lord wants to help us, but He can only do this if we do what He tells us to do if we obey Him.
2. Some people are blind just like the man in our story. They can't see with their eyes. But when they go to heaven, they will be able to see. The Lord will make them well again.
3. The Lord wants all of us to be able to see the beautiful things around us - the flowers and trees, the sun and moon, rainbows and stars. But He also wants us to see with our minds. He wants us to see that we should do what our parents tell us to do and that we should help other people. He wants us to see what is good, doesn't He? And we do that kind of seeing with our minds!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "See the Savior in the temple," *Hymnal* #166
2. "Oh, who can make a flower?" *First Songs for Little Children*, p. 23
3. "All things so bright and beautiful," *Hymnal* #118

B. Activities

1. Try to guess what objects are by touching them. Make a feeling container (an oatmeal container covered with felt which has an X cut in it or else use a paper bag). Put things into the container one at a time, such as a stone, a feather, a ball, etc. Have the children take turns feeling and guessing what is inside.
2. Experience how difficult it can be to do things without being able to see. Have children close their eyes and try to draw a picture of the sun or some other simple thing without opening their eyes!
3. Do finger plays (see attached sheets)
 - a. "Eyes to See With"
 - b. "I Have So Many Parts to Me"

C. Project

1. "I was blind, now I see" Spiral - See attached sheets for pattern and instructions.
2. Draw a picture of trees, flowers, the sun, and other things the blind man saw when he was healed by the Lord
3. Etch a picture on special paper that has a layer of color covered with a black coating. This paper can be purchased or prepared ahead by the teacher. (Crayon heavily on a piece of paper for each student. Cover with a layer of black crayon or dust with talcum powder then coat with India ink). Using toothpicks, etch a picture of things the blind man would see after the miracle.

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IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the Lord healing people.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 6, "The Man Born Blind" (John 9)

Retelling of John 9

Healing the Blind Man

Now as Jesus went by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And Jesus spat on the ground and made clay with his saliva. And He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

His neighbors were surprised that the man could see. They said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

He said, "A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and I received sight."

Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

Other people heard his story, but they did not believe him. They asked him about it and he said, "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Jesus found the man, and He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe In Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

Then he said, "Lord, I believe! And he worshiped Him.

PROJECT IDEA: "I WAS BLIND, NOW I SEE" SPIRAL

Materials needed for each child:

- Black circle precut from construction paper
- White circle precut
- Paper fastener for each spiral
- Drawing materials such as markers, oil pastels, or crayons
- Text slip: "I was blind, now I see"
- Glue sticks

Motivate the Children:

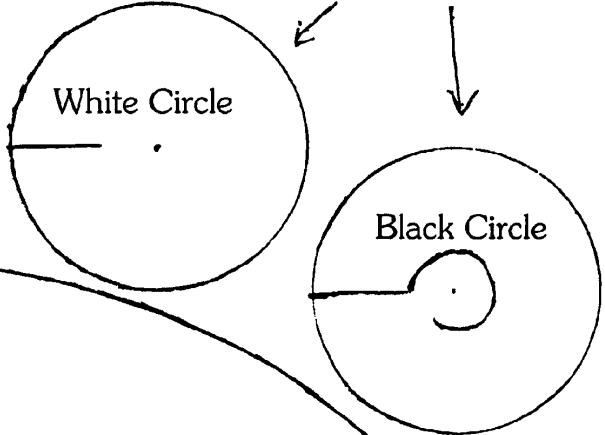
- What do you think the blind man would see when he was healed?
- Would he see the pool of water where he was washing his eyes?
- Would he see the sun shining and clouds in the sky? Would he see trees and flowers growing? Would he see his friends and his family? What do you think he would see? Show us what the blind man could see on the white paper.

Procedure:

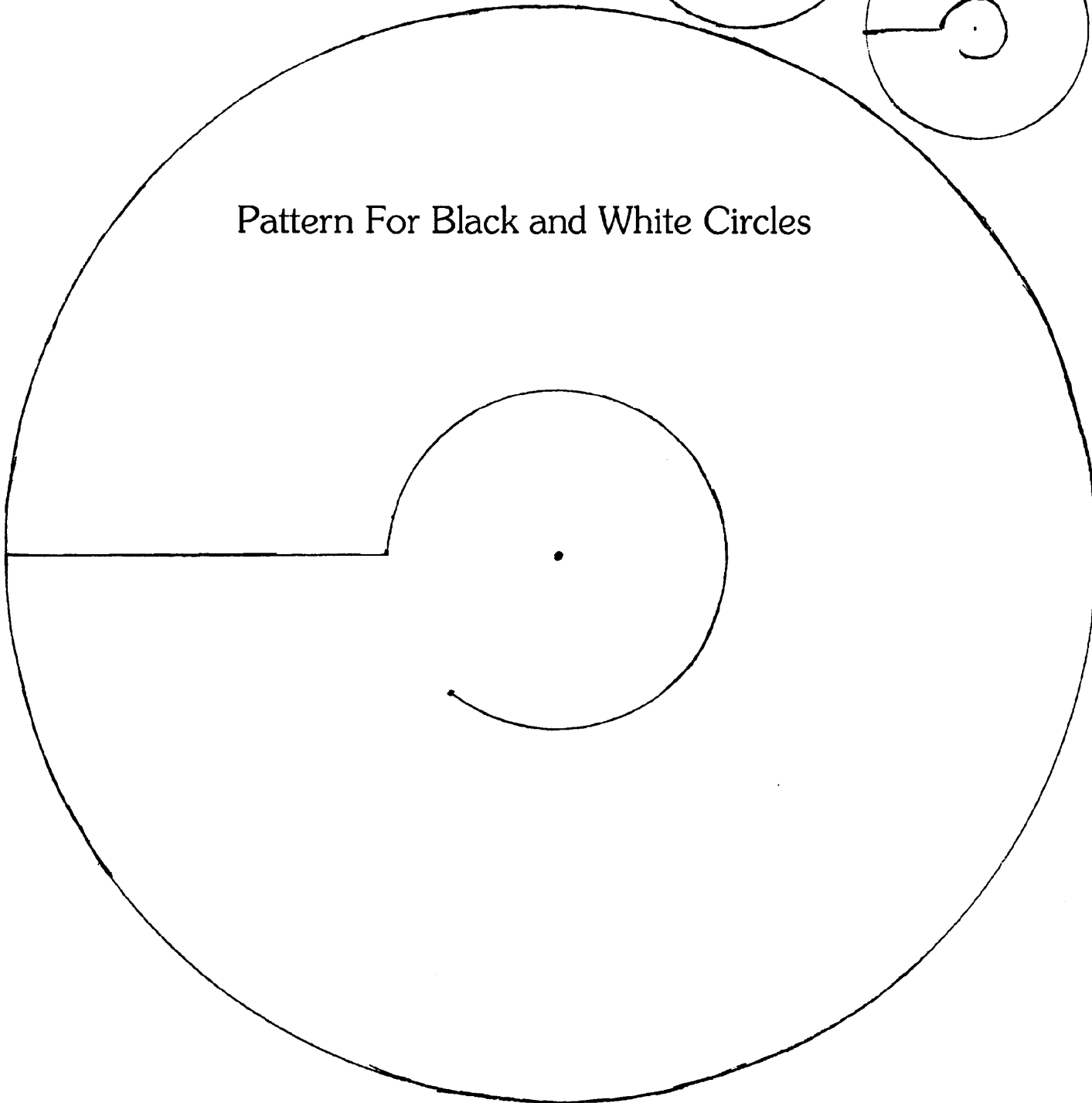
- The teacher should put the spirals together for the children before class and have the white paper showing as much as possible. Have a sample spiral already finished (including pictures of the sun, flowers, friends, etc.) and show the children how it changes from all black to white and shows what the blind man could see.
- Children draw pictures on the white part of the spiral.
- Glue text slip onto the black part of the spiral.
- Using the finished spirals, let everyone show that the man was blind. He could only see black. But after the Lord healed him, he saw many beautiful things!

Template for Spiral Project

Cutting Diagrams



Pattern For Black and White Circles



Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Though I was blind, now I see (John 9:25).

Sample Parent Letter

Dear Parents,

To let your child experience what it is like to be blind, try tying a blindfold over his eyes. Lead him to the center of the room and let him try to find his way around. Offer him a familiar object or two to try to identify, perhaps a cup or a pillow or a pencil. Ask him to tell you what color it is! Let him experiment with his balance by trying to stand on one foot or to sit down. If you have another person in the room, let them come up to him quietly and ask him to try to identify them.

When he has experienced the helplessness of the blind man, he will better understand the man's joy at being healed.

Lead him to a bowl of water, and let him dip his fingers in, then wet his eyes. Now take off the blindfold. Tell him how the Lord healed the man who had been blind for life. Then the blind man could see the Lord even better than people who'd always had sight.

Enclosed is a paper with a picture on the back. Give your preschooler a piece of cotton or paper towel with cooking oil on it. As he rubs it over the blank side, the picture of the man worshipping the Lord will become visible. The child may color it if he wishes. **WARNING:** This can be messy. The picture could be put on a piece of paper towel or newspaper before it is oiled.

