

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 14**  
**The Lord Heals the Leper and the Servant (Matthew 8:1-15)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The Lord performed miracles for two reasons: to strengthen and confirm the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and for the sake of the Word.
- B. Each miracle is really a parable teaching us of some good work which the Lord can perform in our souls if we believe in Him and ask His help.
- C. Every disease in the Word corresponds to some weakness or deformity in the soul.
- D. All healing power is in the Lord.
- E. Faith involves confidence.
- F. We are building spiritual bodies each day as we choose good or evil.

**II. Story Circle**

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. Today's lesson begins with the Lord coming down from the mountain where He had been giving the Sermon on the Mount. We've had three lessons about the Lord's Sermon on the Mount. Can you remember some of the things He was teaching about in that sermon?
  - a. He taught us how to pray. Do you remember what prayer is? (Talking to the Lord)
  - b. He also taught us not to worry, but to trust that the Lord will take care of us. Do you remember the things the Lord said not to worry about? (What we will eat, what we will drink, and what we will put on)
  - c. The last part of the Sermon on the Mount was the parable about the houses built on the rock and on the sand. Do you remember what a parable is? (A story with a hidden meaning)
  - d. While the Lord was on earth, He did many miracles. Do you remember what a miracle is? (A wonderful thing that the Lord does to teach us a spiritual lesson) Today's lesson is about two of those miracles. Let's read about them.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read aloud Matthew 8:1-13.

C. Ideas to Discuss

## Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 14

1. Does anyone know what a leper is, or what leprosy is? (Leprosy is a skin disease— bumps, sores, scales, scabs. A leper is a person who has this disease. People can lose fingers and toes because of this horrible disease. They can lose feeling in the diseased places and not realize that they're touching something that could hurt them, something hot, for instance.)
2. The leper met the Lord outside the city of Capernaum. Lepers were called "unclean," and they weren't allowed to live inside the cities because healthy people were afraid of catching the disease.
3. What did the leper say to the Lord? ("Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.") The leper believed that the Lord had the power to heal him; all he had to do was ask. And he was right, wasn't he?
4. When Jesus entered the city of Capernaum, who spoke to Him and asked for His help? (A centurion) Do you know what a centurion is? (A commander over 100 men in the Roman army) The centurion in our story was a Gentile (someone not Jewish); the Lord and His followers were Jewish people.
5. What was the centurion's problem? (His servant was paralyzed.)
6. Jesus offered to come to the centurion's home to heal his servant. But what did the centurion want Jesus to do instead of coming to his home? (He asked the Lord only to "speak a word, and my servant will be healed.") The centurion trusted the Lord's power so much that he believed the Lord had the power to heal someone just by speaking, without even being near the sick person.
7. How did Jesus feel about the centurion's suggestion? (He was amazed at his great faith and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!")
8. Jesus healed many people while He was on earth. If a sick person believed that Jesus had the power to heal him, then Jesus was able to help.

### D. Further Ideas

1. When you are sick and take some medicine to get well, who is the Person who actually heals you? The doctor who gave you the medicine? (No; the Lord is the only One who can heal. He is the One who can make you better, and He uses doctors and medicine to do it.)
2. Does your body have to be working perfectly for you to be happy? (No; a blind person can still be happy; someone with a broken leg, etc.)
3. Why do you suppose the Lord doesn't cure (make better) every sick person? (He knows that it is more important for us to have a healthy spiritual body than to have a healthy earthly body. Just because our

## Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 14

earthly body is healthy doesn't mean we have a healthy spiritual body, or soul.)

4. We are building spiritual bodies each day as we choose to do good things or bad things. If you choose to do good things, what will your spiritual body be like? (Beautiful/handsome, strong, healthy) If you choose to do bad things, what will your spiritual body be like? (Ugly, diseased, unhealthy)
5. [If children ask why the Lord doesn't do miracles now:] Miracles would force people to believe in the Lord when they don't want to. The Lord wants us to freely choose to believe in Him. And He really does do miracles all the time: Babies are born, flowers bloom and turn to fruit, etc.
6. [If children ask why miracles didn't force people to believe in Jesus when He was on earth:] Because people then were so worldly and materialistic (loved things that they could touch and keep) that even miracles didn't force them to believe in the Lord. The Lord's miracles strengthened the faith of those who already believed in Him, but the miracles didn't convince the people who didn't believe.

### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "See the Savior In the temple," HYMNAL #166.

#### B. Activities

#### C. Project: HEALTHY AND DISEASED SPIRITUAL BODIES

1. Fold a piece of white drawing paper down the middle and crease it. Draw a line along the crease to divide the paper into right and left halves. On one side, draw a picture of what someone's spiritual body would look like if he always chose to do bad things (a diseased spiritual body); on the other side, draw a picture of what someone's spiritual body would look like if he always chose to do good things (a healthy spiritual body). Optional: Mount the picture on a larger piece of paper to "frame" it.

### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the Lord performing miracles

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. DIVINE PROVIDENCE #129-135.
- B. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 4, "The Lord's Ministry" (Matthew 8).
- C. THE SOWER, Vol. IV, Matthew 8:1-17