

14TH SUNDAY LESSON

GOD IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

BIBLE BASIS: John 9:1-41

MEMORY VERSES:

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come
before him with joyful songs.

Psalm 100:1-2 (NIV)

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye
lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come
before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:1-2 (KJV)

LESSON FOCUS: GOD IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

Spring quarter has an extra Sunday in the calendar. We have provided an extra lesson, centered on worship, to be taught on May 31, 2020. Come discover how Jesus healed a man born blind in John 9:1-41. Then use that Bible passage to explore how God is worthy of worship.

As you prepare for the lesson, take a few minutes to read the Understanding the Bible article and the Teacher Devotional below.

All the downloadables and reproducibles, along with other activity options, are included under the tab for each age level. Feel free to print and reproduce these pages for your ministry.

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

John 9:1-41 records an episode that is rich with spiritual benefit. “Who sinned?” the disciples asked Jesus when they looked at the man born blind. This reflects the teaching of the rabbis, who said that such misfortune happened as a result of God’s punishment on man’s sin. In this passage (and in others, such as Luke 13:1-9), Jesus refuted that doctrine.

When Jesus applied the mud to the blind man’s eyes, He instructed him to go to the Pool of Siloam and wash. This pool lay at the southern (and lowest) tip of the walled city of Jerusalem. It was where Hezekiah’s tunnel, which brought clean water from the Gihon Spring into the city in case of siege, emptied and pooled. It played a key role in the Festival of Tabernacles (also called Feast of Tabernacles) every year.

The word *siloam* is a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew word *shalah*, which means “to send.” It’s the same word used in the Old Testament when God sent an angelic messenger ahead of someone (Genesis 24:7).

The walk from the temple to the Pool of Siloam would have been downhill all the way, through a crowded part of the city, along about half a mile of intentionally nonuniform steps and a narrow road.

Was Jesus deliberately giving orders that required considerable effort—perhaps to see how much the man would trust and obey?

Jesus healed the man on a Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest. The religious leaders of the day were so keen to maintain the sanctity of the Sabbath that they had outlined 39 categories of activity that were prohibited on that day.

One category is called “kneading” in English, and it refers to the making of paste or dough on the Sabbath. Jesus combined His spit with dirt and made a mud paste, which He put on the man’s eyes. Then He “sent” him from the temple to the Pool of Siloam, a journey that took him past many priests and Pharisees. Jesus’ concern was for the man, not for the various rules the religious leaders had added to God’s law.

The Pharisees heard of the blind man’s healing and they launched an investigation. (Apparently, they considered it permissible to do work on the Sabbath if the work was to determine how Sabbath rules may have been broken.) Their agitation reveals that they considered their restrictions to be more significant than the fact that they were witness to a major miracle of healing. They couldn’t “see” God’s hand right in

front of them, so blinded were they by their legalism. The religious leaders had prohibited anyone from saying that this Jesus, who had healed the man's blindness, could be the Messiah (see v. 22). That's why the now-healed man's parents, excited as they must have been over their son's newfound vision, refused to give the Pharisees the most obvious answer (vv. 20-23).

Note the progression of the formerly blind man's faith. He goes from understanding that Jesus is a

healer (v. 11), to proclaiming Him a prophet (v. 17), to calling Him a mighty man sent from God (v. 33), and finally to worshiping Him as Messiah (v. 38).

Jesus finds the man after he has been evicted from the synagogue by the Pharisees, perhaps to confirm to the man that Jesus really is the one worthy of his worship. The man believes Jesus and worships Him (v. 38), possibly with a "shout for joy to the LORD" and maybe even a joyful song or two (Psalm 100:1-2).

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read Psalm 100.

God is worthy of our worship, but sometimes we lose sight of that. When our hearts break or our dreams are frustrated or calamity comes, we don't always feel like shouting to God with joy and gladness. And yet this is what Psalm 100:1-2 urges us to do.

Sometimes saying something with your mouth sneaks it into your heart by way of your ears. Literally counting our blessings really can change our attitude. It can shift our mental and emotional posture away from what we don't have toward what we're grateful that we do have.

As you prepare to teach this lesson, consider these questions:

- What are three things you're thankful for right now? Thank God for them today.
- What's a joyful song you can sing to the Lord? Sing a verse or two to Him.

Take a few minutes away from distractions and worship the Lord with gladness for all He is and does.

Later Jesus came and found me. He told me that He was the Son of God, and I worshiped Him right then and there.

I was blind and now I see. God is worthy of worship!