

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

BIBLE DISCOVERY

"Divine Healing"

Recommended for: Elementary, Junior

LESSON AIM: To understand that God heals people who trust Him and will ask Him to heal them. To understand God's instructions for healing.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."* James 5:14

SUPPLIES: A hand carried stretcher and two football shapes cut out of brown construction paper.



OPENING: Call this activity a "Reverse Stretcher Drop." You will need a hand carried stretcher which you might borrow or make. Remind the children of the Bible story where Jesus healed a man who had never been able to walk. He couldn't get inside the building where Jesus was preaching, so his friends cut a hole in the roof and lowered the man, on his stretcher, down in front of Jesus. Of course, Jesus instantly healed the man and he walked out the front door! (Don't spend a long time on this story. It is only a review and intended to set up the activity.)

Use two strong adult or high school age helpers to hold the stretcher a few inches off the ground and allow a volunteer to lie down on the stretcher. Then, with a "whoosh" have the helpers lift the stretcher up over their heads. Repeat the process as long as you have volunteers or as long as your helper's arms hold out. Then, begin to get a little more serious.



BIBLE DISCOVERY: Let's think back to this activity. It was very tiring to lift that stretcher over our heads. Yet the friends of this man believed that Jesus could help him and were willing to go to extreme measures to get their friend to Jesus so that he could be healed. They must have known the promises in God's word.

From the very first book to the last book, God's promises of divine healing may found in the Bible. In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with His people to heal them. ". . . *For I am the Lord who heals*

you” (Exodus 15:26b). David thanked God for healing in Psalm 103:1-3: *“Bless the Lord, O my soul. . .who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.”* In the New Testament, we find many testimonies of people being healed by Jesus. *“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people”* (Matthew 9:35). Jesus Himself said, *“And these signs will follow those who believe. . .they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover”* (Mark 16:17,18). His disciples believed His words, and the book of Acts tells us about the many times they prayed for sick people and they were healed.

GOD’S INSTRUCTION FOR HEALING TODAY: Jesus’ desire to heal did not stop with the disciples. He wants to heal people today. Sometimes we don’t feel like we deserve healing. Or we don’t know how to pray for healing.

When we pray for someone, we are to ask for healing in Jesus’ name. He told us, *“If you ask anything in My name, I will do it”* (John 14:13).

When we are sick, we need to call someone to pray for us. This is a step of faith for the person who is sick. Have someone read James 5:14 and 15 aloud together.

“Anointing with oil” does not refer to a medicine, but is symbolic of the joyous presence of the Holy Spirit, Who has the power to bring healing. To anoint someone with oil is an act of faith. We are letting God know that we welcome His presence.

God’s healing power through the prayer of Christians who believe God is referred to as “the prayer of faith.” Sometimes a person needs help in the area of faith for divine healing. A person can call on the the elders to have faith to believe for the healing.

The word, “save,” in this instance refers to physical restoration because of divine healing rather than spiritual salvation.



ACTIVITY: Play a game of Bible football. Provide Bibles for the kids to share. Make a list of questions based on this lesson about divine healing. Set up a mock football field on a chalkboard or table. Make two footballs out of brown construction paper. Start each team on the 20 yard line. Take turns asking a question of each team. If they answer the question correctly, move them 10 yards to the opposite goal. If they can’t answer the question, give the next team a chance. The first team to score a

touchdown wins. You could make it more interesting by allowing the teams to choose to kick a field goal (a really difficult question or to recite a Bible verse about God's healing), at a certain place on the field. Offer small prizes for the winning team.

Here is a sample list of questions you could ask:

- What does Exodus 15:16 say?
- In whose name do we pray for healing?
- Why do we anoint with oil when we pray for the sick?
- Who can be the first to find John 14:13 and read it?
- What does Psalm 103-1-3 say that the Lord will do for us?
- Can God use doctors to heal?
- How would you pray for a doctor that was getting ready to perform surgery.



CONCLUSION: We can receive divine healing because of what Jesus did on the cross. A prophet by the name of Isaiah had a vision of the suffering Jesus on the cross 750 years before it actually happened, He wrote what he saw: “. . .and by *His stripes (wounds) are we healed*” (Isaiah 53:5,6). Peter confirmed this in the New Testament when he wrote, *Jesus “himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree. . .by whose stripes you were healed”* (I Peter 2:24). It says you WERE healed — that means Jesus already did this for us. Conclude with a time of prayer for anyone in your group who needs physical healing or who wants to agree for a family member in need.