



The Pool of Siloam (John 9)

Our purpose is not only to tell a story but to help kids really understand the story. We do that by engaging them—helping them wonder about what God is doing in the story and in their lives.

Before the story:

Opening: WONDER on the GO

We will repeat this opening activity every week to build a pattern in students of always looking for “God Sightings.”

Reread Psalm 139:14: “I praise you, for I am wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”

Ask students: Did you see anything wonderful this week? (Encourage them to think about nature, friends, family, or pets.)

Did you see someone do something kind or brave? These can be called “God Sightings.”

If we keep our minds and eyes open, we can see many ways God shows Gods love every day!

Build background before the story

Ask students if they have ever been sick. If they get sick what do they do? Maybe go to a Dr? Doctors have special education and training so they know how to heal us. How do they feel when they get better? Are they thankful for the Doctor’s special knowledge? Our story today is about a man who has been blind all of his life. When Jesus meets the man he does something special. Jesus heals the man so he can see!

Explain: Jesus was a healer as well as a teacher. But he didn’t go to school to get special training. Jesus’ healing powers came from God. People didn’t always believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Sometimes when He does special healing miracles it is to help others believe in the power of God’s love for us!

Define Terms: We can’t assume students understand the meaning of words we frequently use. If they don’t understand the meaning of a word, they can’t understand the meaning of the story.

- When someone cannot see we say they are **blind**. Sometimes people can be born **blind**. Sometimes they have an injury or illness that causes their eyes not to work. Occasionally, doctors cannot fix the problem and they have **blindness** the rest of their lives.
- Being **confused** means you don’t understand something, kind of like a puzzle with missing pieces, making it hard to know what to do. **Confusion** is a mixed-up feeling of not being sure of what is going on.
- **The Pool of Siloam** was built hundreds of years before Jesus was born. It was part of a temple for special religious bathing and a place to store water. It still exists and you could visit today if you were in the city of Jerusalem.

After the Story:

Retelling the Story

Materials needed: Bandanas or other soft cloth to make blindfolds.

Younger students can work in pairs and retell the story. One student puts on the blindfold and sits still. The second student walks up to them and pretends to put mud on the blindfold and says: "Go wash off the mud. The 'blind' student takes off the blindfold and says: "I was blind and now I see!"

Older students can work in pairs and practice a blind walk. One student wears a blindfold and walks around trying to avoid objects, or toward a certain destination with verbal directions from the second student. After a short time the students switch places and the 'blind' student becomes the leader.

Explain: Even when we are confused or uncertain, God is always with us; leading us, comforting us, and loving us! God's love is never blind!

Craft: Siloam Eyes

Materials needed: Card stock, vanilla wafer cookies, chocolate frosting, markers, googly eyes, wooden toothpicks.



Safety note: Provide extra cookies and frosting for eating while crafting. Instruct students not to eat the crafted cookies until after they show the project to their parents and get their consent. The model shows regular googly eyes, which should not be ingested. Edible candy googly eyes are often available in the baking section of your local grocer. Most markers are non-toxic.

Provide each student with six wafer cookies. First, using toothpicks, have them draw closed eyes on two cookies. Using frosting, "glue" them to the upper part of the paper and underneath write: "blind eyes."

The next two cookies should be covered in chocolate frosting "mud," and glued to the middle of the paper using frosting. Underneath write "mud eyes."

Attach the googly eyes to the last two cookies with frosting. Glue them to the lower part of the paper. Underneath write: "I can see". Older students might write the entire quote from the story, "I was blind, but now I see."

Game Options: Blind Man's Bluff or Mud In Your Eye

Blind Man's Bluff is a variation of tag where the player who is "it" (tagging other players) is blindfolded.

Mud In Your Eye is a version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey. One student is blindfolded, given a piece of brown paper, with rolled tape on the back and sent to try to put the brown paper mud onto a picture of a large face. The object is to get the brown paper as close to the eyes as possible.

Closing:

Remind students that even when we are confused or uncertain, God is always with us, leading us, comforting us, and loving us! God's love is never **blind!**

Repeat the prayer from the story video.

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for being the light. Thank You for helping us to see your love. Help us see people who need kindness. And help us bring your light to them.

Amen



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