Paul Helps a Lame Man

Bible Story
Acts 14:8-20

Teacher Challenge
The love of God had been poured out in Paul and Barnabas by His Spirit. They were compelled by that love to go into different cultures with the life-changing message that the God who made these pagan peoples was calling them into a family relationship with Himself through Jesus. Jesus had commanded His disciples, “Love each other as I have loved you” (John 15:12). That powerful love moved Paul and Barnabas to act.

What compels you to share the message of Jesus with others?
How have others shown God’s love to you?

Wherever God calls you to go and whatever He calls you to do, He will guide and direct you. Trust Him! God will give you the words and the opportunities to show His love to others. In the regular routine of life, in teaching young children week after week, you are loving others as God has loved you.

Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Lesson 39
God's Word
“Jesus said, ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’” (See John 15:12.)
God’s Word and Me
God loves me and I can show love to others.

Play to Learn
Active Game Center: Body Part Match

Collect
Bible, construction paper, scissors, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player; optional—Lesson 39 Body Part Patterns 1-5 from *Discovering God’s Love* CD-ROM.

Prepare
Cut large shapes of body parts (hand, arm, elbow, knee, foot, leg, head, etc.) from construction paper, repeating as needed to make one part for each child. (Optional: Print and copy Body Part Patterns 1-5 from CD-ROM.)

Do
1. Place body part shapes on the floor around the room, leaving adequate space between them.
2. Invite children to move around the room in a particular way (walk, hop, jump, etc.) while you play “The Wiggle Song” (track 18 on CD). When the music stops, children run to a body part shape and touch it with the part it represents (touch an arm shape with arm, etc.).

Talk About
In today’s Bible story, God made a man’s legs well. Let’s play a game that uses our legs and other parts of our bodies.
Ava, you moved over to give Caleb more room. You showed God’s love by being kind! What are some other ways you can show love today?
The Bible tells us, “Jesus said, ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’” God loves us all the time! We can show God’s love to others. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for loving me. Please help me to love others.

For Younger Children
When music stops, call out a body part. Children point to or touch that body part on their body.

For Older Children
For greater challenge, lay two shapes together. Children try to touch both at the same time (foot and hand, elbow and knee, etc.).
Art Center: Picture This

Collect
Bible, poster board, scissors, ruler, markers, ribbon, stapler, glue; optional—digital camera and color printer.

Prepare
Cut two 4x5-inch (10x12.5-cm) rectangles from poster board for each child. Cut a 2x3-inch (5x7.5-cm) opening from the center of half the rectangles to make frames. On the bottom of frames, print “God loves me!” Cut one 12-inch (30.5-cm) length of ribbon for each child.

Do
1. Help children staple the ends of ribbons onto the corners of uncut poster-board pieces. Children spread glue along sides and bottom of frame. With the staples and ribbon ends facing in, children place uncut poster-board piece on top of frame.
2. Using markers, children decorate frames and draw a picture of themselves in the frame opening. (Optional: Use digital camera to take a picture of each child. Print pictures on color printer. Children place pictures in frames.)

Talk About
¬ In the Bible story today, God made a lame man’s legs well. God helped the man because God loved him. God loves us, too! Let’s make picture frames to remind us of God’s love.
¬ In the Bible we read, “Jesus said, ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’” God loves us, and we can show love to others. Pray briefly, Dear God, please help me to show love to others.

For Younger Children
Before class, staple ribbon to create hanger and glue frame pieces together.

For Older Children
Instead of printing “God loves me!” on each frame, print the sentence on a large sheet of paper. Children copy the sentence onto the bottom of their frames.
Lesson 39

God’s Word

“Jesus said, ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’” (See John 15:12.)

God’s Word and Me

God loves me and I can show love to others.

Play to Learn

Block Center: Obstacle Course

Collect

Bible, yarn, blocks.

Prepare

Use yarn to outline an obstacle course through classroom (going under tables, around bookcases, etc.).

Do

1. Children use blocks to create obstacles on or around the yarn course. Blocks may be stacked on yarn line to be jumped over, or they may be placed on yarn line to be walked on as if it were a balance beam.

2. Children walk along the course, following each obstacle.

Talk About

➥ The Bible story tells about a lame man. The man’s legs didn’t work at all. The man listened when Paul talked about Jesus. Paul helped the man by telling him about Jesus. The man believed Jesus could make his legs well. And Jesus did! Now the man could walk. Let’s use our blocks to make a path we can walk on.

➥ Thank you, Todd, for giving Andrea the first turn to walk the path. You showed God’s love by being kind to her!

➥ The Bible tells us, “Jesus said, ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’” God loves us! And God wants us to show His love to others. Pray briefly, Dear God, help me to show love to others. I love You.

For Younger Children

Instead of creating obstacles, children carry blocks as they walk along the yarn course. At the end of the yarn course, children build with the blocks they’ve carried.

For Older Children

After walking on path one or more times, invite children to move the yarn to change the course, making and following several different courses as time and interest allow.
Science Center: Moving Legs

Collect
Bible; optional—bell or whistle.

Do
1. Choose a volunteer to be the Leader. Leader chooses an action using legs (skip, jump, tiptoe, walk, march, hop on one foot, run in place, etc.). Children line up behind the leader and follow the Leader, copying his or her action.

2. After 10 to 20 seconds, call out “Freeze!” (Optional: Ring bell or blow whistle.) Children remain frozen until you say, “Move!” Leader moves to the back of the line and child in front becomes new Leader. Continue until all children have had a turn to be the leader.

Talk About
In today’s Bible story Paul helped a lame man by telling him about Jesus. The man’s legs didn’t work at all. The man believed Jesus could make his legs well. And Jesus did! Now the man could walk, leap, and jump! Let’s see the different things our legs can do.

Conner, you are holding your leg so still! God made muscles to move your leg and also to hold your leg still. Your muscles are good and strong.

I like to use my legs to walk my dogs. Joshua, what do you like to do with your legs? (Walk. Run. Ride a bike. Play hopscotch. Ride a scooter. Kick a ball.) God gave us legs to walk, run, jump and skip! God loves us and wants us to show His love to others.

The Bible says, “Jesus said, ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’” God loves us and we can show love to others!

For Younger Children
Children simply play Follow the Leader.

For Older Children
Challenge children to wave, shake or make circles with their arms while imitating the leader.
Listen to Learn
Acts 14:8-20

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 52 pictures from God’s Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player, beanbag.

Greet Each Other
Children stand in a circle. Toss the beanbag to a child and say, I can show love to (Amy). Amy tosses bag to another child and says, I can show love to (Michael). Continue until all children have been named.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to Acts 14. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 52 pictures.

Can you wiggle your toes? Tap your feet? Jump up and down? Listen to hear about a man who could not use his feet at all.

Paul and his friend Barnabas traveled together. They used their feet to walk from town to town. In every town, they told people about Jesus. Paul and Barnabas helped people who were sick. Many, many people believed that Jesus is God’s Son because of Paul and Barnabas.

Paul and Barnabas came to a town called Lystra. They told the people there that Jesus is God’s Son. They told how Jesus made sick people well. Paul and Barnabas told the people that God loved them. As Paul talked, he looked at one man in the crowd. This man had never walked in his whole life. His feet didn’t work. The man looked back at Paul. Paul could see that the man believed God could make his feet well!

So Paul said to the man, “Stand up on your feet!” The man jumped up on his feet. He began to walk. The man may have tried to hop a little and then maybe to run a little. He must have been so happy to use his feet that maybe he twirled a little! His feet were well! God had made the man’s feet work!

The people in the crowd saw the man leaping and jumping! The people got VERY excited! They thought Paul and Barnabas had made the man’s feet work! But Paul and Barnabas had not done this. They were just people like everyone else. Paul and Barnabas told the people the truth. They wanted everyone to know that God had made the man’s feet work.

Paul said, “We are only here to bring the good news about God.” Paul and Barnabas used their feet to walk to other cities to tell others about God. They wanted to show God’s love to everyone!
Lesson 39

Talk About the Story
Who did Paul and Barnabas show God’s love to? (A man who couldn’t walk.) God made the man’s feet well and strong. God loves us and we can show love to others by telling them about Jesus.

Sing to God
Let’s sing about God loving us in a very big way. Lead children in singing “In a Very Big Way” (track 10 on CD). This song tells us that God loves us and helps us when we’re afraid or sad. God loves us when we’re happy, too. God loves us all the time!

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to John 15:12, say verse aloud. What does Jesus want us to do? (Love each other.) Lead children in repeating the verse several times. As the children are repeating the verse with you, point to a child. You and the children say that child’s name instead of the words “each other.” Repeat until you have used every child’s name.

Pray to God
Let’s ask for God’s help to show love to others. To complete the following prayer, volunteers take turns naming people to whom they can show love: Dear God, help me show love to __________. After volunteers have all had a turn, close prayer: Thank You, God, for loving us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Praise to God
God gave us bodies that move! Play “The Wiggle Song” (track 18 on CD) and invite children to do the suggested motions. How can you use your hands to show love to your (mom)? How can you use your feet to help your (grandma)? Sing song again. We can use our bodies to show love to others!

Option: Provide rhythm instruments for children to use while singing “In a Very Big Way.”

Option: During the verse activity, invite children to clap their hands on each word. Children point to the child you pointed to when they say that child’s name.
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 52 from The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Puzzles 77 and 78 (p. 161 and p. 163 from The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect
A copy of Story Picture 39 from The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.