

Aim:**Refer:****Resources:** Pictures of Pilgrims Progress are available here: <http://www.bunyanministries.org/>

Discuss briefly or make a list of the different ways that Jesus healed people

- Touching them
- Telling them they were healed
- Telling them to do something and they would be healed
- Telling someone else that they would be healed

If you haven't already, read and discuss the healing of the leper in Matthew 8:1-4

Discuss: the symptoms of leprosy (Leprosy is caused by a certain bacteria that attacks the skin and nerves. White patches and sores appear on the skin and the person loses their sense of touch, they do not feel pain any more, so they do not notice when they hurt themselves. A person with leprosy will often be missing fingers, toes or even their nose.)

Discuss: the significance of Jesus touching the leper. (Leprosy was contagious so a healthy person would never touch a leper for fear of catching the disease. To prevent the disease spreading, when a person was found to have leprosy they were required by Jewish law to leave their homes and live in the wilderness.

Most of the time when Jesus healed someone – He saw the person He was healing. What happened with the Centurion's servant? Matthew 8:9-10

Discuss: what faith is and read Hebrews 11:1, 6

Mark tells of another healing that happened about the same time. Read Mark 1:23-27

Discuss: What was wrong with the man?

Discuss: What are evil spirits? (Revelation 12:7-9)

In some cultures, contact with spirits is very common. What did God warn the Israelites about spirits? Leviticus 19:31 and Leviticus 20:6

Discuss: What are some ways that people contact spirits today?

- People who claim to talk to dead people are talking to the spirits. When a person says they met a dead relative, they have actually seen a spirit.
- People who talk to spirits, witches, mediums, wizards, channelling, clairvoyants, fortune tellers, palm readers, astrology, crystal balls, horoscopes in magazines
- Ouija boards, pronounced 'weegie' and sometimes spelled differently, look like a board game but they are designed to communicate with spirits.

When someone wants to escape from the spirits, they must call on Jesus, and keep calling on Him to save them each time the spirits attack. Jesus is their only way out and many people both in ancient times and in modern times have been saved from spirits through Jesus.

After Jesus healed the demon possessed man, they went to Peter's house and Jesus healed Peter's mother in law, then lots of sick people and people with demons came to be healed.

Now John the Baptist heard of the miracles Jesus was doing and sent two of his disciples to see Jesus. Read Luke 7:20 What did Jesus reply? Verse 22

Discuss the meaning of Jesus reply

Revise: In Pilgrims Progress, what did Christian's burden represent? (The guilt of realising you are a sinner)

Could reading the scroll (Bible) take away Christian's burden?

Could Evangelist take away his burden?

Remember that last week, Christian was at the house of the Interpreter who showed him several object lessons.

Now I saw in my dream that the highway up which Christian was to go was fenced on either side with a wall, and that wall was called Salvation. Up this way, therefore, did burdened Christian run with great difficulty, because of the load on his back. He ran thus till he came at a place where stood a cross, and a little below, in the bottom, a sepulchre (tomb). As Christian came up with the cross, his burden fell off his back, and began to tumble, and so continued to do, till it came to the mouth of the sepulchre, where it fell in, and I saw it no more. Then was Christian glad and lightsome, and said, with a merry heart, "He hath given me rest by His sorrow and life by His death."

Then he stood still awhile to look and wonder; for it was very surprising to him, that the sight of the cross should thus ease him of his burden. He looked, therefore, and looked again, even till the springs that were in his head sent the waters down his checks.

What is the only thing that took away Christians burden?
What is the only thing that can take away our guilt and sin?

Read 1 Peter 2:24 - When we realise and accept what Jesus did for us on the cross, we realise that He has taken away our sin and our guilt.

Now, as he stood looking and weeping, behold three Shining Ones came to him and greeted him with "Peace be to thee." So the first said to him, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." The second stripped him of his rags and clothed him with change of raiment.

Do you remember what the rags represented? (Isaiah 64:6)
What does the new set of clothes represent? Read Zechariah 3:4

The third also set a mark in his forehead and gave him a roll with a seal upon it, which he bade him look on as he ran and that he should give it in at the Celestial Gate.

Ephesians 1:13^{NIV} says, "When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."

Do you remember which part of our brain listens to the Holy Spirit? The front part – and so the mark or seal is shown as being on Christian's forehead.

Then Christian gave three leaps for joy, and went on singing.

I saw then in my dream, that he went on thus, even until he came at a bottom, where he saw, a little out of the way, three men fast asleep, with fetters upon their heels. The name of the one was Simple, another Sloth, and the third Presumption. Christian then seeing them lie in this case, went to them, that he might awake them, and cried, "Awake, therefore, and come away; be willing also, and I will help you off with your irons. If he that 'goeth about like a roaring lion' comes by, you will certainly become a prey to his teeth." With that they looked upon him, and began to reply in this sort: Simple said, "I see no danger, Sloth said, "Yet a little more sleep," and Presumption said, "Every fat must stand upon its own bottom; what is the answer else that I should give thee?" And so they lay down to sleep again, and Christian went on his way. Yet was he troubled.

Discuss what Simple represents (An adult might be described as simple-minded if they seem to think more like a child than an adult; this can happen when the brain is damaged by accident or illness. A child will not recognize the same dangers as an adult will; I child cannot understand everything an adult can.)

Discuss what Sloth represents (Laziness)

Discuss what Presumption represents (Assuming something is true when it may not be)

Now Christian espied two men come tumbling over the wall on the left hand of the narrow way and they made up apace to him. The name of the one was Formalist, and the name of the other Hypocrisy. "Gentlemen," said Christian, "Whence came you, and whither go you?" "We were born in the land of Vain-glory, and are going for praise to Mount Sion."

Discuss: What formalist represents (Formalism – doing things the same way because of tradition)

Discuss: the meaning of hypocrisy (Pretending to be religious; not practicing what you preach)

Discuss: What does vain mean?

"Why came you not in at the gate, which standeth at the beginning of the way? Know you not that it is written, that he that cometh not in by the door, 'but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber?'" They said, that to go to the gate at entrance was, by all their countrymen, counted too far about; and that, therefore, their long standing custom was to make a short cut of it and to climb over the wall as they had done. "But," said Christian, "When I come to the gate of the city, the Lord thereof will know me for good, since I have His coat on my back—a coat that He gave me in the day that He stripped me of my rags. I have, moreover, a mark in my forehead, of which, perhaps, you have taken no notice, which one of my Lord's most intimate associates fixed there in the day that my burden fell off my shoulders. I will tell you, moreover, that I had then given me a roll, sealed, to comfort me by reading, as I go on the way; I was also bid to give it in at the Celestial Gate." To these things they gave him no answer.