

'I do choose. Be made clean!'

Children's liturgy activity February 14th, 2021



VERSE OF THE WEEK

You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad
cries of deliverance.
- Psalms 32:7

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

In the gospel today, we see Jesus is approached by a Leper. A leper is a man infected with the disease called leprosy. Leprosy is a disease caused by a bacterium that causes damage to skin and nerves. It eventually results in loss of the body parts. In former times, leprosy was seen as a punishment for sins committed and the lepers were sent out from the city to live away from people declaring themselves unclean. If they were healed, they had to go to the priest, make offerings and get a proof from him stating officially that they were now clean.

The Leper who came to Jesus knelt before him and pleaded 'if you want to, you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus replied 'I do choose. Be cured!'. The leprosy left him immediately and he was cured at once. Jesus ordered him not to say about it to anyone but to go the priest straight away and make the offering for his healing as prescribed in law given by lord through Moses as proof of his recovery. But the man went away and started to tell everyone about his healing. Because of thus Jesus was no longer able to go openly to any town, but he had to stay outside places where nobody lived. Even then, people from all around came to him.

1. The man approached with faith and humility: Even though the leper knew he was not allowed to approach anyone, he went to Jesus with great faith. He had faith that if Jesus have mind, He can heal him. His faith in Jesus cured him. He offered himself to the will of Jesus to cure him 'if he choose to...'. Let our prayers also be in faith and humility.

2. Jesus touches the leper with his hand, and he touched him with his love and compassion - Jesus do choose to heal everyone who approaches him in faith, no matter how unworthy we feel ourselves, he does choose to heal and deliver us to set us free in his love. Jesus never put off anyone who come to him but always chooses to make each of us closer to him in love of God.

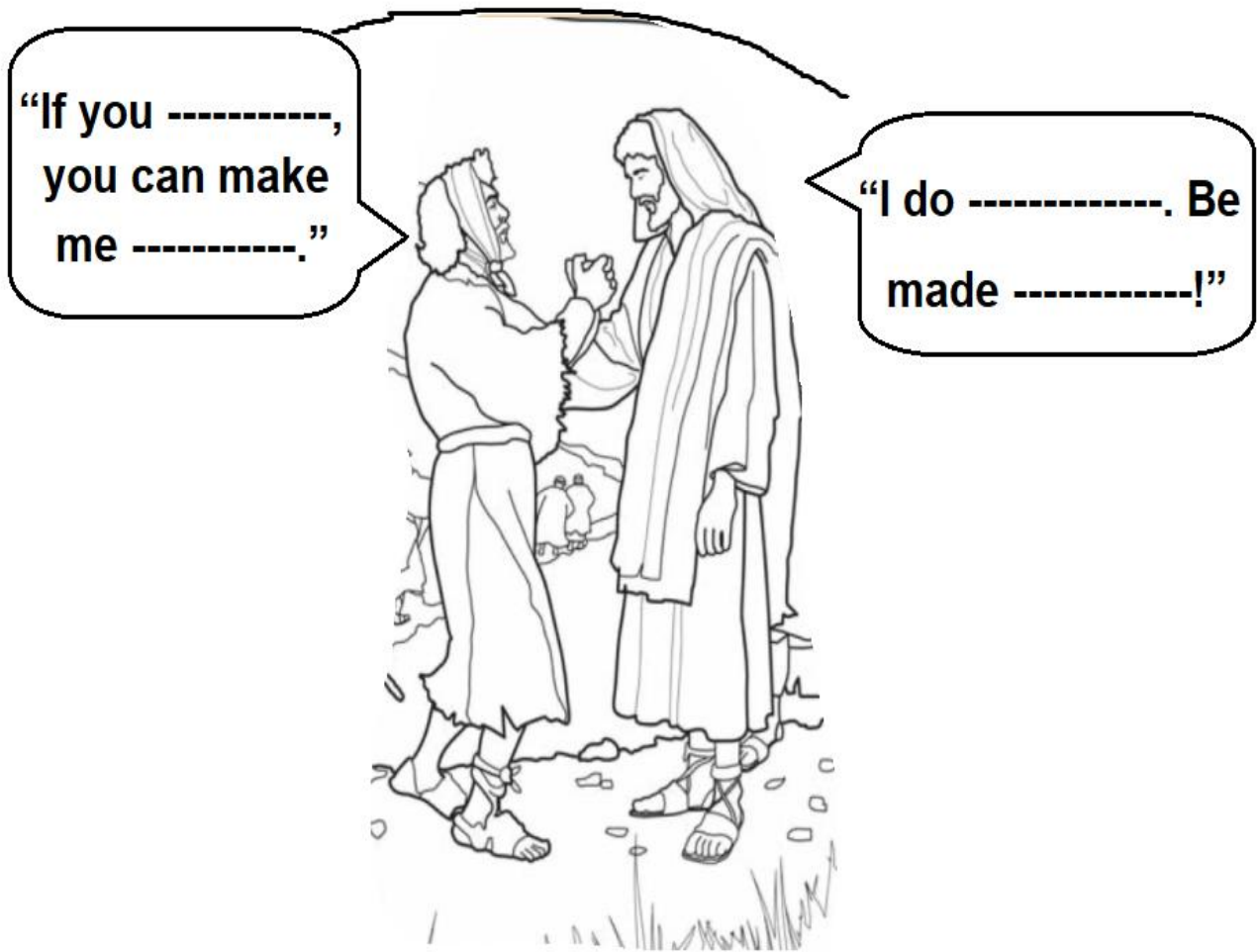
3. Jesus heals the leper by His word. What is said in His word was fulfilled in the action. The action is in the command of Jesus 'Be cured!'. The word of Jesus is powerful. Let us put trust in the word of God and live in his word every day of our life.

4. Do as he tells you: Jesus expects obedience from the man, to recognize and follow Him. After healing him and setting him free, Jesus asks him to follow his orders or directions. Jesus expects him to obey what He said to him. He expects that he puts faith in him and asks him not to tell anyone about the healing but instead to show himself to the Priest. But in excitement of the blessings he received, the man forgets what Jesus' wish and directions were. The man did what his mind desired and this blocked Jesus from accomplishing his mission. But because of the leper's publicity about Him, Jesus was not able to preach- the real purpose for which He came.

Are we also sometimes too excited on our blessings that we forget Jesus wish and directions? If so let us realize that our actions block the mission of Jesus through us. Let us always do as Jesus says and realize our blessing through the blessings. Jesus expects us too be obedient and follow him recognizing the blessing and not get carried away by the blessings.

So, let us have faith and humility when we approach Jesus. Let us realize, no matter how unworthy or rejected or weak we feel, Jesus chooses to heal and deliver, because he loves each of us. Let us always be thankful to Jesus who is the only source of blessings, our saviour. Let not the blessings make us blindfolded from Jesus and thus block his plans but let us always be vigilant to follow his directions. 'Do only whatever he tells you, to deposit for the eternal.

Colour the given picture and fill in the blank spaces.
Did you spot that the two words that fills the blank spaces are the same?



CHOSEN BY GOD BADGE



**CUT OUT THE BELOW TEMPLATE OF BADGE.
DESIGN STICK IT ON A CARD AND
CLIP IT ON YOUR DRESS.**

Match incidents from the Gospel with 'what Jesus asked to do'.



clue: John 2:7

“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”



Clue: John 9:7

'..give her something to eat'.



Clue: Luke 8:55

“Take away the stone.”

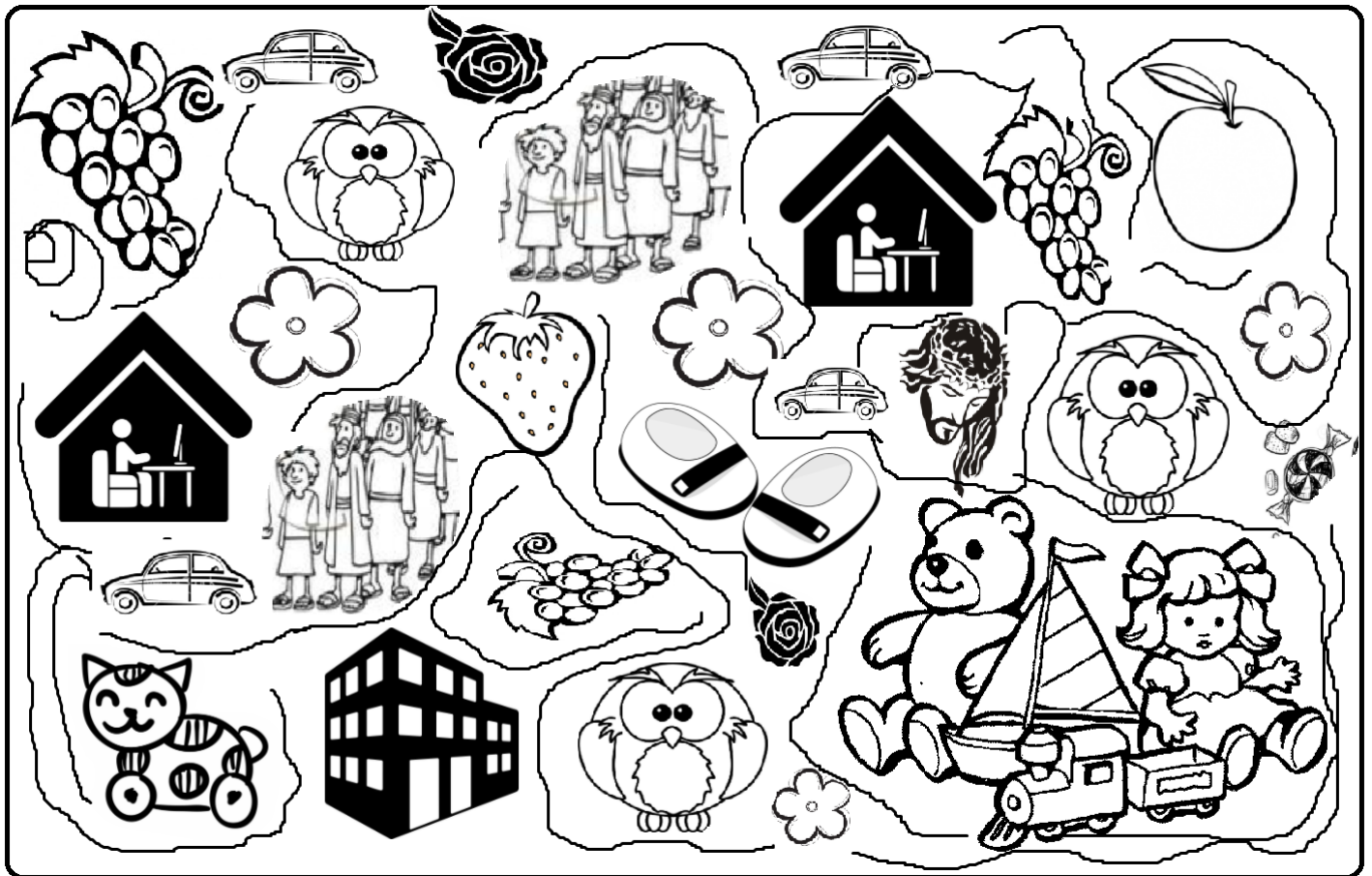


clue: John 11:39

“Fill the jars with water.”

FIND THE BLESSER THROUGH THE BLESSINGS.

Can you find Jesus among the many blessings?



BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE LIKE JESUS: CIRCLE ALL THAT IS CORRECT FOR BEING LIKE JESUS.

- IMPATIENT MERCY MESSY ANGER SACRIFICE GREED HUMBLE ACCEPT
 REJECT LOVE PRIDE OBEY FOLLOW DISOBEY THANK CARELESS
 CLEAN BOSSY HELP IGNORE



Let us Pray,

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for delivering us and setting us free. Increase our faith. Give us your grace to approach you in humility and to be compassionate to all. Help us to recognize you through all the blessings we receive and choose to obey you in whatever we do or say. Let your will be done. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."