



date _____

2.11



“She was anything but surprised. After all, she’d always known that God’s power makes her special.”

Inspire (for parents)

I’m a very good weed-grower. A few years ago I declared war on one particularly large weed in my front yard. I’d always been told, “Pull with your legs, not with your back.” Well, I didn’t listen. I lost the war and ended up in the worst pain of my life.

My husband was gone for the evening and it took everything I had within me to get our girls, then four and five years old, ready for bed. I collapsed on the bed in pain. “Please pray for me,” I said, now crying. “Mommy’s back hurts so bad I don’t know what to do.”

As Caroline, my oldest, began to pray, Annabelle took her little hand and started rubbing my back, mumbling under her breath. When I got up to leave, she said, “Mommy, I felt God’s power go through my hand. He’s going to heal your back.”

I stopped. Every time one of the girls had a boo-boo my husband and I would kneel down and pray for God to heal it. But never in five years of being a mommy had I used that phrase. And never had I felt “God’s power” go through my hand. Immediately I knew I needed to correct her, to protect her from possible disappointment. “God

will heal me in His time,” I told her. “No,” she insisted, “He’s going to heal you.”

The next morning I got up, jumped in the shower, and realized, “I don’t hurt—anywhere!” Ecstatic, I got dressed and ran into Annabelle’s room. “Belle, you’re never going believe this!” She looked at me and said as though she’d known all along, “God healed you.” “Yes. God healed me!”

She was anything but surprised. After all, she’d always known that God’s power makes her special.

by Dawn Heckert

Getting Started

Scripture: John 9:1–12

(Healing the Blind Man)

Main Point: God’s Power Makes Me Special

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life’” (John 9:1–3).

The narrative continues with Jesus healing the man and giving him sight. His life was completely transformed and he would never be the same. The testimony of the blind man’s neighbors indicates that this man did not practice a trade. Instead, he would sit and beg.

This healing was not just a gift of sight. It was the gift of dignity and purpose. It was the gift of a new identity. His life could not be anything other than a testimony of God’s work and power.

Scripture tells us that the people in the man’s community questioned him about what had happened. Later, they brought him before the Pharisees. Jesus had healed the man from blindness on the Sabbath. On this day, work was not permitted according to Jewish law. Healing, as the Pharisees saw it, was work and a violation of God’s law. As a result, Jesus, in the eyes of these religious leaders, could be in violation of the law and subject to punishment.

The religious leaders did not intimidate the blind man. When questioned, he answered boldly and with confidence in the Truth. He was thrown out of the synagogue. There, he was met by Jesus and proclaimed his faith in Him as Lord.

The man who was once a blind beggar was now a man with physical and spiritual sight. He was completely transformed as a result of knowing Jesus and experiencing the power of God in his life. ☺

REMEMBER VERSE

Jesus answered ...
“Anyone who has
seen me has seen the
Father.”
John 14:9b

Support (for parents & kids)

> **JUST FOR FUN**, this week we suggest blindfolding your children when they sit down to dinner one night. Challenge them to try eating their dinner without being able to see. (If eating all of dinner blindfolded is going to cause too much of a mess, try waiting until they’re on their last few bites to use the blindfold.)

Once you’ve eaten, take the blindfold off and together read John 9:1–12. When you’re finished, talk to them about what it must have been like for this man to be blind. Encourage them to think about how amazing it must have been for him to see after being blind his whole life. Ask them, “When people asked the blind man who healed him, what did he say?” Thank God that He is a God who heals!

When you’re finished, share with your children that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they’ll hear it in church this week. Ask your children if they have any questions about what they just heard. End your time by thanking God for being a God who heals, and then pray for any issues in the life of your family that need His healing right now. ☺