

Used By God

Lesson Overview

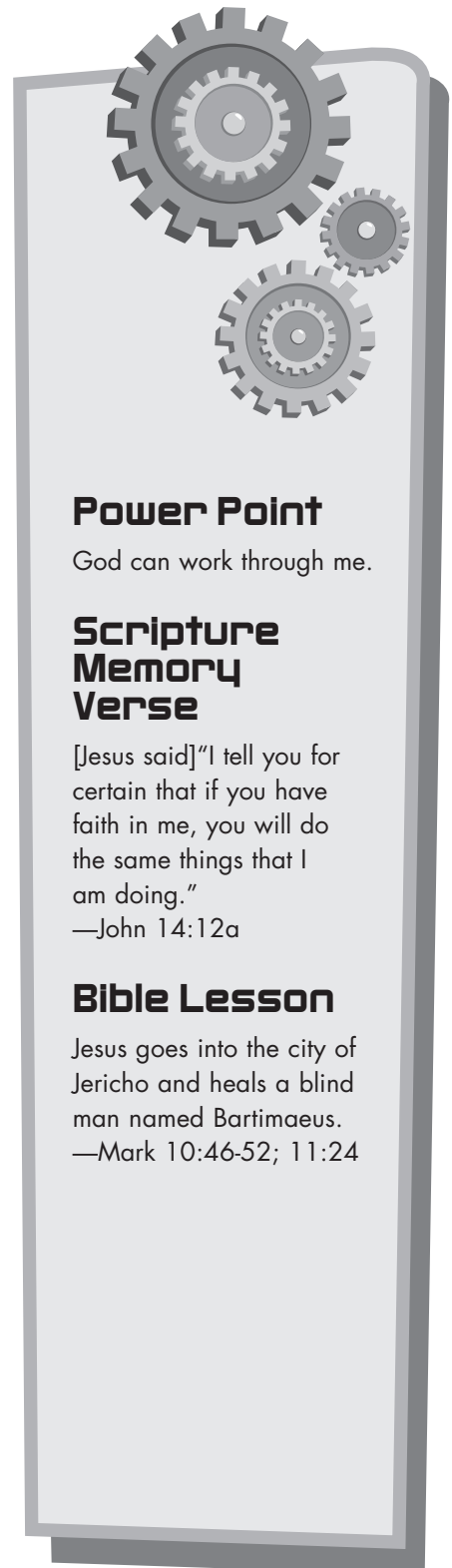
This week the children will learn the Power Point, ***God can work through me***. The prospect of God working “through me” can be exciting and worrisome at the same time. Can I really do “the same things” Jesus was doing? Is that realistic? And if so, how can I get on board with that? Do I have to become all weird and other-worldly? All these kinds of questions must not divert us from the truths that we’re called by God the Father to have a relationship with him. We’ve been given authority by God the Son to go out in the authority of Jesus’ name and do great things, and we’ve been filled by God the Holy Spirit with the same power that raised Christ from the dead. The pump is primed; we just need to start cooperating with God. Do we believe or don’t we?

Sure, everybody doubts at one time or another. But look: if you pray for a miracle for somebody, and it happens, did you do it? Of course not! God did. He gets the glory. You were the facilitator, that’s all. Faith is simply being confident that God can do what God wants to do. It’s not that complicated. So, if you’re struggling in the faith department, take a “time out” with God. Ask Him to help you with your unbelief. Then, try to be attentive to how the Holy Spirit wants to work through you—to bring a little kindness into somebody’s life; to pray for somebody who’s sick; whatever. God is always working. Don’t forget that!

Numerous people are in need of a miracle right now. As a human being, you’ll be faced many times with just such needs. Those are God times! Our responsibilities are to stir up the spiritual gifts God has endowed us with, to try to pay close attention to what God wants to do in particular situations by listening to his Holy Spirit, and to pray for people—it’s God’s job to do miracles small and large, inner and outer, to work behind the scenes and to bring the results that He wants. Let’s not let our pride stand in the way of stepping out boldly for God. Take your kids to the next level by teaching them to expect God to flow through them in mighty and beautiful ways.

Going Deeper

Discuss blindness with your children—seeing-eye dogs, canes, and how blind people get around, read, and live. If you have any blind children in your group ask (*with careful emphasis on all the things they can do*) how they get around and do normal things even though their sight is hindered.



Power Point

God can work through me.

Scripture Memory Verse

[Jesus said] “I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing.”

—John 14:12a

Bible Lesson

Jesus goes into the city of Jericho and heals a blind man named Bartimaeus.

—Mark 10:46-52; 11:24

Everything You Need

Note: For a listing of basic supplies to keep on hand, see page 13.

Game #1: Long, straight foam noodle, masking tape, permanent marker.

Game #2: 2 toilet paper rolls or construction paper batons.

Praise and Worship: *Bible & Praise* DVD.

Lesson Introduction: White board and marker.

Scripture Memory Verse: Lesson 3 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM, white makeup.

Bible Connection: Lesson 3 Bible Connection video segment from *Bible & Praise* DVD.

Bible Story: Bible, wooden bowl, cloak (large beach towel).

Object Lesson #1: A jar, plastic bucket, spray can of silly string.

Object Lesson #2: Blindfolds (for half the child participants), obstacle course objects (chairs, pillows, desks, books, etc.).

Today's Life Story: Lesson 3 Today's Life Story from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

Welcome

Start your service with high energy as you welcome the kids and open in prayer. See page 18 in this *Leader's Manual* for helpful welcoming tips.

Game #1

Javelin Throw

Review Questions

(Ask the following questions. Select one boy and one girl who each answer a question correctly to be participants in Game #1. Each one will select two teammates to make two teams of three each.)

- ▶ What was last week's Power Point? (*God wants me to care about others.*)
- ▶ What was last week's Scripture Memory Verse? (*Show love in everything you do. 1 Corinthians 16:14.*)

Props: Long, straight foam noodle, masking tape, permanent marker.

Preparation: Clear out a large area for this game. Make a masking-tape starting line on the floor.

Participants: Three boys and three girls.

Playing the Game

Ask the kids if they've ever seen a track meet that included a javelin throw. Mention that we are going to have our own track meet competition. Have the six participants come forward. Invite the first participant to stand behind the masking tape line. Encourage cheering from the audience. Allow the child to throw the javelin (foam noodle) as far as possible. Have an adult helper mark the spot with masking tape and write the child's name on the tape with a permanent marker. Continue until all children have thrown the javelin. Award applause for the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place winners!

Game #2

Baton Relay

Review Questions

Select one boy and one girl who answer the following review questions correctly to be participants in Game #2. Each one will select four teammates to make two teams of five each.)

- ▶ What country was Ruth from? (*Moab.*)
- ▶ What was Ruth's mother-in-law's name? (*Naomi.*)

Props: 2 toilet paper rolls or construction paper batons.

Participants: Five boys and five girls, two adult leaders.

Playing the Game

Have the boys and girls selected to participate in the game come forward. Divide into two teams of

five children each and have teams line up next to each other as if ready to race. Designate a turn-around spot for runners to race to. Hand the person at the front of each line a baton. Explain that once kids run to the turnaround point, they must do three different things before running back to their teammates and tagging them: 1. Hop up and down on one foot five times. 2. Sing happy birthday out loud to themselves. 3. Shout today's Power Point, **God can work through me.**

Designate two adult leaders to stand nearby the turn-around-spot and help children who have forgotten what they are supposed to do. Also have them monitor the children to make sure they are completing the tasks asked of them completely. The team that wins the race is the one which has all teammates race and thoroughly complete the assigned tasks.

Praise & Worship

Lead the children in a powerful time of entering God's presence using the worship songs from the *Bible & Praise* DVD.

Lesson Introduction

Props: White board and marker.

Preparation: Write "What God can do" at the top of one column and "What kids can do" at the top of the second column of the board.

Presentation

(Brainstorm with kids things God can do and write them on the whiteboard, under the first column heading. Next, brainstorm things kids can do and write them under the second column heading.)

Our Power Point today is **God can work through me.** Is there anything God can't do? *(Allow responses and point to the brainstormed list.)* God is all-powerful and can do anything! *(Read some of the list.)* Now, look at us. We can do some things *(read some things on the kids' can-do list)*, but what if **God is working through us?** What can we do then? *(Allow responses.)* Believing God's power can work through us is an act of faith.

Lets take another look at our lists. What are some things that you think God could do working through you? *(Allow responses. Encourage kids to see that God is a big God, and He could do whatever He wants to do through them.)* When **God is working through us**, we have the ability to do things that we simply couldn't do on our own power. God's Holy Spirit can actually work through YOU to bring healing and other miracles to people. That what Jesus did and that's what He told His disciples they could do, and that's what the disciples did in the Book of Acts in the New Testament. Let's look at our Scripture Memory Verse to see this.

Scripture Memory Verse

[Jesus said] "I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing."

—John 14:12a

Props: Lesson 3 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM, white makeup.

Preparation: Beforehand recruit an adult volunteer to act as a mime. Have him wear white makeup and practice mime motions per activity below.

Practice it

Have the mime come out. Invite him to pantomime something, like building a brick wall or painting a fence. *(Invite creativity, but remind the mime not to speak.)* Face each other in front of the large group. *(You should say the verse loudly while the mime does only the motions.)* I *(point to self)* tell you *(point to other person)* for certain *(point at other person and shake index finger)* that if you have faith in me [Jesus], *(hands pressed together as if praying)* you will do the same things that I am doing."—John 14:12a *(stagger actions—for example, mime does a jumping jack and leader mimics it).*

(Have the children find a partner. [If there is an odd number have an adult pair up with a child] Have partners face each other, one will be the mime and one will follow the mime's actions. Have pairs re-enact the verse actions with one child saying it and one child miming the actions. Give the child

playing the mime the opportunity to choose what action will be performed at the end. Switch roles and say the verse again. After children have played both roles, thank the mime as he exits.)

Understand it

In this verse, Jesus was talking to His disciples during the last week of His earthly ministry. He wanted to assure the disciples that He would give them His Holy Spirit, and that through the Holy Spirit, the disciples would be able to do the things Jesus did on earth. After Jesus' ascended back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples to allow them teach and perform miracles as Jesus had.

Live it

Today's Power Point is **God can work through me**. Just as the mime and I did the same things, we also are to do the same things as Jesus. How do we imitate Jesus? *(Answers will vary. For example, show love, tell people about God, be helpful, do miraculous things in Jesus' name, serve others.)*

How does having faith in Jesus help us follow Him? *(We have to believe He keeps His promises. As our faith grows, so does our ability to do as He does.)*

Bible Lesson

Jesus goes into the city of Jericho and heals a blind man named Bartimaeus.
—Mark 10:46-52; 11:24

Bible Connection

Use the Bible Connection DVD segment before your Bible Lesson as a way to introduce the point of today's lesson.

Two friends, Kurt and Joey, are walking along the sidewalk. Kurt tells Joey he wishes he could have lots of things and Joey agrees. Then Kurt asks Joey what if everything he wished for and prayed for others could actually happen. He says he would wish good and honorable things for people. Kurt then begins to list his wishes, and each time he does, the scene cuts to Joey who suddenly has the thing wished for by Kurt. Things include clothes, friends, game system, sports gear, and lastly, money. As soon as Kurt mentions the thing, he disbelieves it could happen, and the thing

instantly disappears quickly as it appears (Joey is trailing a few steps behind Kurt and doesn't realize the stuff appears and disappears). Then Kurt realizes God would want him to wish for more than the material stuff, and lists things he could do to help others and how God could work through him. Finally, Kurt asks Joey if he believes those things could happen. Joey quotes Jesus' statement from Matthew 7:7, telling Kurt He believes God's Spirit can work through them to do anything God wants.

Ask the questions below to discuss the DVD segment.

- ▶ What were some of the things that Kurt prayed for his friend Joey? *(Nice clothes, friends, game system, sports gear, money.)*
- ▶ What did Kurt think was more important to pray for? *(Ways he could be used to help others.)*
- ▶ What words of Jesus did Joey tell Kurt? *(Matthew 7:7.)*

Kurt wanted to pray for things for others. After praying for various material things, he realized God's purposes are much bigger than getting a bunch of stuff. His friend Joey told Kurt he believed God's Spirit worked through people to help them do the work of God. In today's Bible story, Jesus wants His disciples to believe this same truth as well.

Bible Story

Props: Bible, wooden bowl, cloak (large beach towel).

Preparation: Go over passage with a boy volunteer and let him know what actions he must do.

Presentation

Ask the children, have you ever seen anyone who is blind? *(Have a show of hands.)* How did you know this person was blind? *(He used a cane or a seeing-eye dog; he was reading Braille writing with his hands; he needed help and someone was guiding him.)*

In Jesus' time the blind may have had canes, but they didn't have seeing-eye dogs and they couldn't read Braille. These things really help blind people today so they can function normally in society. In Jesus' time, blind people couldn't work; all they

could do was beg. Getting around on foot on their own would have been difficult for them because of all the dirt roads and paths. A blind person most likely would have had to be led by someone if he wanted to go anywhere.

(Mention to the children that today's Bible Lesson is from Mark 10:46-52 and instruct children who have their Bibles to turn to it. Have the boy volunteer come forward and sit down and clutch the wooden bowl, pretending to beg. Hand him the beach towel and have him drape it around his shoulders.)

(Read the following story, guiding the boy to perform his actions when prompted.) "Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), was begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, *(instruct boy to shout, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!')* Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, *(instruct the children in the audience to say, Be quiet!)* but he shouted all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!'" *(Instruct boy to shout this.)*

"Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him.' So they called to the blind man, 'Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.' *(Have boy stand.)* Throwing his cloak aside *(have boy throw the towel)*, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus." *(Have boy jump up and walk towards the leader.)*

"What do you want me to do for you? Jesus asked him. The blind man said, 'Rabbi, I want to see.' *(Have boy say this.)* 'Go,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road." *(Have boy rub his eyes, rejoice, then walk off the stage as if following Jesus.)*

Mark 11:24b tells us "believe...and it will be yours." Bartimaeus believed that Jesus could heal him and he was healed! Today's Power Point **God can work through me** means YOU—everyone in this room. Do you really believe it? If so, shout, "I believe!" Louder, "I BELIEVE!" If Jesus is in your heart, then He plans to do great things through you. Your prayers will be answered. Your life is in His hands. He's working through you. I believe God is going to do great things through each one of you here today. Matthew 17:20b, *NIV* says, "If you have faith as

small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Object Lesson # 1

Props: A jar, plastic bucket, spray can of silly string.

Preparation: Cover the outside of the can of silly string with paper so the children cannot read its contents.

Presentation

(Hold up each item as you talk about it.) I have here different kinds of containers. Another word for a container is a "vessel." Each one of these containers or vessels is used for a different purpose. This jar can hold a lot of different things. It can hold food in the kitchen, nuts and bolts in your dad's garage, paper clips on a desk, even pencils and erasers for you to use as you do your homework.

This plastic bucket is a vessel that also has a lot of different uses. Your mom might use it to put soapy water in so she can scrub the floor. Your dad might use it to rinse out his paintbrush as he stains the deck. *(Pick up the silly string, but don't tell the children what it is.)* Here's another container or vessel. Spray cans like this can hold many different kinds of things. Let's name some. Paint, hair spray, cleaning spray, even cooking oil! But sometimes cans like this hold surprises too. Like this one! *(Begin spraying wildly into the air the silly string. Have some fun! Let the children scream and giggle.)*

Just like all of these things here are vessels that can be used for many things, you are a special vessel for God to use. He wants to use you to carry His power—power to do many great things for God.

Ephesians 3:10, *NIV* says "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." That means we can do great things for God. God knows what He can do through people, but He needs yielded vessels. God wants YOU to be His vessel. Remember today's Power Point is **God can work through me**. And He can!

Object Lesson #2

Props: Blindfolds (for half the child participants), obstacle course objects (chairs, pillows, desks, books, etc.)

Preparation: Have adult helpers blindfold the younger children. Older children should be able to blindfold themselves. Set up an obstacle course with objects that can be safely maneuvered.

Presentation

(Divide the group in two. Have children pair up. Let them know that half of them will be blindfolded and half of them will not. If your group is too large, choose some children to demonstrate for the rest of the group.) Those who are blindfolded need to trust the ones who aren't blindfolded. Those who aren't blindfolded are going to lead the ones who are blindfolded. Allow a few minutes for the blindfolds to be put on. Once the blindfolds are on, show the leaders the designated area filled with obstacles that they must help their partner maneuver. Spend five minutes with children leading their partners. After five minutes are up, allow the children to remove their blindfolds and regroup.

Ask, how did it feel to be blindfolded and led around? (*Scary, dark, fun, etc.*) What did you notice most when you were blindfolded? (*How I wasn't sure where I was going; that I couldn't see, etc.*) How did it feel to be the leaders? (*Invite response.*) Was there an element of trust that took place between the pairs? (*Allow for interaction and comments.*)

For Bartimaeus, this kind of interaction was a daily occurrence. He had to be helped around and he often begged not knowing if someone was throwing money into his bowl or simply making fun of him in front of his face! Jesus, however, changed all of that. Bartimaeus had faith that Jesus would heal him and when He did, Bartimaeus followed Jesus. His life was changed. Jesus wants to change your life, too! Today's Power Point **God can work through me** can be as life-changing for you as it was for Bartimaeus. All Jesus asks is for us to follow Him. Something everyone in this room today can do...with great results!

Today's Life Story

Welcome back to another adventure with the K.I.D.S. Church kids, Marcus, Jessica, Tyler, Olivia and Gabriel. On the kids' previous mission trip they helped build a church building, teach children about Jesus with songs, and invite villagers to the new church in the town. Now they have another mission opportunity! Let's discover what it's all about.

All Things are Possible!

Illustration 3-1

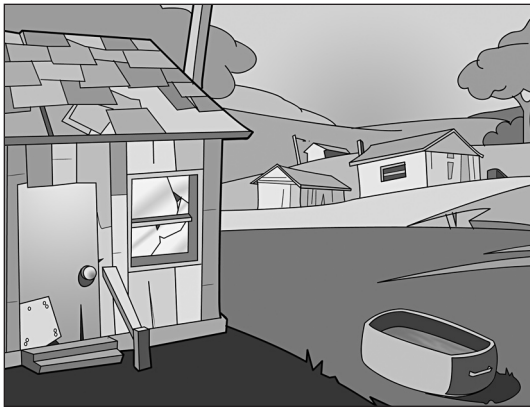


► With their last mission trip's experiences on their minds, the kids excitedly gathered into the Pastor's office as he told them about another mission opportunity. The kids had a long holiday weekend, and they had decided they would spend it helping others. The Pastor passed out pictures of a Native American reservation. Some pictures showed the poor condition of the houses. He explained that the people lived below the poverty level and couldn't afford to fix up their homes.

"There are so many homes. How can we know which ones we should fix?" asked Marcus. The Pastor replied, "I'll make a copy of these pictures. You can pray over them and ask God to show you which house God wants to work through on." "That's a great idea!" Jessica said, and the other kids agreed.

During the week, the kids prayed over the pictures. When it came time for them to go, the kids gathered outside the van and told one another which house they felt God wanted them to go to. Tyler was amazed. “We all decided on the same house!” Olivia reminded everyone: “Remember, Pastor asked us to pray over the pictures. It looks like God is going to use us to help the people living in this house.” Gabe said “It sure feels great to know God is directing us on this trip!”

Illustration 3-2



► As the van pulled into the reservation, Marcus commented on how run-down the place was. “I’m glad we can help others who really need it” Olivia said. “There are so many!” Tyler said. Then Jessica remembered a reading from her devotional. “In Matthew Jesus said there is a large harvest but only a few workers. I guess I know what he means.” “So the harvest is the people here who need help and we are the workers?” Tyler asked Jessica. “Yeah, the people need help and some may need to know Jesus, too” Jessica replied.

Kids, it may seem like there are too many problems in the world and you can’t do anything to help. But Jesus wants you do what you can. He knows there are poor and hungry and hurting people everywhere, but He also knows that as you decide to be used by God, you can do things in His power.

Illustration 3-3



► “There it is!” shouted Olivia. Marcus and Jessica joined Olivia on the other side of the van to get a look at the house as they pulled up closer to it. Before the van stopped, an older boy ran out of the house, calling back to those inside to come out quickly. A mom and two younger kids came out slowly and looked at the van and the kids getting out. The Pastor introduced himself and the group, and explained what they were planning on doing. The surprised mother said, “Why would you want to help me, since there are *lots* of people here who need just as much help?”

Jessica showed her the pictures of the houses they prayed over and answered, “All of us prayed and asked God to show us which house to go help.” “We believe God wants us to help you” Gabe told the mother. The mother smiled and invited the group inside the house.

Illustration 3-4



► Marcus looked at the situation and realized they could do several things. He decided since he was the oldest, it would be best for him to climb on the roof to fix the loose and missing shingles. He asked Gabe and Olivia if they could work together and begin painting, and they said “Sure!”

Tyler had quickly made friends with the older boy, Dakota. He asked Dakota if he would like to help him fix the railing on his porch. He excitedly said “Yes!” and the two boys began to remove the broken railing with hammers and crowbars. As they worked, Tyler asked about Dakota’s family. Dakota told Tyler about his dad, who had a gambling problem and wasn’t around much. Then Dakota sadly told Tyler about his sister, Cheona. She had been born with a bad lung, and she ran out of breath easily. When Tyler heard this, he silently prayed that God would heal her.

Illustration 3-5



► Jessica volunteered to work on the inside of the house. She saw it needed major cleaning and even fixing some holes in the walls. But she felt God’s Spirit leading her to get to know this family. So, while she picked up the trash, Jessica talked to the mother.

The mother’s name was Minda, and she told Jessica about her family. While she was telling the story, Cheona came running in the house and ran throughout it. Minda got a worried look on her face and got up to get her daughter. Cheona didn’t look good when Minda brought her back to where Jessica was cleaning up the trash. Minda explained that she was born with a bad lung. She said it was especially hard on Cheona, because she was her most active child, and she would sometimes faint after running around.

Illustration 3-6



► It was very hot day but the kids were making good progress on their repairs and painting. Gabe and Olivia had one half of the house painted on the outside, and were working on the front next. Marcus had repaired the back of the roof, and was now replacing the missing shingles on the front half of the roof. And Tyler and Dakota were nearly finished with rebuilding the broken railing.

After a long, hot day working both outside and inside the house, the work was about finished. The kids gathered together to talk about their experiences. Tyler told the others about what Dakota had told him about his sister, Cheona. Jessica said her mother, Minda, also talked to her. "I prayed for God to heal Cheona, but just to myself" Jessica confessed. "I did too, after Dakota told me about her" Tyler added. "Jessica, why don't you pray with Minda and Cheona?" Marcus asked. Olivia added "This could be the very reason God wanted us to come to this house!"

Illustration 3-7



► It was dark, but Jessica knew what God wanted her to do. Jessica asked Marcus to come with her and they both knocked on Minda's door. She was a little surprised seeing them at night, but quickly invited them in. Jessica asked Minda to get Cheona and they sat together. Jessica explained to Minda, "Because we believe in Jesus, we live differently. He teaches us to live like Himself. We believe Jesus gives us the strength to do the same things He does. Jesus helped people like we are doing for your house. But He also healed people, and we want to ask Him to heal your Cheona."

Minda thanked Jessica and agreed to pray. Jessica prayed and asked God to heal Cheona's bad lung. Minda also told Jessica that she wanted to live like Jesus, too. So, Jessica and Marcus explained to Minda how to be saved.

Kids, just as these kids were used by God, you can be too. That might mean helping someone who need help, telling others about Jesus, or even God using you to pray for healing or some other miracle. Remember, God can work through you. The question is, will you let Him?

Small Group Lesson

Illustration 3-8



► Minda awoke early the next morning to the sounds of playing children. She looked out her window and was amazed by what she saw: Cheona and Dakota were outside playing tag! That was one game she *knew* Cheona couldn't play—she would run out of breath or even pass out if she'd tried. Minda watched for a full five minutes and Cheona seemed to run even faster as she chased her brother. Then Minda fell to her knees and praised God for healing her little girl!

As the kids gathered to say goodbye, Minda praised God openly for Him sending them to show her and her family Jesus' help, hope and healing. She told Jessica that she would tell her friends about what God has done and hoped that she would see them again.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

Help us to remember to have faith in you each day. Help us also to be willing to say **God can work through me**. If each of us here could just reach out to one person this week and share about Jesus with them, think of the impact we could have! Help us to replace our fears with faith. Thank you that you love us and show Your love to us each day.

In Jesus Name. Amen.