

WE NEED JESUS

We need
to be clean

MATTHEW 8:1–4

faithin kids

We need Jesus – We need to be clean

MATTHEW 8:1–4



Big Idea:

King Jesus came to clean. He is willing and able to make us clean.



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who are thankful that Jesus is willing to clean our hearts from sin.



Where are we going?

Jesus, the King of the Universe, came to be a cleaner! The outcast leper could not be touched, because he might infect others. But worse, he could never step into a synagogue. He was on the outside of friendship, on the outside of fellowship. He came to Jesus desperate. Jesus was willing and able to help him. Here is hope for us all: Jesus is willing and able to clean us!

We are just as desperate before Jesus. We have an incurable disease that is slowly killing us all – sin. It brings death to our lives, to our friendships, to our families, to our world. We can do nothing to help ourselves. We don't deserve Jesus to help us. We come desperate. Jesus is able and willing. THANK YOU JESUS!



King's Things

Grab some dressing up stuff (a tin foil crown, a sheet as a cloak) and some cleaning products (e.g. a mop, washing up gloves, washing up liquid, dish scrubber). Put them on the other side of the room. Ask the children to go and choose the right things from the box to dress up as a king or queen.

Or just ask the question: What five items would you expect a king or queen to need for a day's work?

Link: We know what a king/queen normally needs, and it's not a sponge and a scrubber! Jesus is God's promised king but today we are going to see that he came to clean.



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Teaching Time

Younger children

Have a dishcloth, cut in half, and some pens ready. Draw an outline of a man on one half of the dishcloth and a heart on the other (ideally with permanent pen).

Once there was a man who had a really bad skin problem. Draw some spots on the man with washable pens. He had leprosy. Leprosy meant you had sores on your body and it made you really poorly. Everyone was worried about catching it, so they stayed as far away from him as they could. How do you think the man felt? Draw sad face on the man with a washable pen.

There was nothing anyone could do to help this man be clean – no cream, no medicine. Who could help him? JESUS!

The man came to Jesus and said “King Jesus, if you want to, you can make me clean”.

- Do you think Jesus wanted to help him?
Yes he did, because he is kind.
- Do you think Jesus could help him?
Yes he could, because he is powerful.

Let's wash the man. Clean your man in a bowl of soapy water. How do you think he felt? So happy!

This is great news for us, because Jesus came to make us clean too. Not on the outside, but on the inside. Jesus came to clean our hearts from sin. Get the children to draw spots on the heart with a washable pen and talk about the ways we say ‘No’ to God.

- Do you think he wants to make us clean?
Yes he does, because he is kind.
- Do you think he is able to make us clean?
Yes he can, because he is powerful.

Thank you Jesus!

Older children

Have a bowl of water, some pepper and some soap ready. Sprinkle pepper over the surface of the water.

Read through the Bible passage (Matthew 8:1-4)

Ask your children to touch their fingers onto the pepper on the water – the pepper sticks to them. Leprosy spread from person to person by touch. In Jesus' time, no-one could make a leper clean. Instead, everyone who touched them became unclean as well. So no-one touched them.

But Jesus was different. Put a squirt of hand soap on your child's finger. Get them to touch the water again. Now the pepper moves away. Jesus touched

the leper and instead of Jesus being made unclean he made the leper clean. How do you think he did that?

Why does Jesus make the man clean, instead of the man making Jesus unclean? Normally leprosy spread to the person touched. Here healing spread from Jesus to the man touched. Jesus' healing power is stronger than any disease. His forgiving power is stronger than any sin.

In this act of perfect cleaning, what part did the man play and what part did Jesus play? The man asked. Jesus did all of the work. The man ‘did’ nothing.



Hearts and Hands

Younger children

Craft time

Play with some soapy water and clean various items. Have a sponge with a sad & spotty face drawn on with washable pen. They can wash off the sadness and spots in the soapy water. Jesus cleans! Or Draw a man / face on one side of a piece of A4 paper and a heart on the other. Place them inside a plastic wallet (the kind you use in an A4 file). Draw or stick spots on the outside of the plastic wallet. When you can take the man / heart out, they are clean.

Did you spot it?

- What did the man need?
- What did Jesus do?

Work it out

- What did Jesus do that no-one else could?
- How do you think the man felt when Jesus made him clean?

So what?

- What do you need cleaning from?
- What can you ask Jesus?
- What can Jesus do?
- How does this make you feel?

Pray

Thank you, Jesus, that even though you are the king of everything, you came to clean us from sin. Amen.

Older children

Make time

Use a dishcloth, sponge or scrap of material. Either each person makes their own, or use one for the whole family. Draw a heart on it with a permanent pen. Use washable felt tip pens and together write the different sins that we need to be cleaned away. Use this time to be honest about the things we get wrong. Wash your cloth in soapy water and thank Jesus that he came to make us clean.

Did you spot it?

- What did the man already know when he came to Jesus? (v.2)
- What wasn't he sure of? (v2)
- What did Jesus do? (v3)
- What did Jesus say? (v3)

So what?

- What do you need cleaning from?
- Can Jesus help? Will Jesus help?
- What will you do?

Extra Stretch

- The man came to Jesus desperate, knowing that no one else could help. What stops us coming to Jesus with that same desperation?
- Look at what Jesus tells the man to do in v4 (basically, 'do what is right/obey God and give a thankful gift'). What is the right response for what Jesus has done for us?

Pray

Encourage honesty about the problems each person needs forgiveness for. God knows anyway.

Work it out

- From this story, what makes Jesus different to other people?