

Act It Out: Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

This activity helps children experience the wonder of the Lord's miracles by acting out scenes of healing at the Pool of Bethesda.

Materials Needed

- blue fabric to lay on the floor for the pool (sheet, tablecloth, silk square, towel, etc.)
- *optional*: aids to suggest infirmities, e.g. sling, bandage, crutch, blindfold, etc.
- *optional*: mat for the sick man to lie on and pick up when he is healed



Directions

1. Lay the blue fabric on the floor in the middle of the room. Tell the children that it represents the pool of Bethesda.
2. Tell the children that they are going to pretend to have a sickness or affliction until they are healed by the waters of the pool of Bethesda. One person will be healed each time the water is “stirred” by an “angel”.
3. Seat the children around the “pool” and assign each child a sickness to act out. For example, one child might pretend to have a broken arm, another to be blind, another to have a broken leg, another to be deaf, another to have a withered hand, etc. Choose one child to be the sick man who could not get into the water.
4. *Optional*: If using aids to suggest infirmities, give them to the children as you tell them their “infirmities.”
5. Read the following: “A great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, lay waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had” (John 5:3,4).
6. The teacher “stirs the water” by moving the blue fabric on the floor and invites one child to step into the pool to be “healed.” Repeat until all of the children have had a turn to be healed, *except* the child who is acting the role of the man who could not get into the water.
7. Read the following and have the child act the story as you read: “Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ The sick man answered Him, ‘Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked” (John 5:5-9).