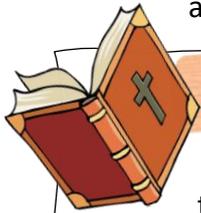


Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

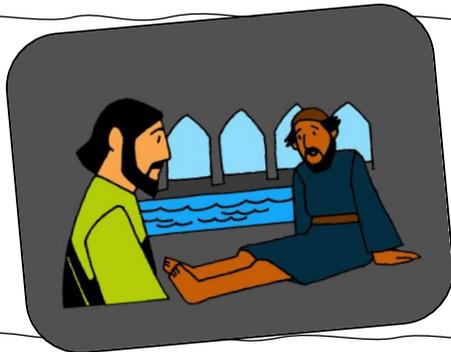


Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the miracle of the healing at Bethesda Pool.

You can find it in your Bible in:
John 5 v 1–15

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of the miracle at the Bethesda Pool. Thank you that you care for those who are sick or in need. Help us to be like Jesus and to help those we see around us in need.

We pray for all those who are sick and battling long term illness. We pray for them that they would put their faith and trust in God and would receive healing.

Help us to look out this week for people around us who may need help and to share God’s love with others.

Amen.



Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How long had the man in the story been sick?

The man in the story had been sick and waiting for thirty-eight years. It must have seemed strange to the man when Jesus asked “do you want to be healed?” because he was right by a pool where miraculous healings took place. The man knew that he needed help to be healed, he could not get to the water on his own. He was ready to put his faith and trust in Jesus. When Jesus told him to get up and walk he was healed immediately and obeyed.

It is good to remember that God is interested in all our problems no matter how big or small. We don’t need to wait or try to sort out our problems alone. We can always come to God and ask for help.

Some questions for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you struggled with something for a long time and needed somebody to help you?

Family Activity 1

You will need: Scarves, a timer

Have a family three-legged race. Use a scarf to tie two people together by the ankle, then make them complete the course. If you have space, have a race across a room or garden. If you have an odd number of people in your family, you can take it in turns and time how long each pair takes.

If you have limited space, why not set yourself a challenge of an activity of route around the house to complete whilst connected together.

The man in the story needed help to get to the pool but nobody was there for him. We can be helpers and supporters for those around us in need.



A verse to remember

Proverbs 3:27

Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help.

Try to learn this simple verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

Musical pools

You will need: pieces of paper/cushions/blue items

Place your 'pools' around the room, they could be blue items like t-shirts or just any pieces of paper, there should be one piece less than the number of players. When the music plays everybody moves around the room but when it stops they must hurry to stand on a 'pool'. Whoever is left without a pool becomes the controller of the music and can move the pools around while it is playing.



Active Prayer 1

In the story the man needed somebody to carry him to the pool. Set up a pool from a bowl filled with water.

Use waterproof toys such as lego/happyland, select people to represent people you know who are currently sick or facing challenges in their own lives.

Pray for each person and then carry them across the room to the pool and place them into the water.



Helping Older Children

Some children might question why the man had to wait thirty-eight years for his healing. We know that God could have healed him at any point or sent somebody else to help him.

It can be really hard when we know people who are sick particularly if we pray and don't see a response straight away. We have to have faith in God and trust that He knows and wants what is best for us.

God sees the bigger picture in a way that we can't, all we can do is keep praying and trusting that God hears all of our prayers.



Active Prayer 2

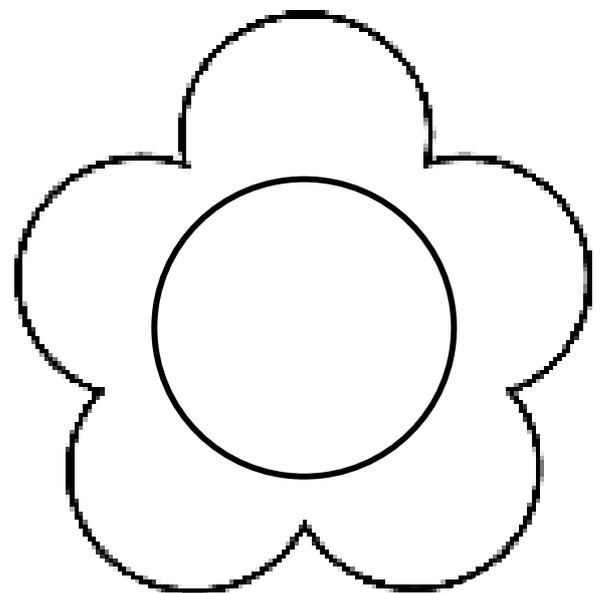
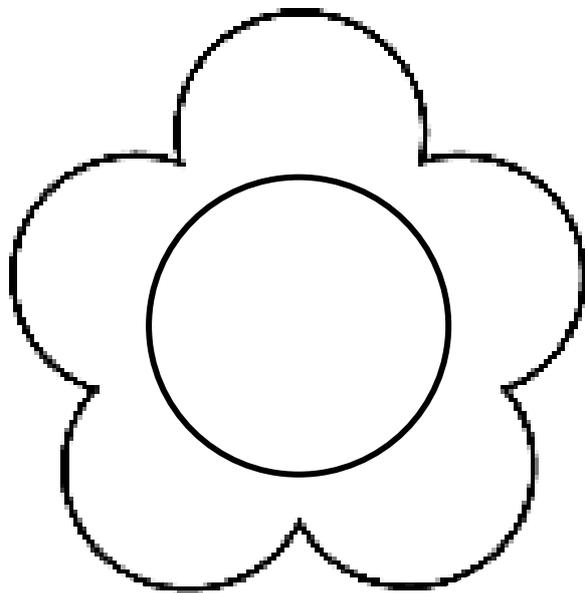
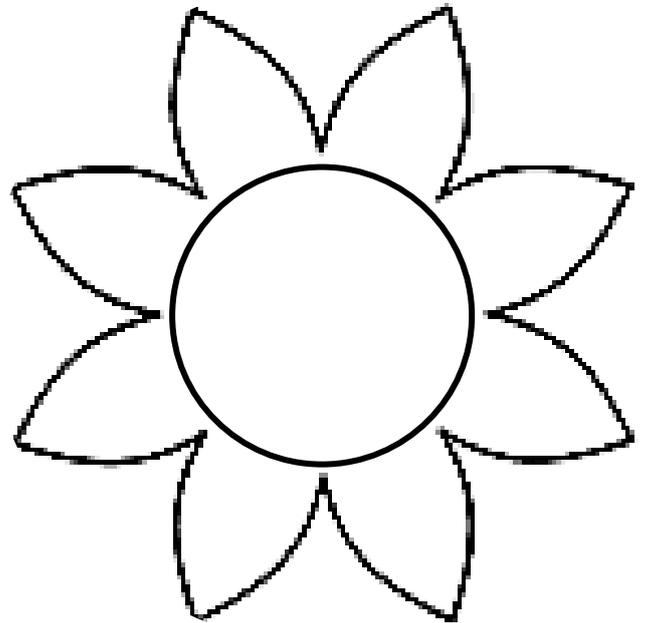
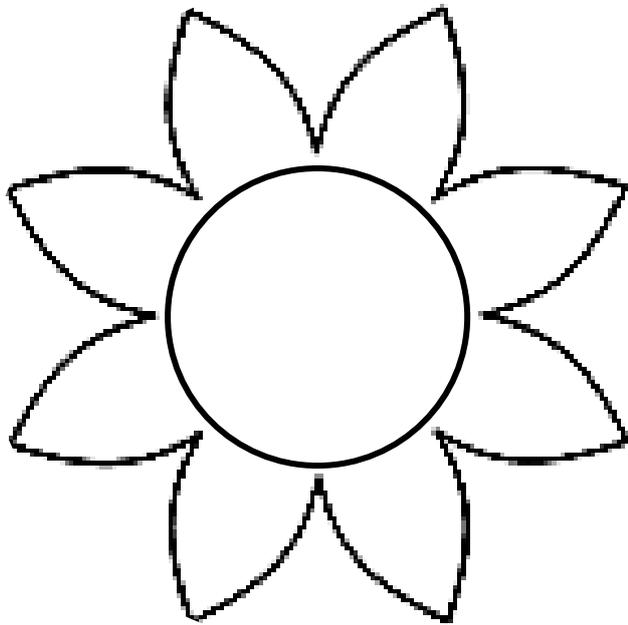
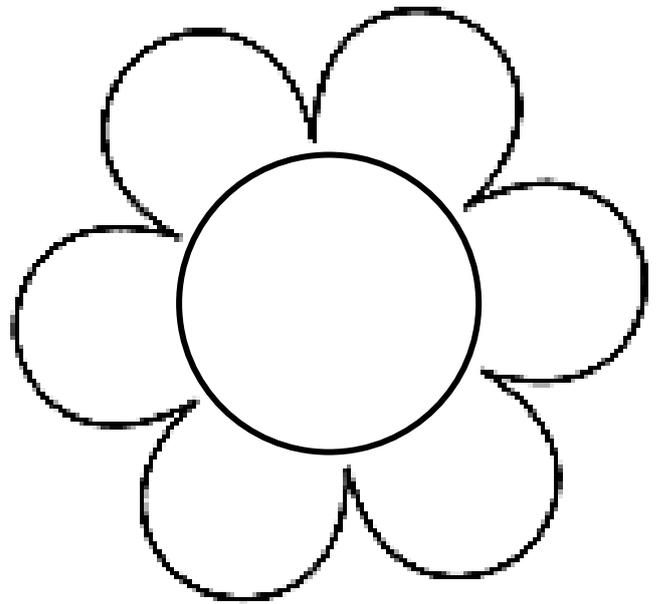
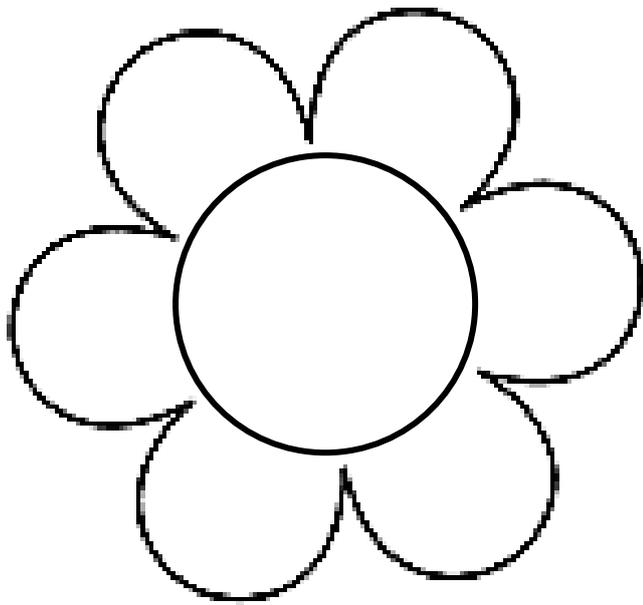
As an alternative to waterproof toys you could use the template on the next page to make unfolding flowers.



Set up a pool from a bowl filled with water.

Write the name of somebody you want to pray for in the centre of your flower then fold the petals into the centre.

Gently place the folded flower, petals up, into the water. The petals will slowly unfold as the flower soaks up water. Pray for the person on the flower that they would receive the healing or provision that they need.



A colouring page you could print and colour together

Proverbs 3:27

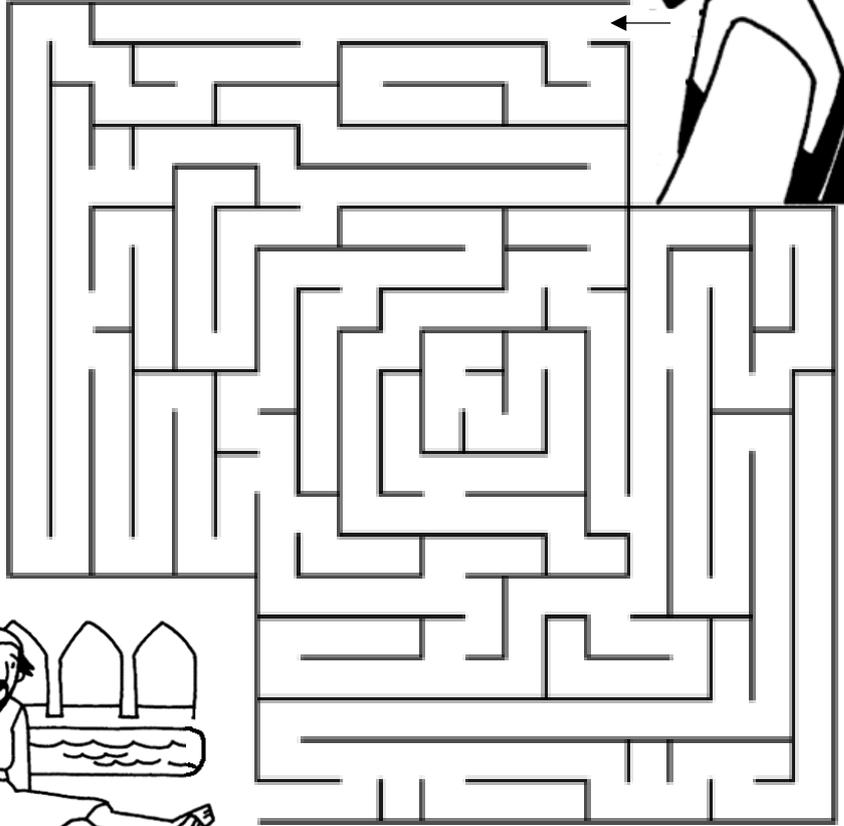
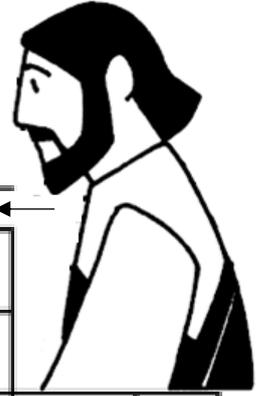
Whenever you are
able, do good to
people
who
need
help.



PUZZLE

SHEET

Help Jesus find his way to the man by the pool.



Can you find all these words from the story in the word search?

Jerusalem
Bethesda
pool
Sheep gate
paralyzed
healing
Jesus
mat
walk
miracle



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m r l m i o i y o c f x f v e
 r e b i a v p z o o n e k z r
 t v l r o t l f l g p y t z o
 r v a a b v x p z b b q o n d
 e i k c s b e t h e s d a e e
 t h k l x u y i c v i d z c r
 a o e e a f r o m x c y j q t
 g f w a c w f e b b l e m h a
 p h b s l j d l j a s a m b m
 e g g v a i r b r u k n v b f
 e d b k j c n a s c v s m y n
 h m c o l k p g h f l o o p c
 s z g q e x k w s w d a j q t
 n c g s i w p z u u c w j n s
 w x q k x x s j u f e z x x v

Can you unscramble the tiles to reveal part of the story?

W A L J E S U M A T
 Y O U R U P K "
 P I C K I D " A N D
 S S A

