

WEEK 13: JESUS HEALS THE WITHERED HAND

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

What is a miracle?
Do miracles happen today?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible, Stories of Miracles

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 162-178

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 100-109

JESUS HEALS THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND

Read Matthew 12:9-14

God provided the Jews with many rules in order to help guide them. Unfortunately, the Pharisees spent a great deal of effort following these rules when it benefited them most and in the process of strictly following the rules, they missed the bigger picture - to love, care, and show mercy towards one another.

Jesus endlessly tried to show them that they needed to love one another, but the Pharisees hearts had hardened and they just wanted to get rid of Jesus. St. Theophylact explains that they desired to destroy Jesus because they had separated themselves from God - "Then the Pharisees departed, and held a council against Him (Jesus), how they might destroy Him..." When united with God, evil does not reside within us.

MIRACLES

The Gospels are filled with accounts of Jesus healing people. These miracles happen without any extravagance or calling attention to Himself before or after the miracle occurs. He does so out of love for each and every one of us, never for His own glory or praise.

What is a miracle? (*Ask your students in order to have a better understanding of their level of knowledge before continuing.*)

A miracle is anything that cannot be explained. A miracle is difficult or impossible without God and leaves us in awe of Him.

Do miracles happen today? (*Again, ask your students before continuing. If they respond no - why? If they respond yes - why?*)

Miracles definitely occur today as well as in the Bible! God is constantly working in our lives.

Please share examples from below or from your own life of modern day miracles:

North to Alaska: pages 7-15 of “Everyday Wonders” by Fr. Michael Oleksa

Home at Last: (kindle version) pages 226-230 of “The Gurus, the Young Man, and Elder Paisios by Dionysios Farasiotis

The Miracles of Saint Arsenios: pages 105-137 (Many to choose from) of “Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian” by Saint Paisios of Mount Athos

Miracles are happening all the time, even today. Sometimes we know about them, sometimes we don't. Sometimes they are subtle and only a few know about it. Sometimes they are not so subtle and many know about it - but miracles always leave us in awe of God's greatness.

This photo was taken of Saint John Maximovitch prior to the existence of Photoshop:



He had the light of Christ emanating from him while reading the gospel.

WEEK 13: JESUS HEALS THE WITHERED HAND

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

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JESUS HEALS THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND

Read Matthew 12:9-14

Vocabulary Review:

Synagogue: a place of worship for the Jews

Behold: used in the gospels to place emphasis on what is about to happen next

Withered: shriveled; lack of ability to use his hand

Sabbath: Saturday - a day of rest and religious observance for the Jews

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3RD & 4TH GRADE

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1ST & 2ND GRADE

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CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer, collect money

JESUS HEALS THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND

Matthew 12:9-14

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Sabbath: Saturday - a day of rest and religious observance for the Jews

Read or summarize pages 200 - 201 (Jesus and the Sabbath) of the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader

MIRACLES

The Gospels are filled with stories of Jesus healing people. He helped these people because He loved them so dearly. God still helps us even today and when we see something that we just can't explain, we call this a miracles. We are left amazed at God's greatness!

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Continue practice singing, "Lord, have mercy" in multiple languages

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WEEK 13: JESUS HEALS THE WITHERED HAND

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

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