6

I Believe

Key References: John 9; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 51, pp. 470-475; Our Beliefs nos. 4, 20, 10















powertext

"Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (John 9:35-38).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

power**point**

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

Has anyone done anything so wonderful for you that you couldn't help loving them, even though others didn't like them? The blind man in our story today probably couldn't help wondering what was wrong with the Pharisees for doubting that Jesus was who He said He was. After all, Jesus had restored his sight!

The insulting words of the Jewish leaders still rang in the ears of Jesus' disciples as they walked away from the temple with Him. Why did Jesus rebuke them, pointing out their hypocrisy? Didn't He realize how much He needed their support if He was to become king? Jesus slowed His pace, then stopped near a blind man begging in the street. The disciples asked Him, "Who sinned, Master, this man or his parents?"

Most Jewish people believed that any disability, any sickness, was the direct result of God's punishing some sin. If a baby was born with a birth defect, people believed that the parents had done something bad and God had sent this as a punishment. When people got sick, their friends believed they had sinned and God was making them suffer for it.

6

Sunday

READ Read John 9:1-3 and this week's lesson, "I Believe."

MAKE Draw a set of eyes with thick-rimmed eyeglasses. Write the power text around the rims, including the reference.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the spiritual eyesight to "see" Him clearly.

Monday

READ Read John 9:4-12.

THINK Why do you think Jesus healed this man in such an unusual manner? In what ways do you think He was breaking the Sabbath rules of the Jews?

ASK Ask an adult about the meaning of spiritual insight.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His grace and His healing power.

Tuesday

READ Read John 9:13-34.

DO Sing a hymn or song about God's grace with your eyes closed. Really think about the words.

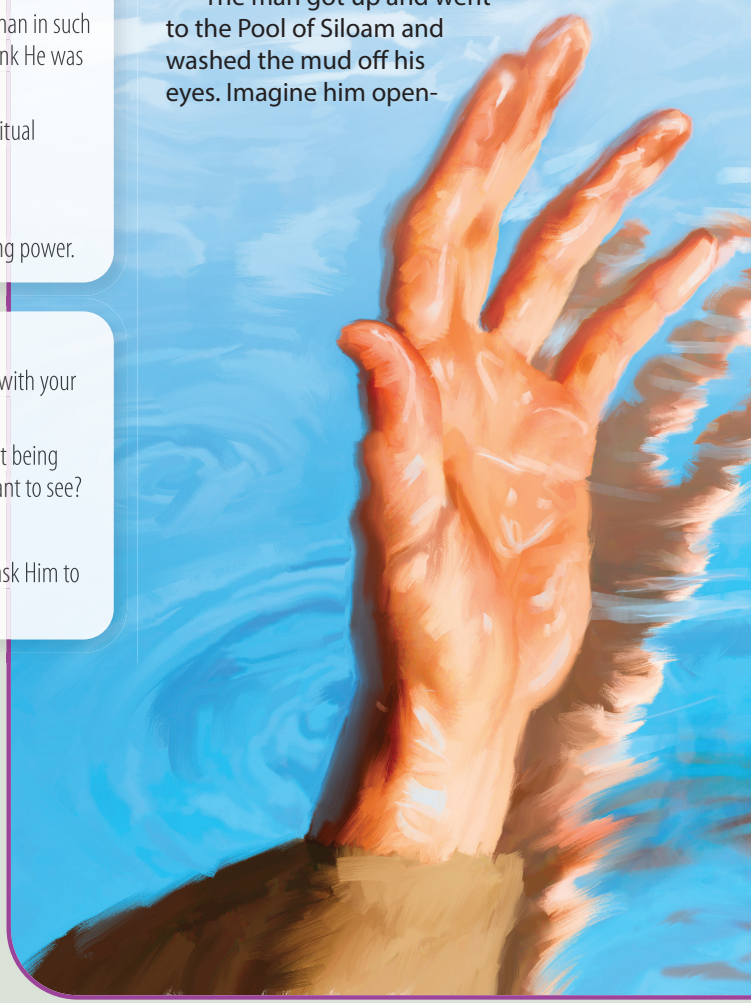
THINK What would you miss the most about being blind? What would be the first thing you'd want to see?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise the Lord for your eyesight and ask Him to help you to see others as He sees them.

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. Wanting them to understand that sickness and defects do not come from God, He continued, "This happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3). Then Jesus did something unusual. He bent down, spit on the ground, and made a muddy paste. The blind man must have been surprised when Jesus smeared the mud over his eyes. Jesus said, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam" (verse 7).

The man got up and went to the Pool of Siloam and washed the mud off his eyes. Imagine him open-



ing his eyes slowly. Light enters. He sees the sun sparkling on the surface of the water. He looks at his fingers, mud still clinging to them.

"I can see!" he exclaims as he jumps up from the poolside. He leaps into the air. "I can see!" he yells. "Hey, look at me. I can see." Never having seen the way home before, he still knows the way, and walks toward his house calling to everyone, "I can see."

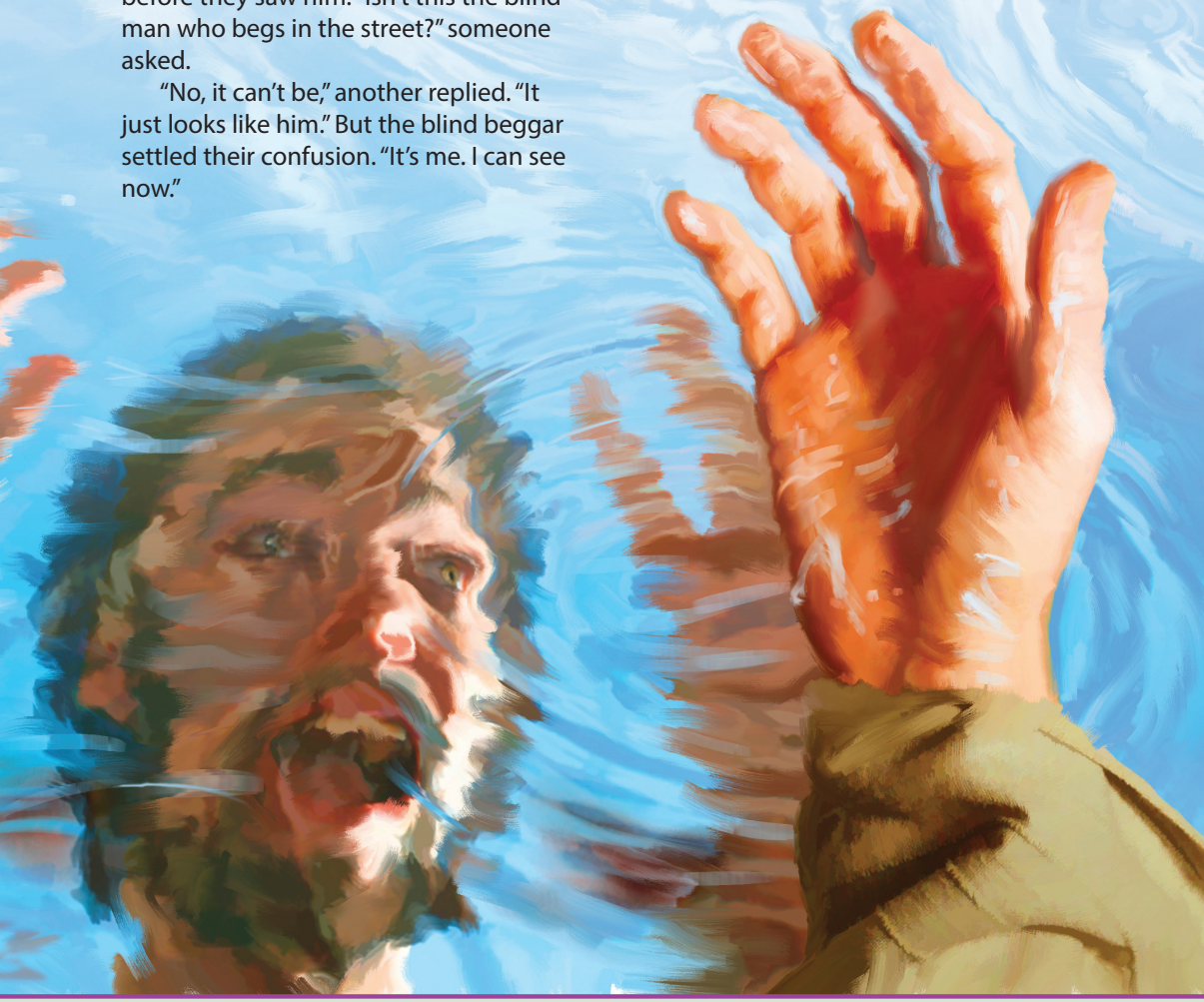
His neighbors heard him coming before they saw him. "Isn't this the blind man who begs in the street?" someone asked.

"No, it can't be," another replied. "It just looks like him." But the blind beggar settled their confusion. "It's me. I can see now."

"But how?" Then he told them.

They took him to the Jewish leaders, where he repeated his marvelous story. The Jewish leaders became angry. They didn't care that a blind man could now see. They cared only to point out that Jesus had broken their rules. "This man is not from God," they said, "for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But some of the Pharisees said, "How can a sinner do such miraculous things?" So the two groups of Jewish leaders



Wednesday

READ Read John 9:35-41.

SHARE Find someone with whom you can share your belief in God.

THINK What did Jesus mean by telling the Pharisees that they were blind?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for opportunities to share your beliefs.

Thursday

READ Read Romans 1:21.

THINK In comparison to the man's newfound physical eyesight, how was the Pharisees' spiritual insight?

MAKE Make something with clay or mud that reminds you of Jesus' grace and His healing power.

DO Choose ways you will allow God's grace to transform your spiritual insight.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus for His saving grace.

Friday

READ Read John 5:24.

SAY Say the power text by memory.

ACT Act out the story with your family for worship.

TALK Take turns with your family telling why you believe in Jesus. How have you experienced His grace? How does believing in Jesus make a difference in your life?

SING Sing songs about God's love, particularly ones about God's saving grace available to us thanks to Jesus.

PRAY Praise God for His grace and for being near to all those who believe in Him.

argued. Finally they called in the man's parents, because they didn't believe that he had been born blind.

His parents said, "This is our son. We know he was born blind, but we don't know how he got his sight. Ask him. He's old enough to answer for himself." They knew that the Jewish leaders would throw them out of the synagogue if they said anything to support Jesus. Once again the Jews spoke to the man. "Give glory to God by telling the truth. We know this man is a sinner."

"Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know," the man said. "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

"We don't even know where he comes from."

"Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

"How dare you lecture us!" they exclaimed and threw him out.

When Jesus heard that this man had been thrown out of the synagogue, He went to find him. "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Jesus asked him.

"Who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him," the man answered.

"You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

"Lord, I believe." The man looked into the face of Jesus, then fell at His feet and worshiped Him (verses 24-38).

The news of this incredible event spread throughout the city. Many people believed in Jesus because of it.

