



St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge



## Family Activities: Sunday 22nd March 2020

### Power

*Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services but the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home'! We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their 'Weekly@' resources which we are using in putting together each week's activities.*

*Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at [carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk) to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and share any photos of your family using these activities.*

**Theme:** To know that God has power to do amazing things. He is at work in us and the world today through the power of his Holy Spirit.

**Set the scene:** Bring in some soil in a big bowl (or two bowls) so that everyone can sit round it, and a jug of water. Ask what happens to the soil when we add water? Pour the water into the soil. Would any of the family like to put their hands in it and feel it? Discuss how you would feel about having this mud rubbed on your eyes? After a while all wash your hands and get ready for the story.

Explain that in today's story Jesus used dirt and water to do something amazing.



**Bible Passage:** John 9 v 1-12 : Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

**9** As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. **2** His followers asked him, "Teacher, whose sin caused this man to be born blind—his own sin or his parents' sin?"

**3** Jesus answered, "It is not this man's sin or his parents' sin that made him blind. This man was born blind so that God's power could be shown in him. **4** While it is daytime, we must continue doing the work of the One who sent me. The night is coming. And no one can work at night. **5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

**6** After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground and made some mud with it. He put the mud on the man's eyes. **7** Then he told the man, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam." (Siloam



means Sent.) So the man went to the pool. He washed and came back. And he was able to see.

<sup>8</sup> Some people had seen this man begging before. They and the man's neighbours said, "Look! Is this the same man who always sits and begs?"

<sup>9</sup> Some said, "Yes! He is the one." But others said, "No, he's not the same man. He only looks like him."

So the man himself said, "I am the man."

<sup>10</sup> They asked, "What happened? How did you get your sight?"

<sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man named Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. Then he told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed and came back seeing."

<sup>12</sup> They asked him, "Where is this man?"

The man answered, "I don't know."

### **Acting out the Passage:**

You will need to choose two members of your family to play Jesus and the blind man and then anyone else can be disciples or neighbours. Gather the following props to help you:

- a bowl of water for the Pool of Siloam,
- a blindfold,
- some hand cream to represent the mud.

Blindfold the family member acting as the blind man at the start of your storytelling. Read from John 9 v 1-12. When you get to verse 6 have 'Jesus' take a small amount of hand lotion and pretend to spit on it and then gently rub the lotion on to the blindfold. The blind child goes to wash at the pool, removing their blindfold and washing their eyes.



### **Questions to ask:**

- 1) How would you have reacted if you were one of the blind man's neighbours and he told you his story?
- 2) What is the most powerful thing you've ever seen?
- 3) Jesus explained in this passage that healing the blind man showed everyone the power of God at work. Do you think God's power is still at work today?
- 4) In what ways have you seen God's power at work?



### Explaining the Passage:

In the bible passage for today we see that Jesus was in Jerusalem to celebrate a feast. More and more people were following him and bringing the sick and diseased for him to heal. The words that Jesus taught showed an authority that baffled many and they wondered if he could be the Christ. The Jewish Leaders continued to watch Jesus and engaged in conversations where they might trap him saying something wrong.

John 9 records Jesus performing the amazing miracle of giving sight to a blind man. Giving sight to the blind had been predicted as a messianic activity by the prophet Isaiah and so this pointed to who Jesus was. Jesus explains that the man's blindness is an opportunity for 'the power of God to be seen' in Jesus (John 9 v 3 (NLT)).

This same incredible power of God is at work in and through our lives today.

### Prayer:

All powerful God, your power is at work throughout the universe. Thank you that your same power is also at work in each of our lives. Amen



### Song:

Supernatural God – Hillsong Kids

Sing and dance along to this – enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0pmXHOvQNw>



### Extra Activities:

*Blind Man's Bluff* - Blindfold a child. The rest of the family should move around the blindfolded child who must try and tag one of them. When someone has been tagged, swap so that child is blindfolded. Afterwards ask how it felt being blindfolded. Discuss what they think it would be like to be blind and never able to see.

*Invisible Force* - Place 10-15 items along the edge of a table that can be blown off with varying amounts of force e.g. a ping pong ball, a tissue, a plastic cup, etc. The children should stand at the opposite side of the table with straws (or rolled up paper) and attempt



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to blow the items off. Afterwards review which items were the easiest to blow off and which were the hardest. Although we didn't SEE what blew the items off the table, we know SOMETHING is moving these things, what is it? Wind created by blowing down the straw. Discuss the power of the Holy Spirit. Even though we cannot physically see God's Holy Spirit, it is at work in the world in powerful ways.

***Finally...if working through these activities has led to any questions then please do feel free to contact Carolyn Barton at [carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk)***