**Lesson 1 Jesus Heals – The Blind Man Introduction**

Today we begin a series of lessons leading up to Christmas. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and some important vocabulary associated with these special events. This week’s lesson is about a famous story where Jesus heals a disabled man.

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Do you have hot springs in your country?
2. Draw a map of your country and show where the most famous hot springs are found.
3. Why do people visit hot springs? For:

a) relaxation

b) therapy

c) skin cleansing

d) spiritual reasons

### **Today’s Lesson…**

JESUS THE HEALER

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing may people. Today's story is about a blind man who meets Jesus.

Choose 5 people to read out the story: Narrator, Jesus, Man, Lawyer 1, Lawyer 2.

**Vocabulary**

**Blind:** Cannot see

**Paralysed:** cannot move

**Faith:** believing without proof; to trust

**Sin:** breaking the law of God;

wrongdoing.

**Healed:** make better

**Law:** God’s rules for living.

**Picked up**: to lift up, to carry.

**Amazed**: surprised.

**Sabbath:** Day of Rest – for Jewish people

***John 5:1-18****(CEV)*

**Narrator**: Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival. He went to a pool. A large crowd of sick people were lying near the pool – the blind, the lame and the paralysed. A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there, and he knew that the man had been ill for such a long time; so he asked him:

**Jesus**: Do you want to get well?

**Man**: Sir, I have no one here to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am trying to get in, somebody else gets there first.

**Jesus**: Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.

**Narrator**: Immediately the man got well; he picked up his mat and started walking.

 The day this happened was a Sabbath, so the Jewish authorities told the man who had been healed:

**Lawyer 1**: This is a Sabbath –

**Lawyer 2**: It is against our Law to carry your mat.

**Man**: The man who made we well told me to pick up my mat and walk.

**Lawyer 1**: Who is this man who told you to do this?

**Narrator**: But the man who had been healed did not know who Jesus was, for there was a crowd in that place, and Jesus had quietly gone away.

 Afterwards, Jesus found the man in the Temple.

**Jesus**: Listen, you are well now; so stop sinning or something worse may happened to you.

**Narrator**: Then the man left and told the Jewish authorities that it was Jesus who had healed him. So they began to persecute Jesus, because he had done this healing on a Sabbath. Jesus answered them:

**Jesus (**to lawyers): My Father is always working, and I too must work.

**Narrator**: This saying made the Jewish authorities all the more determined to kill Jesus; not only had he broken the Sabbath law, but he had said that God was his own Father and in this way had made himself equal to God.

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**Discussion**

1. What did Jesus say to the blind man?
2. What did the teachers of the Law think?
3. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?