

scripture retelling *(continued)*

As he was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. *Place the man born blind figure on the backdrop.*

The disciples asked Jesus, "Who sinned to make this man blind? Is it his own fault or his parents' fault?"

Jesus told them, "That's the wrong question to ask. This man isn't blind because of sin at all." Then Jesus took some mud, put it on the man's eyes, and told him to go to the pool of Siloam to wash.

The man went to the pool of Siloam and did as Jesus had instructed. *Move the man born blind figure to the pool of Siloam. Remove the Jesus and disciples figures.*

Then he was able to see and he went back home. *Move the man born blind figure back to the center of the backdrop.*

His neighbors began to talk about him. *Place the crowd figure next to the man born blind figure.*

They couldn't believe he was the same person they had seen on the streets before. They asked him, "What happened to you? How can you see?"

He told them the story of how Jesus had healed him. So they took him to the leaders to tell them his story. *Place the Pharisees figures next to the man born blind figure.*

The leaders decided the man must be lying and sent for the man's parents. *Replace the man born blind figure with the parents figure.*

The leaders asked his parents, "Is this your son? Didn't you say he was born blind? How can he see now?"

The man's parents told the leaders, "Yes, he is our son, and yes, he was born blind. But we don't know how he can see now. Why don't you ask him? He can speak for himself."

The leaders sent for the man again. *Replace the parents figure with the man born blind figure.*

They said, "Be honest. What really happened?"

The man born blind said to them, "I already told you the story, but you didn't like my answer. Why do you want to hear it again?"

The leaders did not understand how the man could regain his sight, and they became so angry and frustrated that they threw the man out. *Move the man born blind figure to the farthest edge of the backdrop.*

Jesus heard that the leaders had thrown the man out, so he went looking for the man. *Move the Jesus figure next to the man born blind figure.*

The man believed that Jesus was the Son of God and became one of Jesus' followers.

This is one of our sacred stories.

wonder wall

Ask the children what questions they have about the story. Add these questions to your "Wonder Wall." To model, you might ask some of the following questions:

- I wonder... What was so special about the pool of Siloam?
- I wonder... What was the man's name?
- I wonder... Why did the leaders ask the man's parents instead of believing him?

discussion

- The disciples and leaders don't get the answer to their questions that they expect. What does it feel like when you have a question that you can't get an answer to?
- Why do you think the leaders had such a hard time believing the man? Are there things that are hard for you to believe, too?
- Do you think every question has an answer? Can you think of a question that doesn't have an answer?

prayer

Dear God, thank you for giving us minds that are curious. Help us to be okay with not always knowing the answer and to know when we're asking the wrong questions. Amen.

extension activities

Depending on time, you might add one or more of the following activities. We also recommend making storytelling materials available to children to retell the story, either as an option for independent play during the Sunday School hour, as a take-home kit, in worship bags, or any combination of these. Instructions and templates to create felt storytelling kits for children are included separately with this resource.

Activity A) Play a Game: Questions Game

Materials: none needed

Instructions:

Choose a situation to play make believe, such as ordering food in a restaurant, taking the bus to the library, or finding a lost dog. Once you say, "Action!" children can only respond to each other with questions as they act out the scene. See how long you can last without answering with a statement.

Activity B) Read a Book: *The Girl with Big, Big Questions*

The Girl with Big, Big, Questions. Written by Britney Winn Lee, illustrated by Jacob Souva. Beaming Books, 2021.

It's always good to have questions. Sometimes our questions don't have answers, and sometimes they lead us to learn something important. Read the book together or make it available for older children to read independently. You might also choose to read this book as a children's moment in worship or send a video read-aloud to parents during the week.

extension activities *(continued)*

Activity C) Creative Expression: Pool of Siloam Planters

Materials:

- [Seed paper](#).
- Pencils and/or water-based markers.
- Gardening soil.
- Gardening tools such as gloves, trowels, and a watering can (*optional*).
- Small containers (*such as clean milk cartons, yogurt containers, or glass jars*) for planting the seeds.
- Materials to decorate the planters, such as small stones and hot glue, acrylic paint, or pieces of blue tissue paper and Modge Podge (*optional*).

Instructions:

Give each child a small container such as a clean milk carton, yogurt container, or glass jar to use as a planter. If time allows, invite children to decorate their planters to represent the pool of Siloam. Some ideas include:

- Cover the outside of the container with small stones using hot glue.
- Cover the outside of the container with tissue paper in different shades of blue using Modge Podge.
- Paint the outside of the container to look like stones and/or water.

Invite each child to fill their planter with gardening soil. Give each child a piece of seed paper and invite them to write some questions they have about God on the paper. Help them plant the seed paper in their planters and water it. The questions will grow flowers rather than answers!



about the creator

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Anna Strickland (*she/her*) looks for the Divine in the everyday like treasure in clay jars and first encountered God in the integration of her spiritual self and artistic self. She is a native Austinite and graduated from the University of Texas where she now works as a college minister, especially serving LGBTQ students.

A Sanctified Art LLC is a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshiping communities. The Sanctified Art team works collaboratively to bring scripture and theological themes to life through film, visual art, curriculum, coloring pages, liturgy, graphic designs, and more. Their mission is to empower churches with resources to inspire creativity in worship and beyond. Driven by the connective and prophetic power of art, they believe that art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God. Learn more about their work at sanctifiedart.org.