Lesson 7: God Is My Healer

Overview:

Key Focus: Jehovah Rapha; God is our healer and has redeemed us from every sickness through Jesus Christ.

Bible Story: Moses (Jehovah Rapha)

Scriptures: Exodus 15: 1–27; Isaiah 53:5

Memory Verse: Exodus 15:26 (NKJV) "… If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the LORD who heals you." **Depending on your group, you may want to use this verse for the whole month or just use the last part of this verse to shorten it.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Sign with the words "Jehovah Rapha."
- Painter's tape for a timeline on the floor
- Name tags
- Band-aids

Engage:

Last week we learned that God has seven special names that tell us about His true nature, or who He really is. What special name did we learn, and what does it mean? (Jehovah Jireh means "God will provide.") **This week we will figure out God's special name by playing a guessing game.**

On the board, write Jehovah and then draw five blanks for the letters of Rapha. Have children guess the first letter of the word and respond by telling whether the accurate letter comes before or after it in the alphabet. After guessing the word, explain its meaning. **Rapha**

means "to heal." God does not make us sick. We learned that God is always good, but God's enemy steals, kills, and destroys. God heals us and makes us well. In today's Bible story we will learn that God gave Himself the special name of Jehovah Rapha. *Place the "Jehovah Rapha" sign by "Jehovah Jireh."*

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. Have the group sit in a large circle on the floor. Designate someone to say the first word of the verse. As the child says the first word, the child stands. The child on the right says the second word while standing. Continue around the circle repeating the verse until everyone is standing, and then continue on, but this time children will sit back down when saying the next word. As the group becomes more familiar with the verse, encourage them to go faster.

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Bible Story:

Review what the children already know about the life of Moses up to Exodus 15. Put painter's tape on the floor to create a timeline for Moses. Have a volunteer stand at the beginning of the timeline and tell something about Moses as a baby, continue along the timeline helping the children recall facts they have learned about Moses' life.

- As a baby: **Pharaoh ordered the baby boys to be killed, but Moses' mother hid him in a basket in the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him as her son.**
- As a young man: **Moses saw an Egyptian being mean to a Hebrew man, and Moses killed the Egyptian. Hebrews are Israelites. Moses ran away and lived in Midian, where he worked for a man and married his daughter.**
- Forty years later: **One day while taking care of the sheep, a bush started burning. Moses took off his shoes because he knew it was God and the land was holy. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. God did miracles in front of Pharaoh, but the Israelites weren't freed. Then, with the 10th plague of the firstborn son's death, Pharaoh let the Israelites leave. Pharaoh changed his mind and chased the Israelites. God made the Red Sea open up so the Israelites could cross, but the waters went back when the Egyptians tried to follow.**

God did many miracles in Moses' life and in leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, where they had been slaves. It is never God's plan for people to be slaves. God has good plans for people, but sin causes people to disobey God. Moses and the Israelites were finally

free from Pharaoh and began to sing praises to God for saving them. Read or sing several phrases from Exodus 15:1–21. **Moses, his sister, and all the Israelites were so excited that God had done a miracle for them. They sang, played music, and danced.**

Let's see what happened after the celebration. Read Exodus 15:22–24. **How many days did they walk in the wilderness?** (3 days) **What was their problem?** (There was no water.) **They finally found some water in Marah, but what was wrong with the water there?** (The water was bitter.) **There were more than just a few Israelites. There were probably about 2–3 million people who needed water—that's a huge problem. Were there any stores or drinking fountains?** (No.) **How did the people react?** (They complained to Moses.) **These are the same people who a few days earlier were singing and dancing and celebrating the amazing miracle God did to free them from the Egyptians.**

Read Exodus 15:25–27. **Who did Moses ask for help?** (God) **What unusual solution did God give?** (God showed Moses a tree to throw into the water to make the water sweet.) **God also gave a new promise to the Israelites, what was it?** (God promised the Israelites would not get any of the diseases that were on the Egyptians.) **What did God expect from the Israelites?** (They were to listen and obey God's commandments and keep His statutes or laws.) **God shows us His special name, Jehovah Rapha, as He promised to be their healer. His promise wasn't only for that day or only for the Israelites—His promise is forever because it is who He is!**

Last week we learned that God's special names are found in the Old Testament but are fulfilled in Jesus. Let's read Isaiah 53:5 and see how it describes Jesus, the Messiah, who would be born a few hundred years after Isaiah spoke it. Read Isaiah 53:5. **What is a transgression?** (sin) **What is iniquity?** (sin) **The Bible tells us Jesus was beaten and wounded for our sins. He willingly chose to leave heaven, come to the earth, and take our punishment to die as the sacrifice for our sins. Part of His punishment was being whipped, which is the "stripes." His blood that came from His wounds heals us. The New Testament tells us about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection from the dead. When we believe in Jesus for salvation, we receive forgiveness for our sins, but we also receive His healing. We don't have to work to earn the healing—Jesus did all the work for us!** Lead the children in a cheer. **This week if you or someone you know gets sick, you can pray to Jehovah Rapha, God our healer!**

Bible Story Questions:

- **Why were the Israelites singing and dancing to God**? (They were celebrating that God brought them out of Egypt and that Pharaoh and his army were no longer able to get them.)
- **How long did their excitement last?** (about 3 days)
- **What changed their attitude from celebrating to complaining?** (They couldn't find water to drink.)

- **How did God show Moses that He was Jehovah Jireh, the provider?** (God kept him safe as a baby; God provided a way for him to grow up as Pharaoh's son; God did miracles in front of Pharaoh when Moses talked to Pharaoh; God provided a way to escape from Pharaoh by parting the Red Sea for the Israelites.)
- **How did God provide water for the Israelites?** (God showed Moses a tree to throw into the water to make the water sweet for drinking.)
- **What promise did God make to the Israelites**? (God promised they wouldn't have the diseases that the Egyptians had.)
- **What special name of God reveals that He is the healer?** (Jehovah Rapha)
- **How have you seen God's healing in your life or someone else's?** Allow time for responses, and after each testimony, lead the children in a cheer for God's healing power.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Write these sicknesses on name tags: cough, flu, ear ache, hurt knee, sore throat, cold; and make 2 name tags that say "God, the healer." Have all children gather in a large open space and give the name tags to volunteers to wear, not all children will have name tags. When you give the signal, all children start to move around the open area as children with "God, the healer" name tags try to tag the sicknesses to stop them or "heal" them. If tagged, the sickness must freeze but tries to put their name tag on someone else running nearby. Play for two minutes and then choose new children to wear the name tags.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Lead a Bible study through Deuteronomy 28 and Psalm 91:10 to discover what God says about sickness. Discuss God's promise to put none of these diseases on them and whether that promise is for today. Discuss what sicknesses today people just accept, such as flu season, allergy season, etc. Talk about what might happen if Christians really believed that God is their healer and heals them. Have older kids memorize all of Exodus 15:26.

Craft Ideas:

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Gather enough band-aids for each child to receive one and write "God is our healer" on each band-aid. Give the children a picture of someone who is sick or have them draw one. Then give them a band-aid to put on the sick person.

Worksheet:
Have the children use the two-digit code to discover the word that completes each verse. The first digit indicates the horizontal row, and the second digit indicates the vertical row. Where the rows intersect, have the children write this letter on the blank. You might suggest the children to work in pairs. Guide them to look up each verse in their Bibles to check their answers. On the back of their papers, have them draw a picture of one of the verses or copy the verse with a decorative border.

Affirmation/Declaration:
I trust God to heal me, and I choose not to be sick or defeated. Jesus already paid for my healing.
I don't have to work for it, and I can't earn it—healing is mine through faith in Jesus.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
The world and many in the church trust in the words spoken by medical professionals rather than what God says. If we truly believe the Bible, we must believe that healing is for today, and healing already happened when Jesus died on the cross and rose victoriously. Our healing is nothing we deserve, but we receive it based on what Jesus already provided for us. God can use the medical profession as part of the healing, but it is important to acknowledge the healing power of God through Jesus' finished work on the cross. Encourage the children to live their biblical worldview by praying to Jehovah Rapha and trusting in God's healing for themselves and their friends and family.

Missions Connections:
Missionaries often report miraculous healings, and then whole villages receive Jesus. When people see God's power, they believe in Him. Pray for missionaries to follow Mark 16:18 and lay hands on the sick so they will receive healing.

Family Connection:
Have the children make a get-well card and write the last phrase of Exodus 15:26, "I *am* the LORD who heals you." If you know someone who is sick, send the home-made card and pray for them. If not, save the card in the medicine cabinet or by medicine bottles as a reminder that God is our healer.

Prayer Points:

Lead a prayer of thankfulness that healing isn't what we beg for, it is a promise of God!

Dear God, Thank You for forgiving my sins and healing all my diseases. Thank You for satisfying me with long life. Thank You that You sent Your Word and healed me. Thank You that You restore my health. Thank You that I will live and not die and declare the works of the Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

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Use the code to write in the missing words in the verses. Look up the verses in your Bible to check your answers.

First Number -	1	2	3	4
1	a	b	c	d
2	h	g	f	e
3	i	j	k	l
4	p	o	n	m
5	q	r	s	t
6	x	w	v	u

- Second Number

1. _ _ _ _ _ _
   2-3 4-2 5-2 2-2 2-4 5-4
2. _ _ _ _
   3-4 3-1 2-3 2-4
3. _ _ _ _
   6-2 4-2 5-2 1-4
4. _ _ _ _ _ _ _
   5-2 2-4 5-3 5-4 4-2 5-2 2-4
5. _ _ _ _
   3-4 3-1 6-3 2-4
6. _ _ _ _ _ _
   2-1 2-4 1-1 3-4 2-4 1-4

1. I will not _____ all his benefits, who forgives all my sins and heals all my sins. Psalm 103:3 (NKJV)

2. With long _____ He will satisfy me and show me His salvation. Psalm 91:16 (NKJV)

3. He sent His _____ and healed me and delivered me from my destruction. Psalm 107:20 (NKJV)

4. He will _____ health to me and heal me of all my wounds. Jeremiah 30:17 (NKJV)

5. I will _____ and not die and declare the works of the Lord. Psalm 118:17 (NKJV)

6. By His stripes I was _____! 1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture of one of the verses on this page. You might want to design a decorative border or use fancy letters to write the verse.*

ANSWERS:

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4	p	o	n	m
5	q	r	s	t
6	x	w	v	u

- Second Number

1. f o r g e t
   2-3 4-2 5-2 2-2 2-4 5-4
2. l i f e
   3-4 3-1 2-3 2-4
3. w o r d
   6-2 4-2 5-2 1-4
4. r e s t o r e
   5-2 2-4 5-3 5-4 4-2 5-2 2-4
5. l i v e
   3-4 3-1 6-3 2-4
6. h e a l e d
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