



Lesson 6: “The Sick Need a Doctor”

Online Crew Club Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	I need a new heart.
<u>Key Bible Verse</u>	“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” (Ezekiel 36:26 NLT).
<u>Scripture Passage</u>	“Jesus cares for sinners” (Luke 5:27–31)
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Bible • o6: “The Sick Need a Doctor” Zoom Slides
<u>Optional Mystery Bag</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An M&M® minis candy tube for each student.

Relate (10 minutes)

Welcome crew members.

Greet crew members as they sign on.

Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Rosebud: Ask students to share a highlight or success from the week (a rose), a challenge or disappointment from the week (a thorn) and something they are looking forward to doing or experiencing in the week ahead (a bud).
- Open a discussion with the question, “If you were going to throw a party, who would you invite? What else would you plan for your party?”

Play a game.

Doctor Charades



Choose one student, and through the chat, send that student a word or phrase that highlights a problem or an illness for that student to act out without using words. The rest of the group will be the doctors and will “diagnose” the problem by guessing what the problem or illness is. You can ask the group to guess all together, or divide your group into two teams and keep score.

Examples:

- An earache
- The flu
- A twisted ankle
- A broken arm
- Hungry and thirsty
- Sore muscles
- Tired

Alternatively, you may choose a different game from the [Zoom Playbook](#).



Receive (10 minutes)

Hear God’s Word.

Tell the following story from Luke 5:27–31 using Bible images that can be found [here](#). The images can be displayed as a slideshow, and then you can share your screen and flip through the images as you tell the story. Or, you may want to ask students to close their eyes and picture the following events taking place.

Jesus was teaching and healing many people when he came upon a man named Levi who was working as a tax collector out in the streets. As a tax collector, Levi collected money from the people, but he did not do it honestly. Tax collectors like Levi frequently cheated other people out of their money, saying that they needed to pay more money than they actually did! For that reason, tax collectors like Levi were considered some of the worst of sinners!

As Levi was working, Jesus came near to the place where Levi worked each day. Jesus had an invitation for Levi, “Come, follow me. Come and learn from me, and be my student. Live the way I teach you, God’s way.”

Levi was stunned by this invitation, and he decided to leave everything behind, even his job and the money he’d collected for himself, to follow Jesus.

Levi was so excited to share with his other tax collector friends about Jesus’s kindness that he hosted a dinner party for Jesus and his friends.



The tax collectors were familiar with being rejected. It wasn't often that a teacher talked with them, let alone ate with them and spent time with them!

As the dinner party was taking place, important religious leaders and teachers called the Pharisees started to complain and point fingers at Jesus. They were shocked that Jesus would spend time with tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees thought they were better than the tax collectors because they were able to follow all the rules.

Jesus responded to the Pharisees by saying this, "I came to heal sick people, those who need me and know that they need me to make them well again. Healthy people don't need a doctor—only sick people do." The Pharisees did not think that they needed a doctor or needed Jesus to heal them because they thought that they were healthy all on their own. Levi and his tax collector friends knew they needed Jesus to have healthy hearts.

What does Jesus mean when he says, "The healthy don't need a doctor—sick people do?" What does a doctor do?

Take student responses.

A doctor helps people who are sick become healthy. How do they do that?

Take student responses.

A doctor helps sick people become healthy by making changes to a person's life. Usually, the doctor orders their patients to take medicine, to exercise more, to change the food they eat or to change their habits so that they can become healthy. A doctor makes changes so that our bodies can become healthy again. Jesus is the doctor of our hearts, and he wants to make a big change in us. He wants to take out our sinful heart and give us a new heart. He came to save people who know their problem with sin and who want to change and be healed, like Levi and his friends. Jesus loves them and invites them to be with him.

Engage and explore the story.

Open a discussion:

- **Who was Levi?** (A tax collector.)
- **Why did the religious leaders dislike tax collectors?** (Tax collectors had a reputation for bad behavior: cheating, lying, being greedy, etc.)
- **How did Jesus treat Levi? What did he say to him?** (He treated Levi with kindness and acceptance. He called Levi to follow him and become his disciple.)



- **How did Levi respond?** (Levi got up and followed Jesus. Then he threw a party to honor Jesus and invited all his tax collector friends.)
- **What was surprising about this story?** (Answers will vary.)
- **How do you think Levi's life was different after he met Jesus?** (Answers will vary. He probably changed his behavior because he experienced Jesus' love and became his disciple and a close friend of Jesus.)
- **Who does Jesus come to help?** (Jesus came to help sinners—people who know they need to be rescued by God and want him to heal their hearts.)



Respond (10 minutes)

Apply God's truth.¹

Jesus said in today's story that the sick need a doctor. Every human being has a heart that is sick. When our hearts are sick, we don't go to the doctor's office, but we go to God's Word to get his prescription because God is the doctor of our hearts.

What is a prescription?

Take student responses.

A prescription is something that doctors order for their patients when they are sick. Patients then have to take the prescription so that they can be healthy. We cannot get a prescription and get healthy if we don't first go to the doctor, and we cannot get healthy if we don't take the prescription that the doctor orders for us! In the same way, our hearts cannot be healthy if we don't go to God, the doctor of our hearts, to receive his prescription for us, or if we don't take the prescription that God has ordered.

What is God's prescription? We can find God's prescription in the Bible! We are going to use colors today to represent God's prescription for us, which we can find in God's Word. Let's listen and hear what God's prescription is. But remember, our hearts cannot become healthy if we don't take God's prescription. We do this by agreeing in our hearts with what God's Word says. Let's hear and agree with God's Word now:

Pull up the Zoom slides for lesson 7, turn to the slide with the color yellow, and share

¹ Optional mystery bag: Put in each mystery bag a container of mini M&Ms.[®] When each color is introduced in the Zoom slides, instruct kids to eat the colored M&M[®] that corresponds to the color on the slide. Then, at the end of the club session, encourage kids to keep at least five of the colored M&Ms[®] that go along with the object lesson in their container so they can go back and remember the colors and what they represent.



your screen.

The color yellow represents being in God's presence. In God's presence is light and perfect holiness because God is perfect, and when we can be in his presence, we experience life and joy like the feeling of being in the sunshine! But, because of the sin in our hearts, we can't be in God's presence, because God is holy and perfect and can't be in the presence of sin.

Turn to the slide with the color red.

The color red represents the sin in our hearts. Because God is perfect and can't be in the presence of sin, he can't let sin continue forever. God takes sin seriously because it separates us from him! For this reason, the punishment of sin is death. God sent his Son, Jesus, to experience the punishment for the sin in our hearts: he died for us! To take God's prescription, we have to believe and agree that we have a serious sin problem in our hearts and we need God's healing. We also believe and agree that Jesus died to be punished for our sins.

Turn to the slide with the color blue.

The color blue represents the washing away of our sins and the new, clean heart we can receive from Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for all of our sins and brought them to die and to be buried with him so that our sins could be washed away. Then, Jesus rose again to offer us a new heart, a clean heart that has no sin, God's heart! If you accept this new heart from Jesus, you can live in God's presence and light because all your sin has been washed away! To take God's prescription, we have to believe and agree that our sins are washed away and that our sinful hearts have been replaced with a new, clean heart because Jesus died, was buried, and rose again.

Turn to the slide with the color green.

The color green represents growth. Once you receive a new heart from God, it takes time to learn how to live with that new, clean heart. We learn to live with a new heart by reading the Bible where we can learn about God's ways and get to know more about Jesus, who shows us what it looks like to obey and live by God's Word and to live with a clean heart. As we learn to live with our new heart each day, we find out that we grow more and more like Jesus in how we live and love others! To take God's prescription and to keep our hearts healthy, we have to believe and agree that God's Word, the Bible, is for our good, and that learning from and trusting in Jesus can help us



become more like him!

Turn to the slide with the color orange.

The color orange represents that something new is just around the corner, just like an orange sunset signals to us that a new day is up ahead. God's promise is that one day, Jesus will come and establish a mighty kingdom that is perfect just as he is perfect. If you receive a new, clean heart from God, you will get to live in Jesus's kingdom forever! In Jesus's kingdom, our hearts will not have to experience sin, sorrow, or pain; our hearts will be healthy forever!

Pray together.

We learned from God's Word that we have sin in our hearts that separates us from God's presence and from following God's ways. Jesus wants to heal our hearts. God's Word tells us that if we want Jesus' healing, we need to confess our sins.

That might be a new word for many of you. Does anyone know what the word *confess* means?

Take student responses.

To confess means to admit that you have sin in your heart and that you need Jesus' healing. The tax collectors in today's story recognized their need for Jesus' healing because of the sin in their hearts.

You can probably think of a time when someone did something wrong, but they didn't admit that they were wrong. This is like the religious leaders in today's story. The Pharisees thought that just because they obeyed all the rules with their outward actions, they were good in God's eyes and didn't need healing in their hearts. But, on the inside, the Pharisees needed their hearts healed, too! The Pharisees were sick but didn't go to the Doctor, so their hearts were not made well.

That is why Jesus invites us to confess that we need his healing in our hearts and to admit that we need to see the Doctor about our sinful hearts: so that our hearts can be made well!

Where do you need God's healing in your heart?

Give several examples of areas where God's healing might be needed. (Unforgiveness, talking back to parents, fighting with siblings, jealousy, selfishness) If you feel led, share



an area where you need God's healing in your heart.

Then, take prayer requests and close the group in prayer.

