

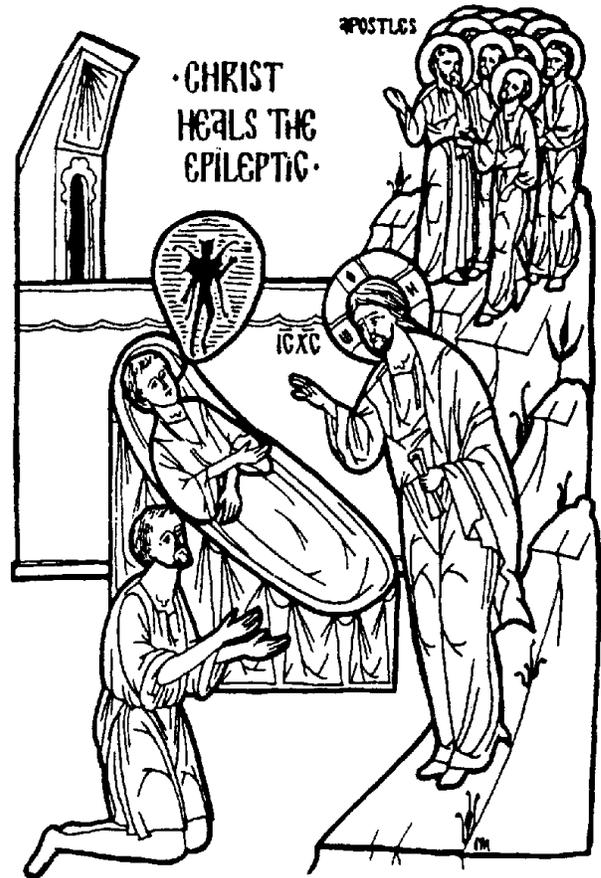
JESUS HEALS A SICK BOY

At that time, a man brought his son to Jesus. The son was sick because the spirit inside him made his body do strange things. Sometimes he would throw himself to the ground. Other times, he would grind his teeth, and become very stiff. You can see why the father so very much wanted his son to be healed. Before this, the father had asked Jesus' disciples to heal the boy, but they could not.

Jesus asked to see the boy. Sure enough, right in front of Jesus, the boy had another attack and threw himself down and rolled around. The father said, "He has been so sick for so long. Even when he was little he would throw himself into the fire, or into the water. If you can do anything, please help us!"

Jesus said, "If you believe that I can heal him, you will see that all things are possible." The father said with tears in his eyes, "Lord, I believe! Help me to believe even when it is hard!"

Jesus then told the spirit to come out of the boy. It did, but the boy was so still, people thought he was dead. Jesus then took his hand and helped him up. Jesus told the disciples that they couldn't heal the boy because much prayer and fasting was needed.



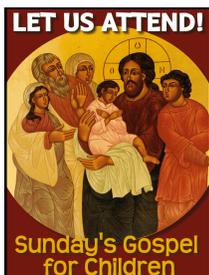
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who wanted to see Jesus? Why?
2. The father wasn't sure Jesus could heal the boy. Jesus told him, "If you believe, all things are possible."

Jesus wanted the man to trust Him, so that He could heal his boy. Did the father then trust Jesus?

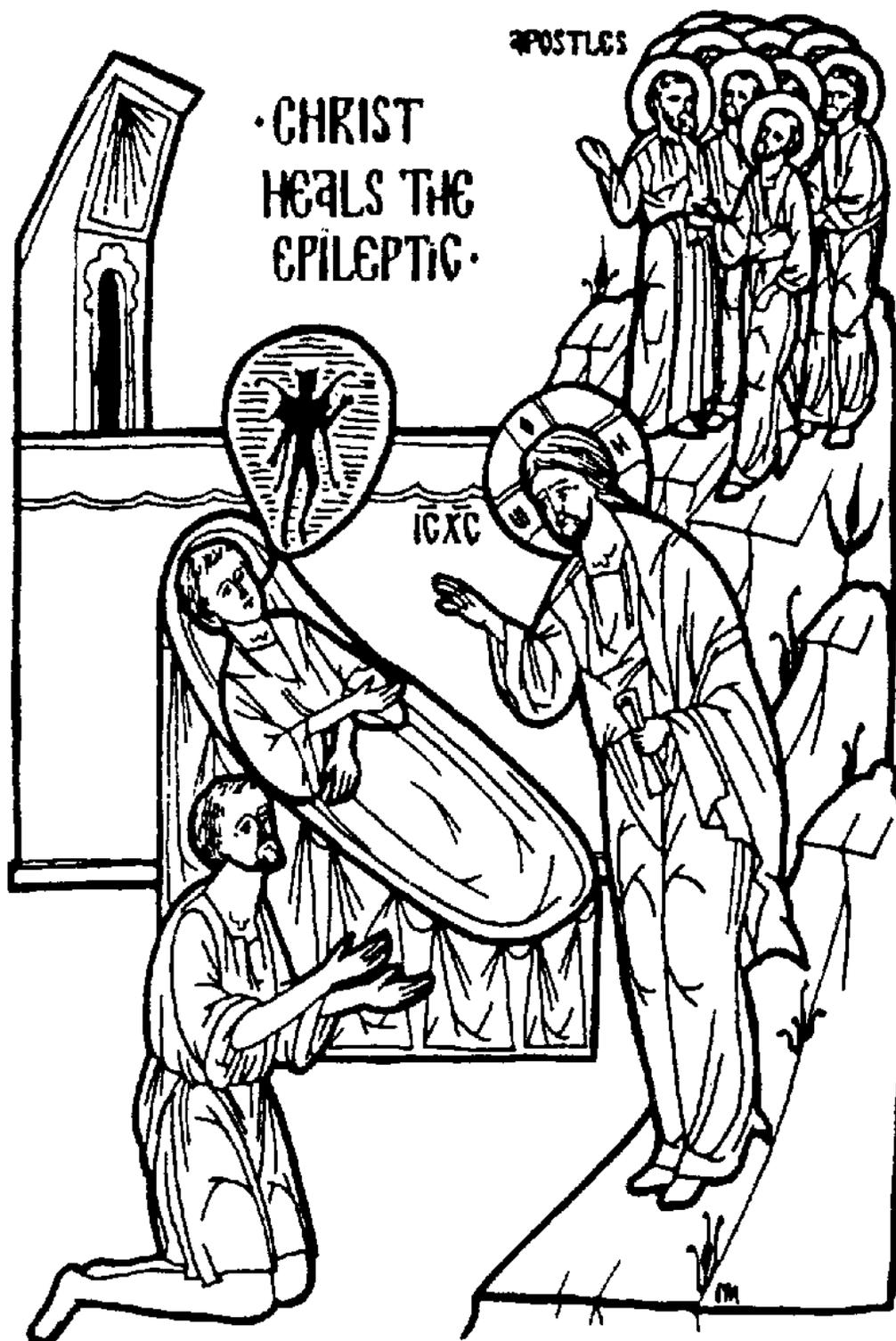
3. Jesus healed the boy, and then helped him to walk,
4. The disciples asked why they couldn't heal the boy. What two things did Jesus tell them they needed? We are in a time of fasting called Lent.



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Pre-12



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JESUS HEALS A SICK BOY

One time, a man came and knelt down in front of our Lord Jesus Christ. He said, “Teacher, I have brought my son to you to be healed. He has a bad spirit that makes him fall and get hurt. I asked your disciples to heal him, but they could not.”

Jesus said, “Bring him to Me.”

They brought the boy to Jesus. As soon as the spirit saw Jesus, it made the boy fall down and roll around on the ground. Jesus asked the boy’s father how long this had been happening.

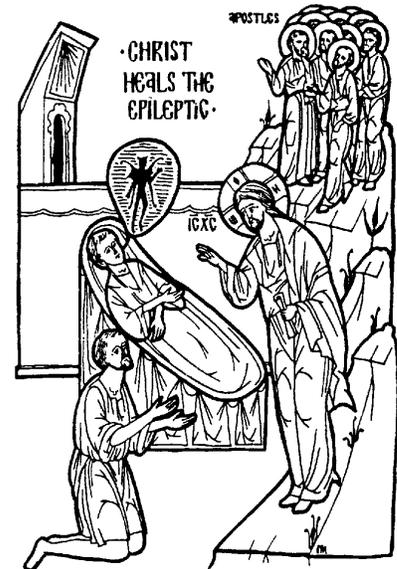
He answered, “Since he was little! Sometimes the spirit has thrown him into the fire or into water, to hurt him. If you can do anything, please help us!”

Jesus answered, “If you believe, anything can happen!”

Right away the father began to cry and said, “Lord, I believe. Help me when I do not believe.”

So Jesus told the bad spirit to come out of the boy, and to never come back. The spirit left, and the boy lay very still. Everyone around him thought the boy was dead. But Jesus took his hand and helped him get up. He was healed!

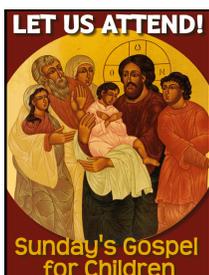
Later, the disciples asked Jesus why they couldn’t heal the boy. He told them that healing like this could only happen with prayer and fasting.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who wanted to see Jesus? Why?
2. The father wasn’t sure Jesus could heal the boy. Jesus told him, “If you believe, anything can happen.” Jesus wanted the man to trust Him, so that He could heal his boy. Did the father then trust Jesus?
3. Jesus healed the boy, and then helped him to walk.
4. The disciples asked why they couldn’t heal the boy. What two things did Jesus tell them they needed?
5. Fasting helps us to be closer to God. Fasting prepares us to do His work.



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ONLY BY PRAYER AND FASTING

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and whenever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able."

And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us."

And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked

the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting."

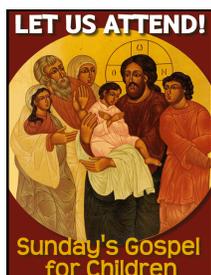
They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and after he is killed, he will rise on the third day."



Image courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What happens after Jesus tells the spirit to come out of the boy?
2. What does Jesus do after the people say the boy is dead?
3. What does this action tell us about Jesus?
4. What does Jesus tell his disciples will happen to him at the end of this gospel?
5. How is this similar to what Jesus did for the boy?
6. What does this say about what Jesus does or can do for us?



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Man, People, Disciples

Narrator: At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him:

Man: Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.

Narrator: And Jesus answered them,

Jesus: O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.

Narrator: And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father,

Jesus: How long has he had this?

Narrator: And he said,

Man: From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us.

Narrator: And Jesus said to him,

Jesus: If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.

Narrator: Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears,

Man: Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!

Narrator: And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it,

Jesus: You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.

Narrator: And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said,

People: He is dead.

Narrator: But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately,

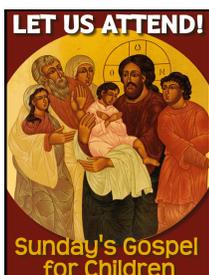
Disciples: Why could we not cast it out?

Narrator: And he said to them,

Jesus: This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.

Narrator: They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,

Jesus: The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and after he is killed, he will rise on the third day.



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Image courtesy of sxc.hu

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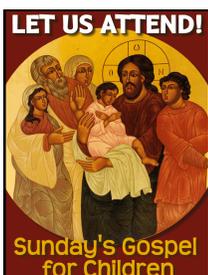
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They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and after he is killed, he will rise on the third day."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the father say to Jesus?
2. What does his statement, "If you are able," tell us about what the father is thinking?
3. How does Jesus respond to the father's request?
4. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "If YOU are able?"
5. What does this response tell us about faith? What do you think this kind of faith looks like? Feels like? Is?
6. What does the father's response, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief," say about faith?
7. How can you use the father's response as a prayer this week?



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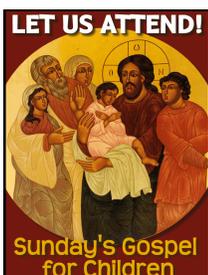
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who tries to heal the boy first?
2. How does Jesus respond to that information?
3. Who is the faithless generation?
4. How does the spirit that is in the boy respond to Jesus? What does this response tell us the spirit knows that the disciples do not?
5. What does Jesus tell his disciples they needed to do in order to cast out this demon?
6. What does this tell us about faith? About knowing God?
7. How can you nurture your own faith this week?



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