

## Worship at Home. September 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

### Mark 7:31-37 Jesus heals the deaf and mute man

#### GAME: SILENT HUNT

Purpose: Children will lead a search in silence to see the challenges of being unable to communicate.

Supplies: Individually wrapped lollies, coins, or slips of paper.

In today's story, we will learn how Jesus healed a man who was both deaf and mute. That means he could not hear or talk clearly. But first, let's play a game called "Silent Hunt."

This is going to be a difficult game because you must give each other instructions without talking.

Directions: 1. Divide children into pairs. One partner is the Searcher and the other is the Friend. 2. Give each Friend an object. 3. Ask the Searchers to close their eyes while the Friend hides the object. 4. After hiding the object, the Friends stand in the middle of the room. 5. Without speaking or using his or her hands, the Friends direct their partners to the hidden object. 6. After the Searchers find the hidden object, the partners switch roles and play again.

How did it feel to not be able to speak or hear directions? (Children respond.)  
How did that make it hard to search for the object? (Children respond.)  
Friends, how did you help your Searcher partners find the object? (Children respond.)  
What do you think would be difficult about being deaf or mute? (Children respond.)  
Let's find out how Jesus healed the man who was deaf and mute.

Read the story from Mark 7:31-37 or watch one of the clips.

Clips: [Jesus heals a deaf and mute Man - YouTube](#)

[15.4 Bible Story: "Jesus Heals the Deaf and Mute" - YouTube](#)

Why did the people bring the deaf and mute man to Jesus? (For healing.)

Where did Jesus take the man? (Away from the crowd.)

Close your eyes and imagine you are this man. How does it feel for Jesus to take you aside to spend time with you? (Children respond.)

If Jesus came here now and took you aside to spend time alone with you, what do you think He would say to you? (Children respond.)

What would you want to say to Him? (Children respond.)

What did Jesus do to heal the man? (He put his fingers into the man's ears, spit and touched the man's tongue, looked up to heaven, and said, "Ephphatha!" ("Ephphatha!" means "be opened." )

Jesus can open our ears to hear, our tongues to speak, and our hearts to believe in Him. Jesus healed the man so he could hear and speak. In what

other ways can Jesus heal us? (Children respond.)

Jesus can heal us from sickness, loneliness, worrying, and from habits of sinning (doing wrong in God's eyes). Jesus can also heal our hearts from being separated from God.

Songs: [Jesus Is the Healer - YouTube](#)

Activities: **READING LIPS:** Give the children an opportunity to mouth a word for the rest of the family to figure out what they said. Have the children choose a word from a list of words used in today's Bible story such as heal, deaf, fingers, spit, be opened, tongue, speak, man. If this is too difficult, allow the children to make signs to help the children to understand the words they are trying to get them to say.