



# JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U3# 2 1st-3rd Grade • Aug.27, 2023

## Concept

Jesus' power over physical illness helps prove he is God.

## Goal

Students will learn that Jesus' power to heal is evidence that He has the authority to forgive sins and is therefore God. They will be encouraged to consider what it means to be forgiven.

## Passage

Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

Key Verse: "I will prove that I, the Son of Man, have the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, 'Stand up, take your mat, and go on home, because you are healed.'" (Mark 2:10, 11).

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<b>Learning Activity #1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clothespins (non-spring), 3/student</li><li>Markers</li></ul> <b>Learning Activity #2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3 shoe boxes, each with a slit in the lid</li></ul> Extension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2 cups</li><li>Ten 2' strips of fabric</li><li>Strip of Velcro</li></ul>	<b>Activity Station:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>12" lengths of assorted colors of embroidery floss or similar weight thread, 6 lengths/student</li><li>Gold/yellow, black, red, white and green pony beads, 1 set/student</li><li>Scissors</li><li>Printed copies of Friendship Bracelet Explanation, 1/student</li></ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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After teaching and healing in the desert, Jesus returned to Capernaum to find that His fame had spread. So many people gathered to hear Him speak that the house and the courtyard where He taught were totally filled. Four men carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus to be healed, but found it impossible to reach Jesus because of the crowds. The men must have been disappointed when it seemed that they would be unable to bring their friend before Christ. But they continued to look for a way to get him to Jesus.

Palestinian houses typically had flat roofs reached by an outside stairway. The roof was usually made of a thick layer of clay supported by a mat of branches across wooden beams. Unwilling to return home without seeing Jesus, the four men took their friend to the roof, dug through it, and lowered their friend on a mat through the hole. "And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, 'My son, your sins are forgiven.'" (Mark 2:5 NASB), thereby causing a stir among the onlooking scribes.

"The scribes are correct in their conclusion that only God can forgive sins. In claiming this right for Himself, Jesus asserted His deity. To the scribes, who failed to recognize Jesus for who He truly was, this was blasphemy. The physical healing of the paralytic man served to validate the authority of Jesus to forgive sins. Jesus demonstrates His concern for the well-being of the whole man, but it should be recognized that receiving forgiveness of sins (spiritual healing) is the more essential and primary miracle, while physical healing is secondary."<sup>1</sup>

"Jesus asserts that, by comparison, the forgiveness of sin is an infinitely more profound and difficult work than the healing of the paralytic's body. After His authority to forgive sins was questioned, Jesus healed the man. The fact that Jesus ignored the obvious bodily infirmity and moved immediately to remedy the spiritual illness establishes an unqualified priority of spiritual matters over physical ones."<sup>2</sup> Jesus' response is interesting, as He points out that neither forgiveness of sins nor healing was possible for man, but both were easy for God. Jesus met the man's deeper need first, that of forgiveness, then evidenced His authority by healing the man's physical condition.

<sup>1</sup> Believers Bible Study Notes, QuickVerse, Parsons Technology, Notes on Mark 2:5-12.

<sup>2</sup> Believers Bible Study Notes, QuickVerse, Parsons Technology, Notes on Luke 5:23.

**Activity Stations:**

- **Craft: Gospel Friendship Bracelet**

- **Instructions:** Give each student 6 strands of thread/floss and 1 set of beads (gold/yellow, black, red, white, and green). Have them knot the strands of thread/floss together at one end. Divide into 3 sections of 2 strands each and braid about one inch, thread the gold bead on the middle two strands of thread and braid it into the bracelet. Braid about ½" further, add the black bead in the same way and continue braiding until all the beads have been incorporated. Finish by braiding until the bracelet is the right length for their wrist. Make a knot at the bottom of the braid. Tie on to wrist.
- Many of you have made bracelets or wordless books. Would anyone like to explain the meaning of the colors of the beads? (There will be at least one student who knows this. Make sure you ask if they have a verse to go with each color. Share the ones below if they don't have one for each color. Read each verse as you go.)

- **FRIENDSHIP BRACELET EXPLANATION**

- **GOLD –GOLD.** When explaining the good news about Jesus, tell people that God lives in heaven where the streets are paved with GOLD. He wants all of us to live there with Him. (John 3:16.)
- **BLACK – SIN.** This reminds us that we all are in DARKNESS because we all SIN. Our SIN keeps us from God. (Romans 3:23.)
- **RED – BLOOD** of Jesus. Jesus shed His blood on the cross to pay for all our sins. (Heb. 9:22.)
- **WHITE –** For all of us who have allowed Jesus to pay for our sins. When we accept Jesus, our sins are forgiven and in God's eyes we are washed clean. That's like being WHITE as snow. (Isaiah 1:18a.)
- **GREEN – GROWTH.** After we have accepted Jesus, we continue to grow more like Him as we pray and hear His Word. (2 Peter 3:18.)
- As students finish, have them practice explaining their bracelets to each other.

**Transition**

Let's come and sit down together.

**Introduction  
Lg. Group**

Last week we learned that Jesus calmed a very bad storm when He and the disciples were out in a boat. Does anyone remember why Jesus calmed the storm? (He did it to show the disciples and us that He has power over nature.) Only God has power over nature, therefore we know that Jesus is God. This week we will learn about another miracle that Jesus performed to show us He is God. This lesson is about some friends who went to extreme measures to help their paralyzed friend meet Jesus.

Let's open the Bible to Mark 2 and read verses 1-4.

## Lesson Continued

Read and re-summarize the verses. These houses had different roofs than we have now. The roofs were made of clay and branches. So the four friends climbed onto the roof, dug a hole and lowered the paralyzed man down into the room in front of Jesus. What do you think Jesus did? (Allow students to answer.) Let's read verse 5. Jesus saw their faith and said, "your sins are forgiven." Does that seem like a strange statement? Why do you think Jesus said that to him? As I read verses 6-10, think about who Jesus is really talking to. After Jesus told the paralyzed man his sins were forgiven, the passage tells us what the scribes thought, not what the paralyzed man or his friends thought. Look at verse 7 again. Everyone knew that only God can forgive sins. In saying to the paralyzed man "your sins are forgiven," Jesus was saying that He was God.

Let's read verses 11, 12. In those days the Jewish people believed that illness was the result of sin. So when Jesus healed the man it was proof that He had the authority from God to forgive sins and heal. Our key verse says, "I will prove that I, the Son of Man, have the authority on earth to forgive sins.' Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, 'Stand up, take your mat, and go on home, because you are healed.'" (Mark 2:10,11). When Jesus healed the man all the people were amazed.

The man's sins were forgiven and he could walk! Jesus healed the man spiritually so he could have a relationship with God and then Jesus healed him physically so he could walk. It is true, as the religious men said, that only God has the authority to forgive sins. And it is also true that only God can instantly heal. So, Jesus both healed the man and forgave his sins to prove that He is God. When Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven, He took care of the man's greatest need-forgiveness. This man had the same problem everyone has. He was a sinner and needed to be forgiven. Jesus knew the man needed forgiveness for his sins more than he needed anything, even to be able to walk. The Bible says that everyone needs to be forgiven, because we all sin. When we ask Him, He will forgive us of all of our sins forever. Then we are part of His family, forever (eternity in heaven!)! Remember our key verse, ""(RE-READ)."" (Mark 2:10,11). On that day, the paralyzed man was forgiven of all his sins and healed of his paralysis. Do you remember how the man got to Jesus?—His friends!

Let's get into small groups to talk some more about this man and his friends.

**Instructions:** Divide the class into small groups. Put the clothespins and markers in the middle of the group.

People thought the man was paralyzed because of his sin. We know that illness don't have anything to do with our sin.

## Transition

## Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

## Learning Activity#1 Continued

Jesus knew being paralyzed was not the result of the man's sin, but He used this false thinking to get the attention of the people. Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven, then healed him and the man walked. What do you think those in the crowd thought when they saw the man walk? Look in Mark 2:12. The people were amazed and praised God! Why? It was obvious to the people that the man's sins were forgiven. They had never seen anything like this. Knowing that only God could forgive sin and seeing with their eyes that this man was forgiven, they must have thought about who Jesus really was.

The four friends must have believed that Jesus was from God because they believed that Jesus had the authority to heal their friend. They did everything they could to get their friend to Jesus. (re-describe their actions) And we know that they had faith because verse 5 says, "When Jesus saw their faith..." Do we have the same belief? Do we believe that everyone needs Jesus more than anything? Do we believe that everyone needs to be forgiven for their sins?

If Jesus has forgiven us it makes sense to do everything to make sure our friends and family know of the opportunity to have a relationship with Him. The clothespins represent our friends or family members. Think of the people you pray for. Write their name on the clothespins. Offer to talk with any students about any questions they have about Jesus afterwards.

**Mission Prayer:** Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray. If you have already received Jesus' forgiveness you can thank Him for His forgiveness and ask Him to give you opportunities to tell others about Him. Let's pray for the people on the clothespins.

## Transition

We're going to play a game to see how many of our clothespin people we can get through the roof into the house similar to the story we read about Jesus.

## Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

### Game – Through the Roof

**Instructions:** Remain in your small groups. Each group put the shoe box that represents a house on the floor and have the children gather around it. The object is to be the group to get the most people inside the "house." They do this by standing over the box and, without bending their knees, drop their clothespin people through the slit in the top. After 3 minutes the group with the most people inside their "house" wins.

## Review

Review key points, key verse, re-share the gospel

## Optional Activity

### Game – "Two Are Better Than One" 4

**Instructions:** Create a starting line with Velcro on the carpet. Place a cup 20 feet away from the starting line. Form 2 groups and have students find partners within their groups. (If there's an extra student, form a trio.) They must have one leg fastened to one of their partner's legs, as in a 3-legged race. They will huddle with their partner and decide how they'll travel from the starting line to the cup. They can travel in wacky ways. The first pair to reach the cup will hold it in the air. Continue until each pair has had a turn.

4 Instant Games For Children's Ministry, by Susan L. Lingo, © 1995, Group Publishing, Inc.