



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was wrong with the sick man?
- Why did the man's friends take him to Jesus?
- When the friends couldn't get close to Jesus, what did they do?
- Why were the religious leaders angry with Jesus?
- What two things did Jesus do for the paralysed man?
- What can you do to show Jesus that you believe in Him?
- How can you be a good friend to others?

Dear Parents:

This page lets you know what your child learned today at church. Included are suggested discussion questions and possible activities that you may use to reinforce the Bible story at home. Please ask your child to share today's story with you. You may be surprised at how much he or she remembers!

TODAY'S STORY: THE PARALYSED MAN

Jesus has authority to heal sickness, but better yet, to forgive our disobedience. The religious leaders realise that Jesus has put Himself in the place of not only the Promised King, but of God Himself. They reject that belief – just as Scripture said they would.

Today your child learned about a group of men that are so desperate for their friend's physical healing that they are willing to do anything to help him. They believe that Jesus can heal their friend so they even destroy the roof of a house to get to Jesus. The friend receives more than the physical healing that he expects. Jesus forgives him for everything he has ever done to disobey God! When the religious leaders become furious, Jesus proves that He is the Promised King by healing the paralysed man. Everyone is amazed by Jesus!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

LUKE 5:17-25; MATTHEW 9:8

FOCUS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

"Jesus wants to forgive me."

NEXT WEEK'S STORY: FOUR SOILS

(Mark 4:1-20)

PRAYER:

Thank you, Jesus for forgiving me when I disobey God. Please help me have faith in You like the friends in today's story. Help me be a true friend to others.

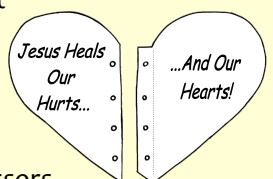
SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITIES

Walk by faith, not by sight

Share a personal experience with your children. Tell them about a time in your life – or the life of someone you know – when God answered your prayer in an unexpected way. Perhaps you were seeking Him for something, and He led you in a direction completely different than you expected. Explain how God was faithful in that situation. Allow your children to express similar experiences when they've seen God answer prayers.

Jesus heals our hurts and our hearts

Talk with your children about ways Jesus can heal us ... physically, emotionally and spiritually.



Gather paper, scissors, a hole punch, tape, a marker and a piece of wool for this activity.



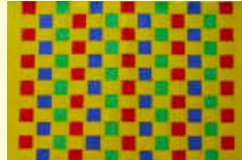
Help your children cut a heart out of a piece of paper. Punch holes along the edges of the heart. Put a piece of tape around one end of the piece of wool. Weave the piece of wool back and forth through the holes to connect the two halves of the heart. Tie (or tape) the ends of the wool to the back of the heart.

PLACEMAT REMINDER

Create placemats to remind your children about the men who loved their friend so much that they carried him on his mat to Jesus to be healed.

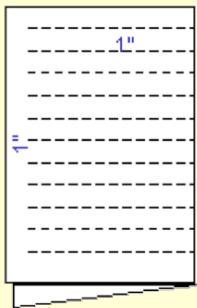
What you'll need:

- ~ Scissors
- ~ Glue
- ~ Ruler
- ~ Pencil
- ~ Large piece of construction paper (for background)
- ~ Strips of construction paper (single or multiple colours)
- ~ Optional: laminating supplies



Instructions:

1. Take the large piece of construction paper and fold it in half across the width.
2. Use your ruler to mark even spaces along the folded edge. Do the same along the open edge, but leave space at the edge of the paper.

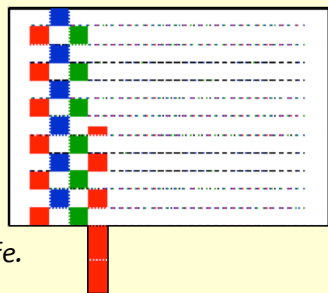


3. Draw a line connecting the marks.
4. With the paper still folded (and starting at the fold), cut along the lines being careful to leave space at the open edge.
5. Unfold the paper to reveal the "loom" that you have created.

6. Weave the individual strips of construction paper through the loom. If you are using multiple colours, alternate them for the most colourful effect.

7. Glue the ends of the strips to the edges of the loom to hold them in place.

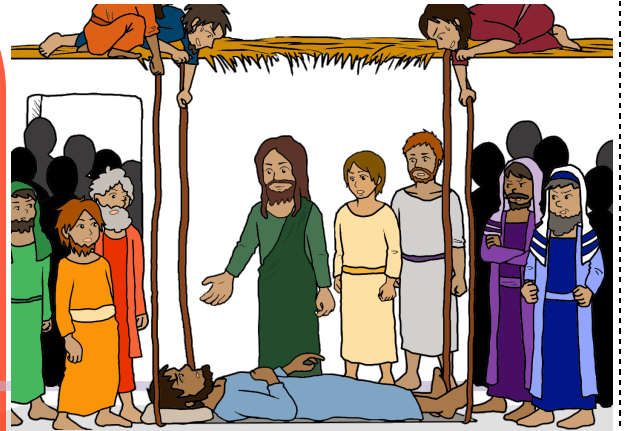
8. Optional: Laminate the placemat to extend its life.



SONG: I'LL NEVER BE THE SAME

Use this song to help remember the story. Add some motions for additional fun!

*Well, I was paralysed from head to toe.
I couldn't move, and I couldn't go.
But my friends would not stop
'til they got me to the top ...
I'm walkin' and singin' – praisin' His name!
Jesus is my Saviour,
and I'll never be the same!*



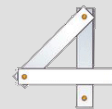
STORY STICKS

Your children learned to tell today's story using "story sticks" that they put together. Use this guide to review the story with them.

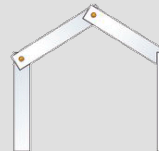
The 4 friends



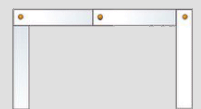
There was a man who couldn't walk. He just lay on his mat all day.



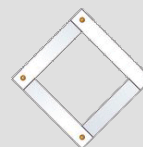
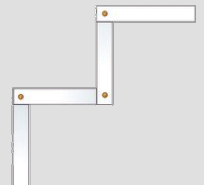
The man had 4 friends.
They wanted to help, so they took him to Jesus.



They got to the house where Jesus was - but it wasn't a house like we have; it had a flat roof.

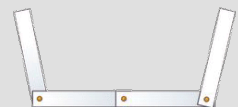


So many people had come to see Jesus that they couldn't get through the door. So they climbed the stairs on to the roof..



... and made a hole in it.

They tied ropes to the mat, and let it down through the roof to Jesus.



When Jesus saw the man, he said, "Your sins are forgiven." Some people were cross. "How can Jesus forgive sins?" they asked. Jesus said, "Is it easier to say, your sins are forgiven, or... ..Get up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

And the man stood up straight,



folded up his mat, and went home.

