

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

Grades
1-2

FRIENDS

MARK 2:1-12

What's happening in this story?

A paralyzed man's friends bring him to Jesus. When they can't reach the door because of the crowd, they cut a hole through the roof and lower the man to Jesus. Jesus proclaims the man's sins forgiven, but some scribes accuse him of blasphemy, declaring that only God can forgive sins. To demonstrate that he does in fact have such authority, Jesus commands the man to stand and walk. The paralyzed man jumps up and the bystanders glorify God!

What does this story mean for kids?

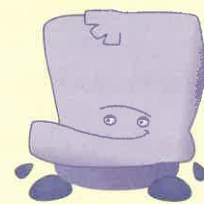
Kids can hear this story from the viewpoint of the paralyzed man and of his friends. Like the man, kids know what it's like to sometimes need extra help. Ask kids who helps them in such situations, and how they feel about that. This story shows the lengths to which friends can go to help each other. It also shows Jesus' power to heal people, both in body and in spirit.

Why this theme?

This story is a fun one for kids because of the drama of men tearing a hole in the roof and lowering their friend into the house—all to get him to Jesus! Kids can wonder about what some people in their lives have done to get *them* to Jesus.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Some kids in your group may have a disability, even if it is not physically evident to others. Talk about the differences in everyone's abilities by asking kids to identify things they are good at and things they wish they might be able to do in the future.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- White paper
- Markers
- Pencils

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Stickers (assorted)
- Feathers (large, 1 per pair of kids)
- Drinking straws (1 per kid)

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Fold sheets of white paper in half to make greeting cards. Kids can use markers and stickers to decorate them. Write, "We are praying for you." on each one and ask kids to sign all the cards. Keep them to give to church members who are ill.

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

What is a friend? Brainstorm descriptive words and phrases together. Share your own story about a time a friend helped you, and invite kids to share their friendship stories. **How do you feel when someone helps you?** Allow kids time to respond. **In today's Bible story, we will learn how four friends work together to help a man with a disability meet Jesus.**

Pray together: **Dear God, thank you for friends who are there when we need help. Show us how to be a friend to others. Amen.**

Pass out leaflets, pencils, and markers.

Name each image by the child. (Doctor, bandages, crutches) **How can each of these help a sick or injured person?** Point to the image of Jax. **Jax will not always have to use a wheelchair. He will be**

able to walk after his cast is removed. How can Jax's friends help him until he gets better? Kids write or draw their response in the blank box. **The man in our story today is paralyzed. Say the word *paralyzed* together. This means he cannot walk at all. He needed help from his friends too.** Collect their leaflets until Respond.



Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

Jax is in a wheelchair with a cast on his foot. Let's watch to find out who helps him.

View Episode 11, "Scary Charity," on the Year Gold Winter PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **Who is hiding in the bush?**
- **Why is Jax thinking about tapioca?**
- **How does Victor help Jax?**
- **What would someone in a wheelchair need help doing?**
- **How have you helped a friend?**



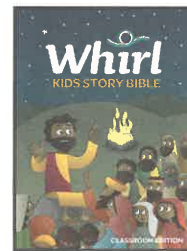
Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles.

Let's find our story for today! Help kids find "Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man" on page 234. Before you read, invite kids to look for the man's friends helping him to see Jesus.

Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **Why did the man on the mat need help?**
- **How did the four friends feel when they saw the crowd?**
- **What sounds did Jesus hear on the roof?**
- **How did the man's friends get him to Jesus?**
- **When have you helped a friend?**



Gather near the Wall Chart to place today's sticker.

Point out the Testament (New), Bible section (Gospels), and character image (Paralyzed Man). **Today's Bible story is about a paralyzed man—someone who can't walk—going to see Jesus. Let's add a sticker to remind us of the four friends who carried the man up to the roof (hole in roof).** Point to the corresponding images of the paralyzed man and the hole in the roof on page 237 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

The paralyzed man needed help because he couldn't walk. Let's pretend that we are the friends who are carrying him to Jesus. Pair up the kids and be a partner if needed. **This feather will be the paralyzed man, and you will work together to gently move it from one end of the table to the other by blowing it back and forth between you, using the straws.** Kids take turns gently blowing the feather back and forth until it reaches the end of the table. If the feather falls off the table, the pair starts again! As each pair of kids moves a feather, the others will say, **"We are gently moving our paralyzed friend to see Jesus."** After everyone has a turn, all the kids hold their feathers above their heads and shout, **"Friends help each other!"**

BIBLE BIT

Most homes in Galilee during Bible times had flat roofs made of layers of reeds and mud laid on top of wooden beams. The surface was smoothed with a roller.

WATCH IT AGAIN

Ask kids to pay attention to the different tricks that Victor has played on Jax in the past.
Why is Jax surprised when Victor helps him?

OUR CHURCH

Decorate a box, and ask church members to fill it with new or gently used children's books. Donate them to a local hospital to help children who are sick or injured.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, pencils, and markers.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Ask kids to look at the six scrambled words in the center of the leaflet. **The letters in these words are all mixed up. Let's use clues from the story to unscramble each one.**
2. Point to the first word (R D E F I N S). **Who took the paralyzed man to Jesus?** Spell the word *friends* together, and write one letter in each box.
3. **Let's work together to figure out the word with three letters (T M A). The friends carried the man on one of these.** Kids write one letter of the word *mat* in each box.
4. Kids continue working together to unscramble the four remaining words (*roof, carry, heal, and Jesus*). Offer help with clues from the story as needed.
5. Read the six words together. **Now that we've unscrambled the words, we can use them to retell the story.** Kids take turns using the words in sentences.
6. Point to the four boxes around the mat. **Let's name other people besides friends who can help us.** (parents, neighbors, classmates, teachers, pastors, etc.)
7. **Choose four different people we named or some of your own, and draw one in each box.**
8. **All of us can show God's love by helping others.**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Four friends helped a paralyzed man meet Jesus. They lowered his mat through the roof where Jesus was teaching. Ask kids to look back at their Respond activity and share the name of one person who helps them. **Love and helping are about sharing God's love. We get love and we can give love and help too.**

Pass out leaflet panels and pencils.

Kids use the panel as an autograph page. **Take turns writing your name on one another's autograph pages. We are all friends, and we help each other!**

Send kids out with a blessing.

Circle up with kids. **God blesses all of us. And that means me** (place a hand on your chest). **And that means you** (place your other hand on the shoulder of the kid next to you). Each kid passes the blessing by repeating those words and actions. When the blessing makes it back to you, say, **Go and bless the world.**

Thank kids for coming today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.