

# Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

Grades  
**3-4**

## 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

As kids develop their understanding of friendship, they'll begin to realize that a friend isn't just someone they happen to be in class with at school. Help kids discover the character of a friend while they explore this story about friends.



### GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Pens
- Glue

### LESSON SUPPLIES

- Mural paper
- Craft pompoms (5, small)
- Googly eyes (10, small)

## Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Provide mural paper and markers for kids to make a “Welcome, Friends!” banner. Invite them to hang the banner where it will be seen by others as they arrive.

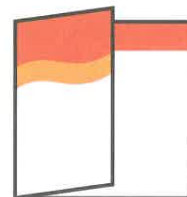
## Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Today is all about *friends*! Let’s all stand up and introduce ourselves to each other. Even if you already know somebody, say, “Hi! I’m (Name). Pleased to meet you, friend!” Allow time for kids to greet each other before gathering again in a circle. **How do you decide who you’re going to be friends with?** Allow time for responses. **Our friends aren’t only for hanging out or playing games. As we get older, our friends become the people we can trust the most with our feelings. Being a friend also means helping out when our friend is in need.**

Pray together: **Dear God, thank you so much for giving us the greatest example of how to live as a friend—Jesus! Help us to be a friend like him. Amen.**

## Pass out leaflets and pens.

On your leaflet flap, you’ll see words that describe qualities of a friend on each hand. Invite a volunteer or two to read the words aloud. **Circle words that describe what kind of friend you are. Put a box around words that describe what characteristics you look for in a friend. Are there any that you need to work on a little? Underline them.**



## Gather kids around the screen where you’ll watch the video.

Everyone march like a robot to where we watch our video every week! Leo has created a new robot that’s going to give him some trouble.

View Episode 11, “Can’t Stop Won’t Stop,” on the Year Gold Winter Grades 3–6 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- What went wrong with Leo’s robot?
- When have you helped a friend?
- What impressed Leo most about Gabe helping him?
- When has a friend jumped in to help you unexpectedly?
- What did Leo learn about friendship?



## Open your Whirl Kids Study Bibles.

Today's passage is in the book of Mark. It's in the New Testament in the Gospels and Acts section of the Bible. If this is your first time reading from Mark, invite kids to check out the book introduction and comic on page 1198.



Through his ministry, Jesus became more and more well known, despite his requests to keep his miracles a secret. People traveled long distances to hear him teach, and many sought Jesus out, hoping he would heal them. In today's story, four friends put in a lot of effort and work to take their friend to Jesus to be healed.

Help kids find Mark 2:1-12 and read it in this creative way together: **Pick a friend to read with today. Find a place to read, then sit cross-legged on the floor facing each other while you take turns reading verses.**

Invite kids to check out what Gabe says about Mark 2:3-5.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **Why did the man being carried need help getting to Jesus?**
- **When have you been unable to do something on your own? Who helped you?**
- **How did people react when Jesus forgave the man's sins? Why was that surprising to them?**
- **How did the friends show their faith in Jesus?**
- **When have you helped a friend?**

## Make your mark on the Wall Chart.

Look at the chart and find the theme for today. Give kids time to find the word *Friends*. Have kids work together to glue two googly eyes each on five pompoms. **In the box by Friends, let's glue five fuzzy heads to represent the friends in today's story. When we come in each week, this spot on the chart will remind us of our friends.**



### BIBLE BIT

The word *paralyzed* may be new for kids. There are different kinds of paralysis, but we know from the story that the man couldn't move his legs.

### WATCH IT AGAIN

Leo expressed some doubt about Gabe at the beginning of the video. If you watch the video again, talk about how Leo's opinion changed during the story.

### OUR CHURCH

Being a new person can be difficult, especially when you're a kid! Spend some time planning how your group can extend friendship to new visitors.

# RESPOND 10

## Open leaflets and pass out markers.

Tear off leaflet square.

1. Talk together about what's happening in each of the pictures. **When have you done one of these things with a friend?**
2. **Friends help each other and work together. The kids in the pictures are helping their friends. What are some ways you could help a friend?** Allow time for kids to offer ideas. **Draw one idea in the blank space on your leaflet.**
3. **Now get together with a friend—a different friend than the person you read with earlier. Figure out a way to act out the two activities you've drawn without using any words.**
4. After kids have had a few minutes to think, have the pairs take turns acting out their ideas. Kids who aren't acting at the time can try to guess what is being acted out. Let everyone take a turn.
5. **There are lots of ways we can help our friends. Some are easy, and some require a little more effort. The friends in our story today not only carried their friend to the house where Jesus was, but also dug through the roof to remove it so they could get their friend to Jesus.**
6. **Let's have our acting teams line up in order of difficulty. Which of these activities would be easiest to do for a friend? Hardest? Where would we put the friends from today's story in our lineup?**
7. **How can you show gratitude when a friend helps you?**

# LAUNCH 10

## Circle up with kids for a quick review.

**Today we discovered a lot of ways to care for our friends! What's one new idea you heard?** Take time to hear kids' responses. **One of the best things about friendship is the opportunity to share our faith with another person. As we show our friendship, we're showing the other person God's love in new ways.**

## Return to the leaflet panels and pass out markers.

**On the back of your flap, write in one of the boxes the word you underlined on the front. Find *another* friend to partner with. Together come up with a real way you can practice that word this week, and write it in the other box.**

## 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.