

# Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

PreK-  
**K**

## 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

Disabilities are hard to understand at this age. Honest questions will come from young children who want to know more. Help kids to understand that people with disabilities need friends. Young hearts will open to being friends.



### GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Scissors
- Crayons
- Clear tape
- Construction paper (precut into rectangles, 1/2 x 2 in., 1 per kid)

### LESSON SUPPLIES

- Chenille stems
- Drinking straws (precut into 1- to 2-in. pieces)
- Yarn (precut into 6-in. pieces, 4 per kid)
- Newspaper

## Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Put chenille stems and pieces of drinking straws on the table.

### Let's make friendship bracelets for our friends.

Invite kids to thread straw pieces onto chenille stems. Twist ends together to create bracelets.

Who will you give your bracelet to?

## Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Have you ever been sick or hurt? Did you miss any school or an activity? Your friends were sad when you weren't there. Maybe you missed your friends when *they* were sick. The Bible story today is about a man who was paralyzed. That means he couldn't walk. Say the word *paralyzed* with the kids a few times. His friends cared about him so much that they carried him all the way to Jesus. They hoped Jesus would make him walk again. Invite kids to stand up and walk in place.

Pray together: **Jesus, when our friends are sick, we pray for them.** (*Open palms outward.*) **Help us and our friends be healthy and strong. Amen.**

## Pass out leaflets and crayons.

Today we will talk a lot about friends. Invite kids to find the first letter of their first name and circle it. **Think**

about what makes you feel better when you're sick. Is there a favorite movie or food you like when you don't feel good? Invite kids to share the first letter of their name and answer the question one at a time. Help kids find and circle the first letter of each friend's name as friends share. **Jesus can help us feel better when we're sick too.** Have kids circle the letter *J* for *Jesus*. Collect their leaflets until Respond.



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

In the video today, Jax is hurt. Watch for how he responds when another kid offers to help him. Would you respond the same way or differently?

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

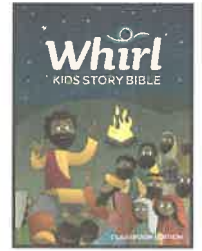
Ask kids these questions about the video:

- Why is Jax worried?
- When have you helped a friend who was hurt?
- When have you needed help?
- I wonder why Jax thinks Victor might be tricking him.
- How do we find out if friends need help?



## 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 paralyzed man being carried by his friends and lowered through the roof.



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

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **What does it mean to be paralyzed?**
- **Where are the paralyzed man's friends taking him?**
- **How did the friends get the paralyzed man through the large crowd to Jesus?**
- **Why did Jesus heal the man?**
- **I wonder what the healed man told others about Jesus.**

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

Point out the Testament (New) and character image (Paralyzed Man). **Today's Bible story is about a man who couldn't walk. His friends cared about him and carried him all the way to Jesus so Jesus could heal his legs. Let's add a sticker to remind us of the men lowering their friend through the roof to Jesus** (hole in the 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!

Have kids stand up with plenty of room to move around. **How much of the Bible story do you remember? What happened first?** Invite kids to pretend to lift something heavy. **What happened next? The friends walked a long way carrying their friend to see Jesus.** Have kids walk in place. Continue asking, "What happened next?" and do the following actions: climb on top of the house, dig a hole in the roof, lower friend, lie on floor like the paralyzed man, leap for joy. **Everyone praised God for healing the paralyzed man. Let's shout together, "Praise God for healing!"**

### BIBLE BIT

Jesus offered forgiveness of sins to the paralyzed man before he healed his legs. In this way, Jesus established his identity as both divine forgiver and healer.

### WATCH IT AGAIN

If you watch the video again, have kids pay attention to the past tricks Victor played on Jax. **Would you have trusted Victor if he had offered to help you? Why or why not?**

### OUR CHURCH

Take a tour of your church building. What accommodations are made for those with disabilities? (Special parking spots, wheelchair ramps, large-print materials, listening devices)



# RESPOND 10

## Pass out leaflets, scissors, clear tape, construction paper rectangles, yarn, and newspaper.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Kids cut out images of Jesus and the paralyzed man from the back leaflet panel.
2. **Your leaflet shows the crowd gathered inside the house to hear Jesus teach.** Kids fold along the line and stand Jesus in the house. Use tape as needed.
3. **The paralyzed man had to be carried on a mat to Jesus.** Invite kids to place the man on the construction paper rectangle. Tape a piece of yarn to each corner of the mat.
4. Divide kids into groups of four. Give each group a leaflet square with Jesus and the paralyzed man on his mat and a single layer of newspaper.
5. **The friends climbed onto the house and burst through the roof to get to Jesus.** Have two kids hold the newspaper over the house like a roof. Invite the other two kids to punch a hole in the roof with their fingers.
6. Kids who tore open the roof can now lower the paralyzed man to Jesus through the hole.
7. **Jesus forgave the man's sins and healed him so he could walk. What did the man do next?**
8. Have kids switch and repeat steps 5–7 with a new piece of newspaper. Make sure everyone has a chance to burst through the roof and lower the man to Jesus.
9. **The four friends were thankful to Jesus for healing their friend.** Say together, **"Thank you, Jesus!"**

# LAUNCH 10

## Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Today we learned about a man who was paralyzed. He could not walk. He needed help from his friends. His friends took him to Jesus to be healed. When our friends are sick or hurt, we can pray and remind them Jesus cares. What else can you do for a sick friend?

## Pass out leaflet panels.

**When Jesus healed the paralyzed man, he jumped in the air and praised God.** Invite kids to fold leaflet panels like tents. Place them on the floor and jump over them, saying, **"Praise God!"**

## 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.