



## Jesus the healer (Mark 2:1-12)

**Grownups:** Today we're thinking about the story in Mark's gospel when four friends bring their paralysed friend to Jesus. You may like to do a little preparation before you start - see bits in italics below. As usual, just pick out the bits that will work for your family!

### Telling the story:

Older children may like to watch this video <https://youtu.be/OLqHYkGU4Zg>

For younger children, you could read the story from a children's storybook Bible or you might like to act out the story using small world figures such as Playmobil or Duplo or if you have a bigger box available, with dolls or teddies! A story 'script' is included below.

Find a box (a shoe box or any bigger cardboard box will do). Have the box on its side so that you can see what's happening inside the box! Build some steps at the side (you could use Jenga or building blocks or more cardboard boxes) so that the people can get onto the roof! *Grownups - you might like to pre-cut the hole in the roof and then cover it back again and create a small stretcher before you start telling the story.*

Jesus was teaching inside a house (your cardboard box!) It was very full - people were there because they loved to listen to Jesus' stories, the disciples were there because they wanted to learn about God and some people (the Pharisees) were there because they wanted to see Jesus make a mistake! Outside the house people crowded round, listening through the open door and the windows.

In the town lived a man who was paralysed - he could not walk or move his legs at all. His four friends wanted to help him and decided to take him to see Jesus because they knew Jesus could make him better. Carefully they laid him on a stretcher and they carried him all the way to the house where

Jesus was teaching. And then they had a problem! What do you think it was?

The men were determined. They had carried their friend all this way - they were not going to be turned back. If they couldn't get in through the door, they would get in through the roof. So carefully they carried their friend up the stairs and on to the flat roof. Then they started banging and digging until they had made a hole in the roof big enough to lower their friend through. (You might like to explain that houses were different then)

They put ropes under the stretcher and carefully, carefully lowered him down to the ground at Jesus' feet. Jesus looked up at the four friends who were peeping down through the hole they had made. He smiled at them. Then he looked at the paralysed man and said, "Your sins (all the bad things you've done) are forgiven."

The Pharisees were annoyed. "Only God can forgive sins - who does this man think he is?" they grumbled. Jesus smiled. "I have the power to forgive sins - look, I'll prove it," and he said to the paralysed man, "Get up and walk!". And even though the man didn't think he could, he suddenly found that he was doing exactly what Jesus has told him to. He got up and walked! He walked through the crowd and out of the door - completely well.

### **Chat together:**

- I wonder what you like about this story?
- I wonder what surprises you about this story?
- I wonder why the first thing Jesus said was "Your sins are forgiven"?
- Jesus cares very much about us and wants to set us free by forgiving the wrong things that we do or say or think.
- Can you imagine the determination it would take to get that friend up the stairs and through the roof? The man in this story had amazing friends. Do you have a friend who needs your help today? What can you do with God's help to show kindness that is beyond expectation?

### **Activities to try:**

What can you do with your body? Can you stretch up tall? Curl into a ball? Hop? Skip? Jump? Dance? Have a go at doing some of these things. Now lie on the floor (you may like to lie on a blanket like the man in the story) and imagine you can't do any of those things. How do you feel?

Imagine that you are the man and Jesus has just told you to get up and walk. What would you do?

You might like to jump and dance around in worship (maybe with some music) and praise God for all the things you are able to do!



Build a house from Duplo or Lego or a cardboard box and act out the story. Don't forget to ask a grown up to help you if you need to cut a hole in the box!



Can you remember how to cut out paper chain people? You might like to cut some out and then decorate them, maybe write on the names of some of your friends as a reminder to pray for them.

In the story the man lay on a mat. You might like to make a mat by glueing strips of small pieces of fabric onto an A4 sheet of card to build up a set of stripes. Or you can do this with coloured paper or even magazine pages cut into strips if you prefer. You might like to write a verse from the Bible on your mat to remind you of the story: *This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!' Mark 2:12*

### **Pray together:**

If you have some bubbles you could use them for your prayers! Think about something you want to say sorry for and say sorry to God. Blow some bubbles. As they float away imagine giving your prayer to God. When they pop remember that God forgives you.

If you have some effervescent vitamin c tablets (make sure you ask a grownup first) you could use one for your prayers! Think about something that you want to say sorry for and as you say sorry to God drop a quarter of a tablet into a glass of water and watch as the bubbles fizz up as a symbol of God's forgiveness.

Or this is a child's suggestion for praying for forgiveness (written in their words): Sins are bad things that are not good. Tear off a piece of paper and write something wrong you have done on it. It might have been recently; it might have been a while ago. Scrunch it up and throw it into a bin. God knows you're sorry and you know God has forgiven you.

# Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

One day some men brought their friend who was paralyzed to Jesus. Jesus told the man, "Your sins are forgiven." Some teachers of the law didn't like what Jesus said, so instead Jesus said, "Get up, take your mat and walk." Why did Jesus heal the man?

Use the code to find the letters that fit in the blank. Match the arrangement of the lines with those in the code. The first one is done for you.

J U L L O L    O U S O U E

U O    N S U    L U

U S U    S U W S O U

O U O O E    E U W O

O U    O S E

S U O U O    U

O U O N N U U    L N U L .

J	N	E	O	S
P	U	W	H	K
A	L	R	F	D
T	G	M	I	V

