

LESSON 1

## JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO IS PARALYZED

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Forgives and Heals

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 2

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** By miraculously giving the ability to walk to a man who is paralyzed, Jesus shows that He has power to forgive sins and to heal.

Free Play

Declaration

Worship

Snack

Prayer and Blessing

God's Big Story

Activity: Follow the Leader

**INVITATION**

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

The Bible gives account after account of miracles Jesus did while walking on earth. Sometimes we read through these familiar stories and lose sight of the true power that Jesus demonstrated.

Read [Mark 2:1–12](#). In this passage, we learn about the time when Jesus, teaching in a crowded house, healed a man who was paralyzed. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be in the crowd that day? The physical healing of this man is impressive, but the spiritual healing, the forgiving of the man's sins—that demonstrated the type of power that the religious onlookers found offensive. Jesus' power isn't merely for physical healing or forgiveness. Jesus has power for both.

When we recognize Jesus' power over sin and His complete defeat of death, we too can experience the spiritual healing Jesus offers. [First John 1:9](#) tells us that if we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive our sins. Only Jesus has the power to forgive.

Take a moment to rest in awe of Jesus' power. In what part of your life do you most want to see Jesus work today? There is nothing we face in this world that is more powerful than Jesus. What an amazing truth we can rest in as we walk with Jesus!

**JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO IS PARALYZED****DID YOU KNOW?****FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

Teachers of the law, or scribes, were experts in the law of Moses and in traditions about how the law should be applied. They were responsible for teaching others, especially children, how to read and understand the Scriptures. Some scribes were also Jewish religious leaders called *Pharisees*.

**WHAT?**

While Jesus taught inside a crowded house in Capernaum, four people dug out a hole in the roof to lower down a man who could not walk. Jesus forgave the man's sins and then healed him, demonstrating His authority to the teachers of the law.

**WHERE?**

Jesus' early ministry took place in the region of Galilee, north of Jerusalem and the region of Judea. Capernaum was a town in Galilee located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus used it as a home base.

**WHEN?**

This story comes early in Jesus' ministry. Jesus had begun preaching about God's kingdom and had called His first disciples. Because Jesus cast out demons and healed many sick people, word about Him started to spread, and large crowds found Him wherever He went.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Jesus inaugurated God's kingdom and made a way for all people to be part of it. This story demonstrates Jesus' power to forgive sins and to heal—that is, to bring about the realities of God's kingdom, which was beginning to break through.

## Free Play

### As kids arrive...

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Help them find a toy or activity to enjoy as check-in continues.

Place small interlocking plastic blocks or magnetic blocks and toy people figures in the activity area. Allow kids to use the various blocks to build houses for the toy people. Kids can put the people in or on top of the houses.

**In God's big story today, we'll hear about a time when Jesus was teaching in a house. The house was so full of people who wanted to listen to Jesus! Let's build a house and put people inside just like in the story.**

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**JESUS**—*Touch the tip of the middle finger into the center of the palm of your opposite hand, then touch middle finger to palm of other hand (nails through His palms while on the cross).*

**FORGIVES AND**—*Place hands on heart.*

**HEALS**—*Move arms around shoulders and squeeze (hug).*

## Clean Up

### At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help clean up toys to prepare for worship, snack, and story time. After working together to clean up, gather on sit spots to say the declaration together.

## Declaring God's Wonder

**Welcome to church today! I'm so glad you're here with me. Repeat after me:**

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

March like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story,** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

## Worship

**SUPPLIES:** Worship music videos

**Today, we're learning that Jesus forgives and heals!**

**We'll learn in God's big story how God has the power to forgive and heal.**

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## Snack

**SUPPLIES:** small paper cups, pitcher of water, cheerios

Gather kids around snack tables and serve snack. After praying, begin the Bible story while kids are busy eating.

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's talk to God.**

**Thank You, God, for healing and forgiving. Thank You for showing us that Jesus is Your Son. Help us forgive others like You do. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May God remind you that He loves you very much! And may you have joy because Jesus forgives all our sins as we trust in Him.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, paper, male and female toy people figures (several), toy house

**Our story today is a great story from the Bible about a man who could not walk. We'll learn about how his friends helped him! Let's find out from the Bible what happened to them!**

Ahead of time, cut a small rectangle from the paper (large enough for a toy person figure to fit on) and set the props nearby so kids will be able to see them.

**One day Jesus was teaching at a house in a town. We will pretend that this man is Jesus.**

Show a male toy person figure to the kids and then place him in the house. **Jesus had been there before, and people had heard about how great He was. Lots of people came to see Him. The house where Jesus was teaching was full of people. There wasn't room even to stand outside the door and listen.** Place other toy people figures in the house.

**Then four friends came to the house, carrying a man who couldn't walk.** Show four toy people figures and ask kids to imagine that these figures are holding the paper mat with another toy person figure on it. **They wanted to bring their friend to Jesus, but there were too many people. They couldn't get through.**

**In those days, houses had stairs on the outside, and the stairs led up to the roof.** Point to the outside of the house and then to the roof. **When the four friends got to the roof, which was made of mud, they dug and dug and dug.** Move the four friends and mat with the man to the roof. **They made a hole big enough for their friend to fit through. Then they lowered the man down on a mat so he could see Jesus.** Move the man on the mat down into the house. **Jesus saw the man coming down, but that's not all He saw. Jesus saw the faith of the four friends. Jesus saw that they trusted Him. So Jesus told the man on the mat that he was forgiven for the wrong things he had done. That's sin.**

**Jesus had the power to forgive sins because He is the Son of God. Then Jesus turned to the man and told him to get his mat and walk! Then the man who couldn't walk before stood up. He took his mat and walked away!** Make the male toy figure stand up with his mat and make it move away from the house. **It was a miracle! Everyone at the house praised God. Jesus forgives and heals!**

### **Activity: Follow the Leader**

**In God's big story today, the man could not walk at first. His friends had to carry him on a mat. When his friends took him to Jesus, Jesus healed him! He could walk now!**

**Let's play Follow the Leader around the room to show how the man may have moved after Jesus healed him.**

Ask the kids to line up behind the leader. The leader will move in different ways around the room and the kids in line will copy the leader. Some ideas for moving around the room include walking, hopping, marching, raising high knees, spinning, or doing jumping jacks.