

Children's Church at Home 14 February 2021

Jesus heals a man who is paralysed. Mark 2:1-12

Isaiah 43:25 I, I am the one who wipes away all your sins..... I will not remember your sins.

Craft: card, scissors, paper fasteners, hole punch. And / or pipe cleaners, card, sellotape, pritt stick, pens, scissors, beads, scraps of material, wool and string.

First: Do you know anyone who can't walk? No, I don't mean a baby! Someone who has to use a wheelchair to get about. Do you like football? Ballet? Gymnastics? Judo? How easy would it be to do those activities if your legs didn't work? The story today is about a man who couldn't walk. He didn't have a wheelchair, but he did have four wonderful friends!

Story: Mark 2:1-12 [Mark 2:1-12 NIV - Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man - Bible Gateway](#)

Video: <https://youtu.be/e4ID8WAbRIs>

Think: Just before this story, Jesus had healed a person with leprosy. This was a really nasty disease which made sore patches on people's skin and damaged their nervous system as well. These days we can cure it, but in Jesus' time it was very serious. Nobody wanted to go near someone with leprosy, but Jesus did! And made him better!

So people soon heard about his miracles and crowded round him. When the friends of the paralysed man heard he was in a house nearby, they rushed to get their friend there so that he could be healed. But when they got there, there were so many people inside the house, they simply couldn't get in! What would you do? Dig a tunnel? Break a window? They had a clever idea! What you should know is that houses were built in a cube shape, with a flat roof and stairs up to the roof so you could use it. So up they went.

Now have you ever had one of those kits where you get a block of white sort of brick, and you chip away at it with a special tool, and find dinosaur bones inside? The roofs of those houses were a bit like that. So the friends chipped away until they'd made a hole big enough to let their friend down on his mat, right in front of Jesus! Hooray! Not surprisingly, Jesus noticed him straight away! And said something surprising. Not 'bless you, poor thing, I'll make you able to walk'. But

'your sins are forgiven'. Jesus knew that being paralysed is hard, but not being forgiven is far worse.

Anyway, there were some priests from the temple there, and they knew what that meant. It meant I am the son of God. Because only God can forgive sins. They weren't happy and started whispering to each other. But Jesus knew what they were saying, and asked them, 'which is easier? To say your sins are forgiven or get up, take your mat and walk?' and then he proved that he was Son of God, who could forgive sins, and Son of Man, who could do miracles! He told the man to get up, take his mat and walk home!

There must have been a bigger gasp than when the losing team scores a great goal! And then a louder cheer too!

What good, good friends, to work so hard to get their disabled friend to Jesus! They just knew for sure that Jesus could make everything right. And he still can. And he still does.

Craft: make a story teller. Or make the man on his mat.

Activity: two suggestions here: can you make a maze with Jesus at the centre and the four friends trying to find a way to get the paralysed man to him? or, can you use a pillow case and some string to make a mat to lower a teddy from somewhere high, on a table, maybe, to somewhere low, the floor? How easy is it to let him down without tipping him out?

Prayer: There's a wonderful prayer in the psalms which the man in this story might have prayed:

My soul, praise the Lord, and never forget how kind he is!

He forgives all our sins and heals all our sicknesses. Amen. (Psalm 103:2-3)

Thank you, Jesus, for caring so much for all of us! We know that every time we graze our knees or get a cut, it matters to you. Thank you for making people well when they are sick and thank you for forgiving all the things we do wrong when we say sorry to you. Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.