Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Bring your friends to Jesus. Jesus can forgive and heal.
Bible passage: Mark 2:1–12. Read Mark 2:1–12 and Luke 5:17–26 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Bear ye one another's burdens" *Galatians 6:2 (KJV)*. The old word **bear** means carry, and **burdens** are heavy loads.
You need: a Bible, a blanket or towel, a stuffed animal, a table and a bedsheet to make a "house" (optional), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 2. If you have a table, drape the bedsheet over it to make a house.

1. Opening game: Carry It Together (5 minutes)

Lay the stuffed animal on the blanket. Four children each hold one corner and carry it gently to the "house." Take turns so everyone gets a corner. Say: "Four friends carrying together! Today we will hear a true story about four men who carried a man to Jesus."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 2. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus was in a house (Mark 2:1). *(Make a roof with your hands over your head.)*
So many people came. No room, not even by the door (2:2). *(Squeeze your arms in tight.)*
A man could not walk. He lay on his bed (2:3). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*
Four men carried him to Jesus (2:3). *(Hold up four fingers.)*
Say it with me: "Let's go to Jesus!"
They could not get in the door (2:4). *(Shake your head no.)*
So they went up on the roof (Luke 5:19). *(Climb in place.)*
They opened up the roof (Mark 2:4). *(Pretend to pull the roof open.)*
They let the bed down to Jesus (2:4). *(Lower your hands slowly.)*
Jesus said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" (2:5). *(Hand on your heart.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus forgives!"
Jesus said, "Arise, and take up thy bed" (2:11). *(Jump up!)*
The man got up and picked up his bed (2:12). *(Pretend to pick up a bed.)*
Everyone praised God (2:12). *(Lift your hands up.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus can do anything!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. How many men carried the bed? *(Four, Mark 2:3)*
2. Where did they make a hole? *(In the roof, 2:4)*
3. What did the man do when Jesus said, "Get up"? *(He got up and picked up his bed, 2:12)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'Bear ye one another's burdens.' That means help carry each other's heavy things." Teach the motion: hold out both arms like you are carrying something heavy, then bend and lift together. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Galatians 6:2" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Draw the Roof (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a house with a hole in the roof and a bed coming down. While they color, ask: "How many men carried the bed? Who forgave the man?" Kids who finish early can carry the stuffed animal on the blanket again with three friends.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for forgiving me.
Help me bring my friends to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child hold a blanket corner. If they get wiggly, do the climbing and "Jump up!" motions again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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