Preschool–Grade 6

# Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

**Main point:** Real friends bring people to Jesus, whatever it takes. Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus forgave them, because Jesus is God manifest in the flesh.
**Bible passage:** Mark 2:1–12 and Luke 5:17–26. Students read both out loud themselves.
**Memory verse:** "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." *Galatians 6:2 (KJV)* and "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." *Isaiah 43:25 (KJV)*
**You need:** a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
**Before class:** read Mark 2:1–12, Luke 5:17–26 and Isaiah 43:25. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

## 1. Opening game: What Would It Take? (5–10 minutes)

Read each situation and let students call out what it would take to help: 1) A friend's bike chain broke two miles from home. 2) A new kid sits alone at lunch every day. 3) A friend is scared about a sick grandparent. 4) A friend has never been to church and says it would feel weird to go alone. After each, ask: *Would you do it if it cost you time, effort or looking a little strange?* Say: "Four men in the Bible went up on a roof and broke it open to bring a man to Jesus (Mark 2:4; Luke 5:19)."

## 2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

**Read out loud: Mark 2:1–12.** Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **noised** (2:1): people spread the news; **straightway** (2:2): right away
- **insomuch that** (2:2): so much that; **receive** (2:2): hold or take in
- **sick of the palsy** (2:3): paralyzed, not able to move his body to walk
- **borne of four** (2:3): carried by four men; **nigh** (2:4): near; **the press** (2:4): the crowd
- **uncovered the roof... broken it up** (2:4): opened up the roof and made a hole in it
- **scribes** (2:6): men who copied and taught God's law; **reasoning in their hearts** (2:6): thinking it, not saying it
- **blasphemies** (2:7): words that dishonor God; **perceived in his spirit** (2:8): knew inside
- **Son of man** (2:10): the name Jesus used for Himself as a man
- **on this fashion** (2:12): in this way; "We never saw anything like this"


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

**Read out loud: Luke 5:17–26.** Ask students to point out what Luke adds to Mark:

- **Pharisees and doctors of the law** (5:17): religious leaders and teachers of the law, who came "out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem"
- "the power of the Lord was present to heal them" (5:17)
- they went upon the **housetop** and let him down "through the **tiling**" (the covering of the roof) "with his **couch**" (his bed) "into the midst before Jesus" (5:19)
- "Man, thy sins are forgiven thee" (5:20); "Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" (5:21)
- he departed to his own house, **glorifying God**, praising Him (5:25); the people were "filled with fear," awe of God, saying, "We have seen strange things to day" (5:26)

**Teach the key question.** Write Mark 2:7 on the board: *"who can forgive sins but God only?"* Say: "The scribes asked exactly the right question, and they got the theology right: only God forgives sins. God said it Himself in Isaiah 43:25: 'I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions.' Their mistake was about who was standing in front of them. Jesus is not a second person beside God. Jesus is the one God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16); 'in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily' (Colossians 2:9). So when Jesus said, 'Son, thy sins be forgiven thee,' God Himself was forgiving. Then Jesus healed the man so everyone could see His power: 'that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins' (Mark 2:10)."

## 3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Mark 2:4 shows the four men going over, not through, the crowd. What "crowds" (obstacles) keep people from Jesus today? What would it look like to find another way?
2. Mark 2:5 says Jesus saw *their* faith. What does it mean that our faith can help bring someone else to Jesus?
3. The man came to be healed, but Jesus first said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Why is forgiveness the bigger need?
4. Jesus asked which is easier to say (2:9). Why does the healing everyone could see prove the forgiveness no one could see?
5. The scribes asked, "Who can forgive sins but God only?" (2:7). How does this story show that Jesus is God?
6. Galatians 6:2 tells us to bear one another's burdens. Who in your life is carrying something heavy right now, and how could you help carry it?


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

## 4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words: **bear** means carry; **burdens** are heavy loads; **fulfil** means to do completely; **the law of Christ** means what Jesus taught us to do. In Isaiah 43:25, **blotteth out** means wipes away completely, and **transgressions** are sins, times we cross God's line.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Galatians 6:2 this week; keep working on Isaiah 43:25 next week too.

## 5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Jesus did for that man what only God can do: He forgave his sins. He still forgives sins today. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the Holy Ghost, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
*Pray with the students, 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: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. Who is one person I want to "carry" to Jesus? What is in the way?
2. What is one thing I could do this week to help carry someone's burden (Galatians 6:2)?
3. Write a short prayer thanking Jesus that He has power to forgive sins, and asking Him to use you to bring someone to Him.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

**This week:** pray every day for the person you wrote down, and do one thing to help them. Invite them to church if you can.

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You blot out our sins, and that in Jesus You came to forgive us. Give us faith like the four men, and love that won't give up on our friends. Help us carry one another's burdens. In Jesus' name, amen."


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post