Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Be a friend who brings others to Jesus. Jesus is God, and He can forgive sins.
Bible passage: Mark 2:1–12 and Luke 5:17–26. Read them before class.
Memory verse: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." *Galatians 6:2 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, a blanket or bedsheet, a pile of soft things to carry (pillows, coats, stuffed animals), 4 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 4 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Mark 2:5 and Mark 2:11.

1. Opening game: Help Me Carry (5 minutes)

Pile all the soft things in one child's arms and ask them to carry the pile across the room. Things will fall! Then lay the blanket on the floor, put the pile on it, and let four children each hold one corner and carry it across together. Take turns so everyone gets a corner. *(Carry only soft things, never a child.)* Ask: *Was it easier alone or with four?* Say: "Today we will hear about four men who carried a man all the way to Jesus."

2. Bible story: Through the Roof to Jesus (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 2, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Jesus came to a town called **Capernaum**, and people heard that He was in a house (Mark 2:1). So many people came that the house was full. There was no room, not even around the door! And Jesus preached God's Word to them (2:2).

There was a man who was **sick of the palsy**. Say: "**Palsy** means he could not move his body. He could not walk." He lay on a bed. Four men picked up his bed and carried him to Jesus. The Bible says he was "**borne of four**" (2:3). Say: "**Borne** means carried. Four men carried him!"

But when they got to the house, they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd (2:4). What could they do? They did not give up! They went up on the **housetop**, the roof of the house (Luke 5:19). They **uncovered the roof** and made a hole in it. Then they **let down the bed**, with the man lying on it, right down in front of Jesus (Mark 2:4; Luke 5:19)!

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The story continues: Jesus saw that they believed He could help. **Read Mark 2:5 from your Bible:** "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Say: "**Faith** means believing and trusting Jesus. Jesus called the man 'Son,' a kind word. **Thy sins be forgiven thee** means: all the wrong things you have done are forgiven and taken away!"

Some **scribes**, men who taught God's law, were sitting there. They thought in their hearts, "Who can forgive sins but God only?" (2:6–7). Say: "They were right about one thing: only God can forgive sins. But Jesus **is** God! God came to earth as a man, and that man is Jesus (1 Timothy 3:16). That is why Jesus could forgive the man's sins."

Jesus knew what they were thinking, even though they did not say it out loud (2:8). To show them that He had power on earth to forgive sins (2:10), Jesus said to the man, "**Arise, and take up thy bed**, and go thy way into thine house" (2:11). Say: "**Arise** means get up!"

Right away, the man got up! He picked up his bed and walked out in front of everyone (2:12). He went home, praising God (Luke 5:25). All the people were amazed. They praised God and said, "We never saw it on this fashion" (Mark 2:12). Say: "That means, 'We have never seen anything like this!'"

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. How many men carried the sick man? *(Four, Mark 2:3)*
2. Why couldn't they get in the door? *(The house was too full of people, 2:2, 2:4)*
3. How did they get the man to Jesus? *(They uncovered the roof and let down the bed, 2:4)*
4. What did Jesus say first to the man? *("Son, thy sins be forgiven thee," 2:5)*
5. What did the man do when Jesus said, "Arise"? *(He got up, took up his bed and walked out, 2:12)*

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4. Memory verse: Four Strips game (5 minutes)

Say: "Four men carried the bed, and four strips carry our verse." Tape the 4 strips up in order: *Bear ye / one another's burdens, / and so fulfil / the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2.* Explain the old words: **bear** means carry, **burdens** are heavy loads and hard things, **fulfil** means to do it all the way, and **the law of Christ** means what Jesus taught us to do. Read the verse together. Then take down one strip and read it again. Keep taking down one strip each time until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The four men carried the sick man to Jesus. We can bring people to Jesus too! Jesus forgave the man's sins. We all need that, because everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.

This week: help carry someone's "burden": help a friend who is sad or having a hard time, and invite someone to come to church with you.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Jesus heals the paralyzed man word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/hole-in-the-roof-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/hole-in-the-roof-craft), or **Four Corners Relay:** make teams of four. Each team holds the corners of a blanket with a stuffed animal on it, carries it around a chair and back, and sets it down gently. Then every team says the memory verse together.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus can forgive sins and heal. Help us be good friends who bring others to Jesus and help carry their burdens. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

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