

Family Lesson 56

Principle: Jesus has the power to heal and the power to forgive.

Bible Character(s): Jesus and the paralytic

Scripture Reference: Mark 2:1-12

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Skit Video - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

A couple weeks ago, we learned about what it means to be born again. Who did Jesus talk to? (Nicodemus.) Jesus explained that you cannot enter the Kingdom of God without being born again. Our hearts are filled with sin, but Jesus came to take our punishment for sin upon himself and give us new life. What does it mean to be born again? (To be born again we must recognize that we are sinful, repent of our sin and turn to God, and believe and trust in Jesus as our Savior.)

Today, we will learn more about the power of Jesus. Jesus is traveling and teaching God's Word to people who would listen. We will read in the Bible from Mark 2 about some men who have a friend who is paralyzed, and we will see what Jesus does when these men bring their friend to him. Let's begin reading the Bible now.

Mark 2:1-2a

¹ When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. ² Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that

there was no more room, even outside the door.

The house that Jesus is teaching in is very small—probably close to the size of your bedroom. Can you imagine your bedroom being packed with people? There are people outside the door as well, trying to listen to everything Jesus is saying. Let's continue reading the Bible.

Mark 2:2b-4

While he was preaching God's word to them, ³ four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. ⁴ They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.

What does it mean to be paralyzed? (A person who cannot move his or her legs and/or arms.) **These four men believe that Jesus can heal their paralyzed friend. They go to a lot of trouble to bring their friend to Jesus.**

Optional Illustration

Grab a blanket or sheet and spread it on the ground. Have one child sit down on the blanket. Have other family members circle the blanket evenly, each one holding a portion of the blanket. Work together to lift the blanket so that they can feel how hard it would be to lower someone through a hole in the roof. Take turns on the blanket so each child can feel how hard it is to lift someone.

Tie It Together

How hard was it to lift up the blanket with someone on it? (Allow responses.) **It was pretty hard, and took a lot of people to help in order to do it. We can understand now that these four men went through a lot to bring their friend**

to Jesus. If they did not believe Jesus could heal their friend, do you think they would have worked so hard to get him there? Do you have friends that need to know about Jesus? Do you work hard to show them Jesus' love for them? Do you believe that Jesus can help them? (Allow responses.) Let's continue reading the Bible to see Jesus' response.

Mark 2:5

⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

Jesus sees the faith of these men. He sees that they believe he has the power to heal. But what does Jesus do? Does Jesus heal the man's legs right away? (No.) What does he tell this man? (His sins are forgiven.) Jesus came to change our hearts. He came to forgive our sins so that we can live with God forever. This man needs his sins to be forgiven more than he needs his legs to be healed.

What is more important: to be healed or to be forgiven of sin? (Allow responses.) We are all sinners. Our sin separates us from God. We might be healthy on the outside, but our hearts are filled with sin. We are not living like God wants us to when we are sinners and separated from him. It is more important that our sins are forgiven than our bodies be healed. Jesus can do this. He can forgive our sins so that we can know his love and live with him, our Creator, forever! Let's keep reading the Bible and see how the people watching this respond.

Mark 2:6-7

⁶ But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, ⁷ "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

These people do not believe that Jesus is God. They are right when they say that only God can forgive sins, but they do not believe that Jesus is God.

Let's see what happens next.

Mark 2:8-12

⁸ Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts?" ⁹ Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? ¹⁰ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man[a] has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, ¹¹ "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" ¹² And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

How does Jesus answer the people's questions? Jesus heals the man's legs. He wants them to know that he is God; he is able to heal the man's body and he is able to forgive their sins. Only God can forgive our sins, and Jesus is God. God has the power to heal our hearts and our bodies. How do you think the man feels? (Allow responses.) What do you think those who see what happened think? (Allow responses.)

How does the paralyzed man respond? (Allow responses.) He does not question Jesus. He believes Jesus, and he gets up and walks. What do the people around him do? (Allow responses.) They praise God. When we see God do great things, we should praise him. When we see God heal the hearts of those around us, we should praise him. Do you praise God every day for all that he has given you—family, friends, etc? When you hear a story like this that shows how powerful and amazing God is, does it make you want to praise him? (Allow responses.)

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer together. Praise God that he forgives our sins when we believe and trust in him.

Activity

Forgiven

The purpose is to illustrate how God forgives sin and gives us a clean heart.

Supplies:

Piece of paper

Marker

Pencil with eraser

With a marker, draw a big heart in the center of a piece of paper. **Sin is when we disobey God. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** Ask your child to tell you some things they consider sins and write them inside the heart. Talk about forgiveness. **Forgiveness means to take away or remove sin, letting go or sending away.** Then erase the “sin” until only the clean heart remains.

Tie It Together

Each one of us has sin in our heart. On our own, we cannot have a relationship with God because God is holy and cannot be around sin. God is the only one that can forgive our sins. This is what God wants to do for you. He wants to remove the sin from your heart. He has the power to do this, to clean your heart and forgive your sins. When this happens, we can experience his love and blessings in an amazing way.

