

## Lesson 12

### Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

**Bible Text:** Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26

Jesus shows He has power to forgive sins by healing a paralyzed man.

**Bible Truth:** Jesus forgives my sins.

**Bible Verse:** The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Mark 2:10 (NIV)

### For the Teacher

Jesus has authority over sickness, the forces of nature, and the devil. When He healed the paralytic, He was also purposely showing His authority as the Son of God to forgive sins. Let us follow the example of the four men who were determined to bring their friend to Jesus so he could be healed and forgiven.

LESSON SEGMENT	TIME	SEGMENT DESCRIPTION	SUPPLIES & PREPARATION
Focus on God's Word	7 min.	Object Lesson: Sin's Stain	Piece of white cloth, a bucket, water, black permanent marker, liquid soap.
Learn God's Word	18 min.	Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26	Visuals 12a, 12b.
Memorize God's Word	8 min.	Bible Verse: Mark 2:10 Bible Verse Activity: Balloon Pop	Write the Bible verse on the board, motions. Write each word of the verse on a strip of paper and place inside a balloon. Blow up the balloons.
Connect with God's Word	8 min.	Activity: I Need Help! Prayer Response	Crackers – one per child. A board or paper and a marker.
Bible Truth	12 min.	Jesus forgives my sins.	
Act on God's Word	8 min	Discussion and commitment time	
Review God's Word	14 min.	Review Questions Review Activity: Yay, I Can Walk! Craft: I Can Walk	For each child: print an outline of a man in Bible costume. Cut thick paper into a rectangle slightly larger than the man. 2 straws, crayons, scissors, tape.



## FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

### Object Lesson: Sin's Stain

**Items Needed:** a piece of white cloth, black permanent marker, a bucket, water, liquid soap.

*Fill the bucket half-way with water and add some soap. Have each child make a black mark on the white cloth. Hold up the cloth and point at all the stains.*

**Let's try and wash these stains out.**

*Put the cloth in the water and wash it vigorously. Show the kids that the stains are still there.*

These stains are like sins in our lives. We can't wash them out or get them out by ourselves no matter how much we try. Even if we hide sin, it is still there. And doing a good deed doesn't make it go away either. There is only one way to get rid of our sins. Does anyone know what that is? *(Allow responses.)* Our sins can only be washed away when Jesus forgives us. Nothing or no one can wipe out our sins except God.

Let's see what today's Bible lesson tells us about Jesus forgiving sins. It's about a man who was paralyzed. Being paralyzed means that he couldn't walk. His legs didn't work right. He had to sit or lie down all the time. A lot of things would be hard to do if you couldn't walk, right? How would you go to the bathroom? How would you walk to school or play with your friends? Let's see what happened to this man.



## LEARN GOD'S WORD

*(Open your Bible to Mark 2.)*

Jesus had traveled to many places and healed many sick people. Everyone wanted to see Him. Everyone heard about the healings and miracles. When He came back to Capernaum, news spread fast that He was in town. People came to the house where He was to hear Him teach. *(Display visual 12a.)* So many people crowded into the house that there was no more room, not even outside the door. People were pushing each other trying to squeeze in. Even some religious leaders and teachers of the Law had come to see what was going on.

Four men had heard that Jesus was in town and decided to carry their paralyzed friend on a mat to Jesus. They were sure He could heal their friend. They had their friend lie on a mat and then each took hold of one of the corners of the mat. Together they carried him to the house where Jesus was.

But when they got close to the house, they couldn't get anywhere near Jesus because of all the people. They tried to push their way through the crowd, but there was no way to get through. They weren't about to give up. They were determined to bring their friend to Jesus!

Let's see what that crowded room was like. *(Tell all the kids to stand up.)* Now put your hands down at your sides and move to the middle of the room. Squish together as close

as you can. Now that's crowded! The place was so crowded because everyone wanted to see Jesus. You can sit down in your place again. Let's see what the four friends did next.

The four men climbed up the outside staircase of the house to the flat roof, carefully carrying their friend on his mat. Then they started to make a hole in the roof right over where Jesus stood! They dug and tore tiles off the roof making the hole bigger and bigger until it was the right size. (*Display visual 12b.*) Then they lowered their friend down on his mat, right in front of Jesus!

Can you imagine how surprised everyone was to see a man coming down through a hole in the roof? Everyone looked up to see the four men who were helping their paralyzed friend get to Jesus!

What do you think about these four friends? (*Allow responses.*) They must have loved their friend very much to go to so much trouble to help him. They were sure that Jesus could heal him.

When He saw what they had done, Jesus knew that these men had faith. Then Jesus did something surprising. He said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." This was probably not what the man expected. He had come to Jesus because he wanted to walk! Jesus knew that. He knew that being paralyzed was bad. But He knew that sin in the man's heart was even worse. He needed to be forgiven.

When the teachers of the law and the religious leaders heard Jesus forgive the paralyzed man, they got upset. They thought to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks as if he's God? Only God can forgive sins." They didn't know that Jesus IS the Son of God.

Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking, so He asked them, "Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'" Jesus knew that God had given Him the power to forgive sins and heal people. He told the religious leaders, "The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." (*Point to the Bible Verse on the board: Mark 2:10.*)

Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said to him, "Get up, take your mat and go home."

Immediately the man stood up in front of them all! Then he picked up the mat that he had been lying on and went home praising God. Only God could heal a person like that.

Everyone there was amazed. They also praised God and said, "We have never seen anything like this!"

## MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

**Bible Verse: The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Mark 2:10**

What a very special moment for that man. One moment he couldn't walk and then Jesus healed him, and he could. But what is even more special is that Jesus also forgave the man his sins.

Because Jesus is the Son of God, He had the power to both heal the paralyzed man and forgive his sins. Do you believe that Jesus has the same power today? (*Allow responses.*)



**Yes! Jesus has the same power to heal us and forgive us, too. We show our faith in Jesus' power today by believing the words of our memory verse: The Son of Man (that's Jesus) has authority on earth to forgive sins. Mark 2:10.**

**Let's say our Bible verse together.**

**The Son of Man** - Tap middle finger of right hand onto left palm. Tap middle finger of left hand onto right palm.

**has authority** - Make a power pose.

**on earth** - Make the shape of a globe with both hands.

**to forgive sins** - Stretch out both arms to make a cross.

**Mark 2:10** - Make the numbers with your fingers.

### **Bible Verse Activity: Balloon Pop**

**Preparation Before Class:** Write each word of the Bible verse on a strip of paper. Place each strip inside a balloon. Blow up the balloons.

**During Class:** Have the kids pop the balloons and put the strips of paper in the right order of the Bible verse. If you have a large group, make two sets of balloons, and have the kids race.



## **CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD**

### **Activity: I Need Help!**

**Items needed:** a cracker for each child

*Divide the kids into groups. Send a group leader to get some crackers.*

**Let's see what it's like to be paralyzed. Leaders, give each person in your group a cracker. Now everyone hold your cracker in one hand and stretch that arm out straight in front of you. Pretend that it's paralyzed. It won't move or bend at all. But you really want to eat the cracker. How are you going to get that cracker in your mouth when you can't bend your elbow or move your arm? You just can't get the cracker to your mouth, right?**

**How are you going to eat that cracker? Allow the kids to give suggestions. Then say: Remember, you have friends to help you! Have the kids use their stiff arm to feed another friend in the group. Ok. You can move your arms now.**

**Jesus healed the paralyzed man, and He also forgave his sins. Do you think it is more important for a person to be healed or to have his sins forgiven? (Allow responses.)**

**Jesus healed the man's body, and He forgave his sins. The people couldn't see his sins being forgiven, but they could see him walk and so they knew he had also been forgiven.**

**Both are important, but the most important thing in a person's life is to have our sins forgiven. Sin separates us from God and only Jesus can cleanse us from sin. Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins and bring us back to God.**



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Write the words **forgive** and **forgiveness** in big letters on a board and open a discussion about God's forgiveness. Use the suggested questions below and add others if you like.

- Who can forgive our sins? (Jesus)
- Why is it important to ask God to forgive our sins? (Sin separates us from God.)
- What must we do to have our sins forgiven? (Tell God we are sorry we have sinned and ask Jesus to cleanse us from sin.)
- What does it mean to have our sins forgiven? (We are made clean like we have never sinned.)
- What happens when we are forgiven by God? (We will be friends with God.)
- Who has the authority to forgive sins? (Remind them of the Bible verse: The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Mark 2:10)

### Prayer Response

Have the kids sit quietly for a few minutes and ask God if there is anything they need to ask the Lord to forgive them for. Encourage them to listen to God speaking in their heart. After a few minutes, ask the kids to raise their hands if they need to ask God to forgive them for something. Then lead them in a prayer of forgiveness.

**Leading a Child to Jesus:** Ask if there is someone who wants to invite Jesus into their lives and receive forgiveness of sin for the first time. Offer to pray with them after the lesson. (See Teacher's Guide p.3 Leading a Child to Jesus.)

Close the prayer time thanking God that when we ask Jesus to forgive and cleanse us from our sins, we can be sure He will.



### BIBLE TRUTH

**Bible Truth:** Jesus forgives my sins.

Let's say our Bible Truth together.



### ACT ON GOD'S WORD

The paralyzed man's friends had faith that Jesus could heal their friend. They went to a lot of effort to carry him to Jesus. They were kind to their sick friend, and Jesus saw their faith and love.

**How can we be like the paralyzed man's friends?** (Allow responses.)

**How can we "carry" our friends to Jesus?** (Allow responses.)

**How can we show our friends we care about them?** (Allow responses.)

Possible answers might include:

We can pray for them.

We can bring a friend to Sunday School or church.

We can tell them about Jesus.

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We can share a snack with them.  
We can be kind to them.

*Encourage the kids to commit to being a good friend. Have them choose one friend to pray for all week and invite that friend to church.*



### REVIEW GOD'S WORD

#### Review Questions

1. In which town did today's story take place? (Capernaum)
2. What did the people do when they heard that Jesus was in town? (They came to see Him and hear Him teach.)
3. What was wrong with the sick man? (He was paralyzed.)
4. How many friends carried the paralyzed man? (Four)
5. What did the man's friends do when they couldn't get into the house? (They took their friend up to the roof, made a hole in it, and lowered him down.)
6. What was the first thing Jesus said to the paralyzed man? (Your sins are forgiven.)
7. What did Jesus want the people to know He had authority to do? (Forgive sins.)
8. What did Jesus tell the paralyzed man to do? (Get up, take his mat, and go home.)
9. What happened to the man after Jesus spoke to him? (He was immediately healed.)
10. Who was NOT happy at what Jesus did? (The religious leaders and teachers)

*After each review question have the kids jump up, wave their hands in the air, and say, "Yay, I can walk," to celebrate the paralyzed man's healing.*

#### Craft: I Can Walk

**Preparation:** Prepare one set per child

An outline of a man in Bible costume. A rectangle of thick paper slightly larger than the man for a mat. Two straws, tape, crayons, scissors.

#### Directions:

1. Color and cut out the man. Color the mat.
2. Tape the 2 straws under the mat.
3. Tape the man lying down on the mat.
4. When Jesus healed the man, he got up. Make him stand up as if carrying his mat.