

LESSON 12

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

LUKE 5:17-26



BIBLE TRUTH

FORGIVENESS IS THE GREATER HEALING

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: sheet or blanket, helper

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 90)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 12—one for each child; markers or crayons

Drawing Near to Jesus

SUPPLIES: felt board with figures to tell the story of Jesus healing the paralyzed man (If you don’t have a felt board you can use a whiteboard and do a simple drawing. Stick figures are OK for young children!)

Acting Out the Miracle

SUPPLIES: stretcher (made out of two stout branches or broomsticks and a piece of heavy canvas)

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about how Jesus healed a paralyzed man.

You will need a sheet or blanket for this opening object lesson and at least one adult helper.

Tell the children that today's lesson is about a paralyzed man. Tell them that someone who is paralyzed cannot move his legs. Ask for a volunteer to pretend to be paralyzed by laying down on the blanket and not moving their legs at all. (You may need to fold the sheet or blanket in half so that it is not too large.)

Explain to the children that long ago they would not have been able to get around unless someone carried them on a stretcher. Tell the children the blanket is going to be your pretend stretcher. Have all the children gather around the blanket and grab the edge with two hands. You and your adult helper should grab the blanket at the head and feet of your volunteer. Tell the class on the count of three you want them to lift up the blanket by the edge. Once the volunteer is lifted have the class shuffle toward the center of the room, moving the stretcher and then gently setting the paralyzed person down. Thank your volunteer and invite him to rejoin the class.

Ask the children what paralyzed people do today to move around. (Today they use a wheelchair.) Ask the children to explain why a wheelchair would be helpful to a paralyzed person.

Tell the children that you are going to read a story about a paralyzed man and ask the class if anyone can guess what Jesus did for him? (Accept their answers, but don't tell them if they are correct.) Tell the class to listen carefully to see what Jesus did for the paralyzed man.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 90, "Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened in the story?**
(Several men brought a paralyzed man to Jesus. They could not get into the house to see him so they carried the man up to the roof and lowered him down into the room. Jesus forgave the man's sins and then healed him. The man walked home without assistance.)

- **Who was watching Jesus?**
(The Pharisees and teachers of the law [scribes].)

- **Why did the Pharisees and the scribes begin to question Jesus in their hearts when Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven?"**
(The scribes knew that only God could forgive sins. To demonstrate his authority to forgive sins, Jesus also healed the paralyzed man.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus could forgive the sins of the crippled man because he knew what was before him. In a few short years, he would walk the road to Calvary and hang upon a tree. The crippled man's sins would be placed upon Jesus, and the Father would pour out his anger for them and all the sins of mankind. Jesus would bear the punishment until God's anger was completely exhausted, and then he would say, for the crippled man and for all the sins of all those who place their trust in Jesus, "It is finished" (John 19:30). People today have the same choice as those gathered in our story. We can either approach Jesus, critical of his teaching and skeptical of his claim to be God, or like the crippled man, we can demonstrate faith and allow nothing to come between us and seeing Jesus.

- Did the paralyzed man believe in Jesus?
(Yes he did. He went home glorifying God.)
- What is amazing in this story?
(The children will likely say that Jesus healed the man. Make sure to point out to them that Jesus also forgave the man of his sin and the man went home praising God.)
- What good would it be to be healed but not forgiven?
(Better for us to be forgiven and spend the rest of life as a cripple than to have our bodies healed of sickness but spend eternity in hell.)
- How did the crowd react to what happened?
(They were filled with awe and thought the whole incident was amazing.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 12—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Why did the men take their paralyzed friend up to the roof?
(A crowd filled the house and blocked the doorway so they could not get in.)
- What did the crippled man's friends do once they got him up on the roof?
(They lowered him down so that he could see Jesus.)
- What did Jesus do for the crippled man?
(Jesus forgave his sins and healed him.)

Drawing Near to Jesus

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ felt board with figures to tell the story of Jesus healing the paralyzed man
(If you don't have a felt board you can use a whiteboard and do a simple drawing. Stick figures are OK for young children!)

Retell the story of the paralyzed man with your felt board and use the phrase, "He wanted to draw near to Jesus."

After telling the story, ask the children to think of ways we can draw near to Jesus today. Some possible answers: pray to him, worship him, read the Bible, listen to the preaching of the Bible on Sunday, praise him, etc. See how many of these answers you can draw out of the children.

Acting Out the Miracle

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ stretcher (made out of two stout branches or broomsticks and a piece of heavy canvas)

Explain to the children that you are going to act out the miracle Jesus did in the story today. Have all the children lay down on the classroom floor. Tell them that when they hear you say, "Rise, pick up your bed, and go home," you want them pretend to pick up their stretcher and walk to the far side of the room. (Designate a wall in your classroom as "home.") One by one touch the children on the forehead and repeat the phrase. Each one should get up, pick up their stretcher, and go home. When you've touched the last child, ask them to tell you how they think the healed man felt about Jesus. Take time to draw them out about what it would have been like to be there in person.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

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