

JESUS HEALS THE PARALYTIC

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 5:17-26



The STORY

Read about Jesus healing the paralytic in Luke 5:17-26.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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 took the man onto 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 paralytic, "your sins are forgiven?" (The scribes knew only God could forgive sins. They were correct. To show them that Jesus did have the authority, He also healed the paralyzed man.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: paralytic being lowered through the roof. Engage the children by asking:

- Why did the men take the paralytic up to the roof? (The crowd filled the house and blocked the doorway so they could not get in.)
- What do we learn about the men who are carrying the crippled man? (They were serving their friend. They also had great faith that they would go through all the trouble to have the crippled man carried up onto the roof and then lowered down to Jesus.)
- What did Jesus first notice about these men? (Jesus saw their faith. They would let nothing stop them from getting close to Jesus.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Did the paralytic man believe in Jesus? (Yes he did. It says 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.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The teachers of the law, the scribes, and Pharisees knew full well that only God had the power to forgive sins. In response to their objections (remember Jesus knew what was in their hearts), Jesus challenged them by healing the crippled man. By this He was saying they were correct. Only God could forgive sins; Jesus is God.

The teachers, scribes, and Pharisees were amazed along with everyone else. Jesus was more than a good man or teacher. He was God Himself, sent to suffer and die for our sins. Jesus could forgive the man based only on the cross. The paralyzed man placed his faith in Jesus, the Savior, and God forgave him.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 worker.