



Healing the Paralyzed Man

Lesson Aim: To challenge children to bring their friends to Jesus for healing of their bodies and souls.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: Jesus as the God of Healing

THE WORD

Bible Story: Mark 2:1-12

What He has done: Jesus healed and forgave the paralyzed man.

Key Verse: Mark 2:10-11

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 2 Chronicles 6:30b-31

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalm 103:2-5

Unit 2: Jesus as the God of Healing			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	Healing the Centurion's Servant, Luke 7:2-8; Matthew 8:10-13	Jesus healed the centurion's servant with His words alone.	To study Jesus' relationship with Gentiles and Jews as revealed in the story of the centurion's servant.
7	Healing the Paralyzed Man, Mark 2:1-12	Jesus healed and forgave the paralyzed man.	To challenge children to bring their friends to Jesus for healing of their bodies and souls.
8	Healing the Sick Woman, Mark 5:24b-34	Jesus healed the sick woman.	To challenge children to reach out to Jesus with their unsolvable problems.
9	Healing the Deaf and Mute Man, Mark 7:32-37	Jesus healed the deaf and mute man.	To hear the salvation message, to be invited to respond to it, and to share it with others.
10	Healing the Ten Men, Luke 17:12-19	Jesus healed the ten men with leprosy.	To see how what Jesus does for us and the praise He expects from us changes us for the better.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 1 John 4:7-16. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the friends You give us. Surround the children with faithful friends that they may bring each other to You. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Man on the Mat Race	Poster board or pillowcase (one per team), ping-pong balls or inflated non-helium balloons
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Heal Me, O Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" "Give Thanks" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:8-9	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 7 Bonzai Brothers script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Mark 2:1-12	Map—Capernaum, Israel, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: 2 Chronicles 6:30b-31	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Invitation to attend church or a special event, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise the Lord, O My Soul," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Stuck Together	Cream-filled sandwich cookies
	Up to 10	Game: Friend Tag	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Rooftop Prayer Drop	Cardboard box or container with a separate lid, enough note cards or note-card size craft foam rectangles for each child to have a few, brown raffia (or straw or shredded brown paper), glue, crayons or markers, optional: assorted craft decorations, scissors
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Bible Memory Verse Brainstorm	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Hot Potato Scramble	Sturdy brown paper, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise the Lord, O My Soul," CD player, Bible Memory Verse poster, timer
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: Who are your closest friends?

GAME: MAN ON THE MAT RACE

Purpose: Children enjoy a race that introduces the story about the healing of the man on the mat.

Supplies: Poster board or pillowcase (one per team), ping-pong balls or inflated non-helium balloons

Teacher Tip: To make the race more challenging for older children, add identical obstacles to each team's path to make it more difficult for them to navigate.

Why are friends special to us? (Children respond.) **Those are all great reasons! In a few minutes, we are going to learn about a man who had four very special friends. The man could not walk. His friends worked very hard to take him to Jesus so Jesus could heal him.**

Let's get started today with a "Man on the Mat Race." In this race, four friends must work together to carry the man's mat across the finish line without dropping the man (ping pong ball or balloon). **May the fastest friends win!**

Directions:

1. Divide children into relay teams of four friends on each team.
2. Team line up at the starting line.
3. Each friend holds one corner of the "mat."
4. Place a "man" (ping pong ball or balloon) on each mat.
5. On your signal, teams race to the finish line.
6. If the man falls off the mat, the team must start over at the starting point for the race.
7. The first team to reach the finish line with the man on the mat and each friend still holding a corner of the mat wins.

Limited Space? Use a piece of sturdy paper as the mat and a ping-pong ball as the man. Each team of 4-10 players stands in a line. The first player passes the Man on the Mat between his or her legs to the player behind him or her. That player passes the Man on the Mat over his or her head to the player behind him or her. Players alternate passing the Man on the Mat between the legs or over the head. If a player drops the Man on the Mat, the team must start over. The first team to reach the last person in their line wins.



Jesus as the God of Healing

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

The Seven Stars of Lent

If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org under Children—Other Resources. Choose one star for each week of the Lent season.

We worship Jesus as the God of Healing. In today's story, we will learn Jesus not only heals our bodies, but He also heals our souls. Our souls are the part of us that lives forever. God's forgiveness brings healing to our souls.



You may choose to sing songs that focus on the God of Healing.



Let's begin our worship time by admitting our sins and asking God to forgive us.

Read 1 John 1:8-9. Play Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" as children silently confess their sins.



When Jesus healed the man on the mat, the crowd praised Him. We can give Him thanks and praise now with our voices and with our offerings. Sing: "Give Thanks" or another favorite hymn of thanksgiving while collecting the offering.



Perform Bonzai Brothers script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 2, Lesson 7.



Jesus healed the paralyzed man on the mat

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Jesus healed the centurion's servant. Did Jesus have to go to the servant's home? (No.) How did Jesus heal the servant? (Jesus just said the servant would be healed, and he was healed right away!) Today, let's learn how some men in Capernaum brought their friend to Jesus for healing. If a map of Ancient Israel is available, point to Capernaum, Israel on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

In the Bible, we read the man was a paralytic. That means he was paralyzed; he could not move or walk. In those days, a paralyzed man would lay on a mat all day. In order to go anywhere, he would need to be carried by others. The Bible does not say how the four men knew the paralyzed man. Maybe they were old friends, or maybe the four men just saw the man on the mat as they walked toward the house where Jesus was teaching. Either way, they acted as good friends by choosing to carry him all the way to Jesus.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Mark 2:1-12. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Mark 2:10-11.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Listen carefully as we read about Jesus healing the man on the mat. Read Mark 2:1-12.



We can bring friends to Jesus

THE WAY

What were the physical challenges the four men faced? (Getting him to the roof, making a hole in the roof, safely lowering him into the crowded room.) **The four men faced other challenges as well. They risked being embarrassed and rejected. The crowd did not make room for the man on the mat. How do you think the crowd might have reacted when they saw the roof open and the four men lower their friend into the house?** (Children respond.)

Do you think the four men wondered if they would have to pay for the roof to be repaired? (Children respond.) **Do you think they wondered if the homeowner would scold them for damaging the roof or if Jesus would reject them?** (Children respond.) **The four men knew Jesus could heal their friend, but they did not know if He would choose to heal him that day. How would the men have felt if Jesus had sent them away?** (Children respond.)

What challenges might you face in bringing your friends to Jesus? (Children respond.) **In what ways might it be embarrassing, costly or cause you to feel foolish?** (Children respond.) **Why is it worth these risks to bring your friends to Jesus?** (Children respond.)

What was the first thing Jesus said to the man on the mat when He saw the faith of the four men? ("Your sins are forgiven.") **Taking our sins away is something only God can do. By saying this, who was Jesus claiming to be?** (God.)

What did the teachers of the Jewish law accuse Jesus of doing? (Blaspheming.) **Blasphemy is being disrespectful to God. Why did they think Jesus' words were disrespectful to God?** (He was claiming to be God.) **Jesus asked them, "What was the bigger miracle—healing the man's body or forgiving the man's sins?" How would you have answered Jesus?** (Children respond.)

Why did Jesus say He healed the man's body? (He did this miracle to show the teachers He had authority from God to forgive sins.) **What did Jesus know about the teachers of the Law that only God can know?** (He knew what they were thinking in their hearts.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 900 years before Jesus showed He knew the thoughts of our hearts, King Solomon spoke of it in his prayer dedicating the temple to the Lord. Let's read about it.



FIND IT FIRST> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 2 Chronicles 6:30b-31. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read 2 Chronicles 6:30b-31.

How does it encourage you to know Jesus knows the thoughts of your heart? (Children respond.) **Some of us need healing in our bodies, but as King Solomon's prayer reminds us, we all need God's forgiveness. God's forgiveness is healing for our souls—that part of us which lives forever. Our sins separate us from God. His forgiveness brings us close again.**

Do you have a friend who needs physical healing? (Children respond.) **Do you have a friend who doesn't know God's forgiveness?** (Children respond.) **How can we bring our friends to Jesus.** (Pray for them, invite them to church or to an event that focuses on Jesus, tell them Bible stories about Jesus, love them as Jesus does, tell them what Jesus has done for you.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is an invitation to church or a special event. Inviting a friend to church is one way to bring friends to Jesus. Give this invitation to a friend, family member, or a neighbor. Pray that this invitation will help bring someone closer to Jesus.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #7. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the four men lowering the man on the mat down through the roof to Jesus. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Praise the Lord, O My Soul," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: STUCK TOGETHER

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing friendship.

Snack Suggestion: Cream-filled sandwich cookies

Teacher Tip: Make your own sandwich cookies by spreading frosting or a similar sweet cream on a cookie. Press another cookie onto the first cookie so the filling is "sandwiched" in the center.

Sandwich cookies are two cookies stuck together. They remind me of friends who stick together and help each other. Today, we learned the paralyzed man had four very good friends who "stuck together" to help him get to Jesus. While we eat our snack, let's talk about how we help our friends.

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"How have you helped your friends?"**

GAME: FRIEND TAG

Purpose: Children play a version of tag to remind them that friends help each other.

Supplies: None

In today's story, the four friends helped the man on the mat. Friends help each other. In this game of Friend Tag, you must help your friends avoid being tagged!

Directions:

1. Children pair up and link arms at the elbow with their partner.
2. Have one of the pairs volunteer to begin the game as the chaser and the runner. (One person being the chaser and the other person being the runner).
3. Explain that as long as you are linked arms with another person you are safe from the chaser and cannot be tagged.
4. The game begins with the chaser trying to tag the runner.
5. In order to avoid being tagged and become safe the runner must link arms with one of the pairs, forming a group of three. The third person at the other end of the link must break off and become the runner.
6. If someone is tagged before they can successfully link arms with a group of two then he or she becomes the chaser.
7. Periodically, call out **"Switch!"** All children must link with new friends. The chaser can tag any child who does not switch friends or who has not yet linked with a new friend.

Limited Space? Play "For My Friend." Children sit in a circle. First child says, "For my friend, I would _____." The child completes the statement with something special he or she would do for a good friend. The next child repeats the previous child's statement, before stating his or her own. Each child takes a turn, repeating all previous answers before his or her own.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: ROOFTOP PRAYER DROP

Purpose: Children will use their house-shaped prayer box to bring their friends to Jesus in prayer.

Supplies: Cardboard box or container with a separate lid, enough note cards or note-card size craft foam rectangles for each child to have a few, brown raffia (or straw or shredded brown paper), glue, crayons or markers, optional: assorted craft decorations (glitter glue, craft gems, etc.), scissors

Prepare: Cut an opening in the box lid large enough for a note card.

Optional: You may choose to have the students cut the opening in their box lids. Instead of printing names, glue friends' photographs onto the rectangle mats.

In Bible times, most Capernaum homes were one-story houses with stone walls and a set of stone steps on the side of the house leading to the flat roof. The roofs were made of light wooden beams and thatch (straw) mixed with mud. The four men would have carried the man on the mat up the steps, removed a portion of the thatch roof, and lowered him on his mat through that opening.

Today, you will create your own version of the house in Capernaum. By writing a friend's name on each "mat," you can lower the mat through the roof as you take your friend to Jesus by praying for them. It's your own Rooftop Prayer Drop. Keep it in a special place in your home to remind you to pray for your friends often. Your house of prayer will hold as many friends as you like!

Directions:

1. Optional: Cut an opening in the box lid large enough for a note card.
2. Glue brown raffia, straw, or shredded brown paper onto the lid of the box.
3. Print a friend's name each on a rectangle mat (note card or craft foam rectangle).
4. Create the appearance of stone walls by drawing stone shapes on the sides of the box.
5. If time allows, decorate the mats with crayons, markers, and assorted craft decorations.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.” Psalm 103:2-5

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE BRAINSTORM

Purpose: Children will discuss the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Our new Bible Memory Verse comes from Psalm 103:2-5. Let's read each line together from the poster. After each line, raise your hand if you can tell us what it means.

- **Praise the Lord, O my soul** (Let the deepest part of you tell God how great He is!)
- **And forget not all His benefits** (Don't forget all the wonderful things God has done for you.)
- **Who forgives all your sins** (Jesus forgives all our wrong doings.)
- **And heals all your diseases** (Jesus can heal anything and anyone.)
- **Who redeems your life from the pit** (He paid for your life by dying on the cross.)
- **And crowns you with love and compassion** (His love and caring is like a treasured crown.)
- **Who satisfies your desires with good things** (He makes you happy with good things.)
- **So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.** (Your strength is refreshed.)

Teacher Tip: For an extra challenge, form eight teams. Assign a different phrase to each team. Have teams discuss the meaning of the phrase and create a poster to help them describe the meaning to the rest of the children. Teams take turns explaining their posters.

GAME: HOT POTATO SCRAMBLE

Purpose: In this variation of the Hot Potato game, children quickly pass their paper potatoes around the circle and then put the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse in order once the music stops.

Supplies: Sturdy brown paper, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song “Praise the Lord, O My Soul,” CD player, Bible Memory Verse poster, timer

Prepare: Divide the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse into five or more phrases. From sturdy brown paper, cut a paper potato for each phrase. Write a different phrase on each potato. Add symbols or pictures for non-readers. Display Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Repeat the Bible Memory Verse several times together.
3. Scramble the order of the paper potatoes (“hot potatoes”). Distribute the hot potatoes.
4. Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song “Praise the Lord, O My Soul.”
5. As if the potatoes are too hot to hold, each child quickly passes the hot potatoes to the child on his or her left and receives another hot potato from the child on his or her right.
6. Continue passing the hot potatoes around the circle until the song is stopped.
7. Periodically stop the song. When the music stops, the children with a hot potato race to the center of the circle and place them in the correct order of the Bible Memory Verse.
8. Play again, as time allows.
9. **Optional:** Time the children and challenge them to get a faster time each round.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Review the recent Bible stories studied to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Create or purchase a Bible Timeline. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the corresponding questions to review recent lessons.

Feeding the Five Thousand (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What did the boy offer Jesus? (Five loaves of bread and two fish.) **Jesus distributed the boy's loaves of bread and fish. Did each person in the crowd have enough to eat? (Yes.) How many baskets of leftovers were there? (12.)**

Healing the Centurion's Servant (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What did the centurion ask Jesus to do? (Heal his servant.) **How did the centurion know Jesus could heal his servant without touching him? (He knew if Jesus gave the order for the servant to be healed, that it would happen just as Jesus said it would.)**

Healing the Paralyzed Man (Circa 30-33 A.D.) How did the four men help the man on the mat? (They brought him to Jesus by lowering him through the roof into the room where Jesus was teaching.) **What two miracles did Jesus do when He saw the faith of the man's friends? (He forgave the man's sins and healed his body.)**

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Miracles of Jesus:

1. Print each story title on a card or paper cutout of a footprint.
2. Attach footprints to a wall or clothesline in the order below for God of Wonders Lessons 1-21, so children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons in the study of the miracles of Jesus.

The Miracles of Jesus: (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Changing Water into Wine > Filling the Nets > Calming the Storm > Healing Jairus' Daughter > Feeding the Five Thousand > Healing the Centurion's Servant > Healing the Paralyzed Man > Healing the Sick Woman > Healing the Deaf and Mute Man > Healing the Ten Men > Banishing an Evil Spirit > Saving the Official's Son > Walking on Water > Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind > Raising Lazarus > Riding into Jerusalem > The Miracle of Easter > Appearing to the Disciples > Appearing to Thomas > Appearing on the Shore > Ascending into Heaven

Note: God of Wonders Part One studies the miracles of Jesus, which took place during His public ministry (Circa 30-33 A.D.). This list is not chronological, as the Bible does not give a definitive order of the miracles. For a comprehensive list of Genesis through Revelation stories in timeline form, see ResourceWell.org.