

LESSON 1

JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO IS PARALYZED

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Forgives and Heals

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2

GOD'S BIG STORY: By miraculously giving the ability to walk to a man who is paralyzed, Jesus shows that He has power to forgive sins and to heal.

Activity: Doctor Play

Activity: Build a House

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Follow the Leader

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Doctor Play

SUPPLIES: self-adhesive medical wrap, stuffed teddy bear or other stuffed animal, toy doctor supplies

Before kids arrive, wrap self-adhesive medical wrap around a stuffed animal's head, arms, or legs.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I am so glad you are here today. I have something to show you. Look! This is my friend, Teddy. Oh no! He looks hurt. I wonder what happened to him. Do you have any ideas? Allow time for responses. **He has bandages on him to help him get better. Being healed means someone who is hurt or sick gets better. Did you know that when people are hurt or sick, doctors can use different tools to help? Let's pretend to be doctors and help Teddy feel better!**

One at a time, present different toy doctor tools and allow kids to use them to help Teddy.

Thank you for helping Teddy! I think he feels so much better now. We can take off his bandages.

Start taking the bandages off the plush animal and allow kids to assist.

Today we'll hear about a man in the Bible who could not walk, and we'll find out how he was healed!

Activity: Build a House

SUPPLIES: interlocking plastic blocks or magnetic blocks, toy people figures

Place small interlocking plastic blocks or magnetic blocks and toy people figures in the activity area.

Allow kids to use the various blocks to build houses for the toy people. Kids can put the people in or on top of the houses.

In God's big story today, we'll hear about a time when Jesus was teaching in a house. The house was so full of people who wanted to listen to Jesus! Let's build a house and put people inside just like in the story.

Leader Tip: Be sure the blocks chosen for this activity aren't a choking hazard.

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—Touch the tip of the middle finger into the center of the palm of your opposite hand, then touch middle finger to palm of other hand (nails through His palms while on the cross).

FORGIVES AND—Place hands on heart.

HEALS—Move arms around shoulders and squeeze (hug).

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Walking with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today, we're learning that Jesus forgives and heals!

We'll learn in the God's big story how God has the power to forgive and heal.

Play songs from the [Walking with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), paper, male and female toy people figures (several), toy house

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a man who could not walk. We'll learn about how his friends helped him! Let's find out from the Bible what happened to them!

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, or read the story from the Bible, or use the Script provided.

Ahead of time, cut a small rectangle from the paper (large enough for a toy person figure to fit on) and set the props nearby so kids will be able to see them.

One day Jesus was teaching at a house in a town. We will pretend that this man is Jesus. Show a male toy person figure to the kids and then place him in the house. **Jesus had been there before, and people had heard about how great He was. Lots of people came to see Him. The house where Jesus was teaching was full of people. There wasn't room even to stand outside the door and listen.** Place other toy people figures in the house.

Then four friends came to the house, carrying a man who couldn't walk. Show four toy people figures and ask kids to imagine that these figures are holding the paper mat with another toy person figure on it. **They wanted to bring their friend to Jesus, but there were too many people. They couldn't get through.**

In those days, houses had stairs on the outside, and the stairs led up to the roof. Point to the outside of the house and then to the roof. **When the four friends got to the roof, which was made of mud, they dug and dug and dug.** Move the four friends and mat with the man to the roof. **They made a hole big enough for their friend to fit through. Then they lowered the man down on a mat so he could see Jesus.** Move the man on the mat down into the house. **Jesus saw the man coming down, but that's not all He saw. Jesus saw the faith of the four friends. Jesus saw that they trusted Him. So Jesus told the man on the mat that he was forgiven for the wrong things he had done. That's sin.**

Jesus had the power to forgive sins because He is the Son of God. Then Jesus turned to the man and told him to get his mat and walk! Then the man who couldn't walk before stood up. He took his mat and walked away! Make the male toy figure stand up with his mat and make it move away from the house. **It was a miracle! Everyone at the house praised God. Jesus forgives and heals!**

Leader Tip: If two adult leaders are available, one can read the God's Big Story Script while the other leader moves and adjusts the props.

Leader Tip: Be sensitive to any kids in your ministry who have a disability (or a family member with a disability). If they ask why God hasn't healed them, don't try to explain or give reasons. The truth is, we don't understand why God does or does not heal physical disabilities. But we can still trust that He is all-powerful, He is good, and He loves us. Remind kids that God hears our prayers and may bring healing in other ways.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

Thank You, God, for healing and forgiving. Thank You for showing us that Jesus is Your Son. Help us forgive others like You do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God remind you that He loves you very much! And may you have joy because Jesus forgives all our sins as we trust in Him.

Activity: Follow the Leader

In God's big story today, the man could not walk at first. His friends had to carry him on a mat. When his friends took him to Jesus, Jesus healed him! He could walk now!

Let's play Follow the Leader around the room to show how the man may have moved after Jesus healed him.

Ask the kids to line up behind the leader. The leader will move in different ways around the room and the kids in line will copy the leader. Some ideas for moving around the room include walking, hopping, marching, raising high knees, spinning, or doing jumping jacks.

Make It Inclusive! For kids who can't stand or move easily, this game can be played while sitting. Instead of doing movements around the room, a leader can say things or make movements that the kids can copy. Some ideas include raising both arms and saying, "Thank you, Jesus!" and kicking out one leg, stomping your feet, and saying, "Praise God!"