

LESSON 1

JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO IS PARALYZED

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power to Forgive and Heal

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.

WORD OF WONDER: Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest.

—Matthew 11:28

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Interactive Game: Three-Legged Race
- Welcome Question: What is the best thing a friend has ever done for you?
- SMALL GROUP
- Prayer of Invitation
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Worship: Praise You Anywhere, Take You At Your Word
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: Worthy of it All
- Prayer & Blessing



Walking With Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power to Forgive and Heal

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2

WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

The Bible gives account after account of miracles Jesus did while walking on earth. Sometimes we read through these familiar stories and lose sight of the true power that Jesus demonstrated.

Read Mark 2:1–12. In this passage, we learn about the time when Jesus, teaching in a crowded house, healed a man who was paralyzed. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be in the crowd that day? The physical healing of this man is impressive, but the spiritual healing, the forgiving of the man's sins—that demonstrated the type of power that the religious onlookers found offensive. Jesus' power isn't merely for physical healing or forgiveness. Jesus has power for both.

When we recognize Jesus' power over sin and His complete defeat of death, we too can experience the spiritual healing Jesus offers. First John 1:9 tells us that if we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive our sins. Only Jesus has the power to forgive.

Take a moment to rest in awe of Jesus' power. In what part of your life do you most want to see Jesus work today? There is nothing we face in this world that is more powerful than Jesus. What an amazing truth we can rest in as we walk with Jesus!

—Ana Dutton

Children's Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**
JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO IS PARALYZED

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Teachers of the law, or scribes, were experts in the law of Moses and in traditions about how the law should be applied. They were responsible for teaching others, especially children, how to read and understand the Scriptures. Some scribes were also Jewish religious leaders called *Pharisees*.

WHAT?

While Jesus taught inside a crowded house in Capernaum, four people dug out a hole in the roof to lower down a man who could not walk. Jesus forgave the man's sins and then healed him, demonstrating His authority to the teachers of the law.

WHERE?

Jesus' early ministry took place in the region of Galilee, north of Jerusalem and the region of Judea. Capernaum was a town in Galilee located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus used it as a home base.

WHEN?

This story comes early in Jesus' ministry. Jesus had begun preaching about God's kingdom and had called His first disciples. Because Jesus cast out demons and healed many sick people, word about Him started to spread, and large crowds found Him wherever He went.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus inaugurated God's kingdom and made a way for all people to be part of it. This story demonstrates Jesus' power to forgive sins and to heal—that is, to bring about the realities of God's kingdom, which was beginning to break through.

Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power to Forgive and Heal

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WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

Interactive Game: Three-Legged Race

7-10 MINUTES PRE-SERVICE

SUPPLIES: painter's tape, cord or rope (at least 2' long, 1 per 2 kids)

SLIDE: THREE-LEGGED RACE

Lead the kids in competing in a three-legged race. Affix two long strips of painter's tape to the floor in your teaching space—one to mark the start line and one to mark the point where kids will turn and head back to where they started. Divide the group into two or more teams, and place the kids into pairs within those teams, making sure each team has the same number of pairs. (If you have an odd number of kids in your group, ask an adult or teen leader to pair up with a kid so everyone has a chance to play.) Before the race, have each pair of kids stand side-by-side. Invite leaders to tie their inside [nearest] legs together with a cord or rope. (Older kids can do their own tying.)

Once every pair of kids is "three-legged," line them up at the start line. When you say, "Go," the first pair of kids from each team must work together to reach the second tape strip, turn around, and travel back to the starting line, where they will tag the next pair in their team to go. (If your group is large or you want the game to go more quickly, divide each team into two groupings, with one group of pairs starting at the starting line and tagging teammate pairs at the second line.) When all the teams are finished, end the race and declare a winner.



Leader Tip: If your group is large or your space isn't conducive to having all the kids participate in a three-legged race, choose four kid volunteers (two pairs) to participate in a race. Invite half of the kids to cheer for one pair, and the other half the other pair.

Make It Inclusive! Encourage volunteers to be available to assist kids who need help competing in the race. Or have kids play an alternative game that everyone can participate in, such as having pairs work together to build a house with blocks using only one hand each.

"That was fun! Everyone did a great job of working together in our three-legged race. No matter how fast or talented you are by yourself, in this game you had to work with a friend to get where you needed to go. You needed a friend to help. In God's big story today, we're going to learn about a man who couldn't walk and a group of his friends who helped him get to Jesus, the only One with the power to forgive and heal.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH



Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS HAS POWER TO FORGIVE AND HEAL.**"

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question: Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

"It feels so good when other people do kind things for us. It also feels great to show kindness to others! Today we'll learn about a miraculous act of kindness that Jesus showed to a man who couldn't walk. But first it's time for small group."



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You for loving us and caring for us. Thank You for Your great power that can heal our bodies and forgive our sins. Through the power of Your Spirit, please teach us today about Jesus' amazing power to forgive and heal. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

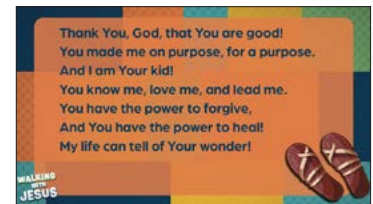
Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.) **You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.) **And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.) **You have the power to forgive,** (Kids repeat.)

And You have the power to heal! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Worship

****NEW SONGS!!** Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"

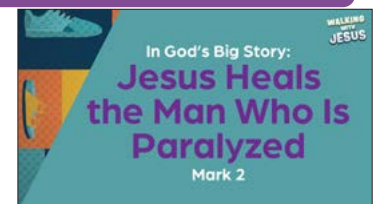
WORSHIP VIDEOS: Praise You Anywhere, Take You At Your Word

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

Explain that now today's portion of God's big story comes from the book of Mark, which is the second Gospel in the New Testament.

"Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will experience more of the story!"



VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

LESSON 1 JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO IS PARALYZED

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

"In today's true story from the Bible, we are all going to play a little game called "What Did They Do?" As we hear the story, there are going to be moments when we will try to figure out what happens next for different people in the story. Are you ready to play? Allow kids to respond.

Leader Tip: Turn this into a game show with contestants! Place three stools or chairs at the front of your space. Each time you ask "What did they do?" invite three kids up to the front and have them take their seats. Each kid will then share her answer to the question. The audience will then "vote" on which answer was the closest by giving a round of applause for the one they think is correct.

SLIDE: What Did They Do?

When Jesus began His ministry, He started telling people the good news of God's kingdom. " 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news!' " (Mark 1:15). Jesus was letting people know that God is in charge and that the broken parts of the world are being fixed.



What is God's kingdom like? When I point at you, say, "In God's kingdom," and then I will tell you something we know about God's kingdom from the way Jesus lived.

Point to the kids, encouraging them to say, "In God's kingdom." **There will be no place for evil, so Jesus drove away evil spirits.**

Point to the kids, encouraging them to say, "In God's kingdom." **There will be no more sickness, so Jesus healed people's diseases.**

Point to the kids, encouraging them to say, "In God's kingdom." **God's grace makes people a part of His family, so Jesus forgave sins. Everything Jesus did showed that God's kingdom was breaking through.**

One day Jesus was teaching at a house in a town called Capernaum. Jesus had been in Capernaum before, and the news about what He was doing had spread. He could hardly go anywhere without a big group of people showing up. That's why the house that day was crammed full of people. There wasn't even room to stand outside the door and listen.

In Capernaum, there was a man who could not walk. When he heard Jesus was in town, what did the man want to do? Ask a couple of kids for an answer. Respond by saying, "Yes" or "Not quite." That's right! The man wanted Jesus to heal him.

Four of the man's friends came to the house carrying the man who couldn't walk. They wanted to bring him to Jesus, but the crowd was too thick. The friends couldn't get through. What did they do? Ask a couple of kids for an answer. Respond by saying, "Yes" or "Not quite."

In those days, houses had stairs on the outside leading up to the roof. The roof was made of wooden beams covered with branches and thick grassy plants that were thickly coated with dried

mud. The roof was strong enough to walk on but soft enough to dig through. And that's just what the four people did. The four people carrying their friend who couldn't walk dug and dug and dug until they made a hole big enough for their friend to fit through. Then they lowered the man down on a mat to see Jesus. How would you feel if your friends did that for you? Let the kids respond.

Jesus saw the man coming down, but that's not all He saw. Jesus saw the faith of the four friends. He saw that they trusted Him. What did Jesus do? Ask a couple of kids for an answer. Respond by saying "Yes" or "Not quite." Jesus said to the man on the mat, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5). Jesus was letting the man know that God was forgiving him for all the wrong things he had done. Jesus was removing the man's sin and letting it go. This was an incredible gift.

Now there were some teachers of religious law sitting in the crowded—and now very dusty—house. How did they respond to what Jesus had done? Ask a couple of kids for an answer. Respond with "Yes" or "Not quite." They didn't like what Jesus had said. They were thinking, "Why is this fellow talking like that? He's saying a very evil thing! Only God can forgive sins!" (Mark 2:7). They didn't understand who Jesus is—the Son of God!

Jesus knew what these teachers were thinking, so He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Is it easier to say to this man, 'Your sins are forgiven'? Or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (Mark 2:8–10). What did Jesus do next? Give a couple of kids a chance to answer. Respond with "Yes" or "Not quite." Jesus turned to the man and said, "Get up. Take your mat and go home" (Mark 2:11). Then the man who couldn't walk just a few seconds before—the man who had to be lowered through the roof by his friends—stood up, took his mat, and walked away.

It was a miracle! What did the people who saw this miracle do? Give a couple of kids a chance to answer. Respond with "Yes" or "Not quite." Everyone at the house saw it and began praising God. What else could they do? The kingdom of God had come to a house in Capernaum, and Jesus was the one who had brought it!

How incredible! Jesus has power to forgive and heal. So what will we do now? Let's take a moment and think about it. Pause for a few moments. Now share your answer with your neighbor!" Allow kids time to share their answers.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS HAS POWER TO FORGIVE AND HEAL**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.



In God's kingdom, the broken parts of the world are being fixed. That means that in God's kingdom, sickness is healed and the wrong things we do are forgiven! Jesus brought God's kingdom to earth—He healed people's sicknesses and forgave their sins. Jesus has power to forgive and heal!"

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: WORTHY OF IT ALL

Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May God bless you this week as you follow Him. May He remind you that He loves you very much! And may you rejoice that Jesus has the power to forgive and to heal as you trust in Him.

0:04.00
WWJ Theme Loop.mp4

WALKING WITH JESUS

2:03.00
2walking_with_jesus_2-minute_countdo...

01:58

WALKING WITH JESUS

0:32.80
3walking_with_jesus_30-second_countdo...

00:28

WALKING WITH JESUS

Three-Legged Race

Today's Wonder Truth:
Jesus Has Power to Forgive and Heal

L1 Healing Wonder Truth Slide.png

6 L1 Healing Welcome Question Slide.png

What is the best thing a friend has ever done for you?

WALKING WITH JESUS

5:03.18
7walking_with_jesus_5-minute_countdo...

04:58

WALKING WITH JESUS

8 L1 Healing Declaration Slide V2.png

Thank You, God, that You are good!
You made me on purpose, for a purpose,
And I am Your kid!
You know me, love me, and lead me,
You have the power to forgive,
And You have the power to heal!
My life can tell of Your wonder!

WALKING WITH JESUS

3:39.30
9 Praise You Anywhere - Motions.mp4

Worship with Motions

ESTABLISHED KIDS

3:49.10
10 Take You At Your Word - Motions.mp4

WORD

11 Walking With Jesus 1920x1080.jpg

WALKING WITH JESUS

12 L1 Healing Title Slide.png

In God's Big Story:
Jesus Heals the Man Who Is Paralyzed
Mark 2

WALKING WITH JESUS

4:30.27
13 WWJ Elem Gods Big Story L1.mp4

Wonder Ink

14 Walking With Jesus 1920x1080.jpg

WALKING WITH JESUS

15 L1 Healing What Did They Do Slide.png

WHAT DID THEY DO?

16 L1 Healing Wonder Truth Slide.png

Today's Wonder Truth:
Jesus Has Power to Forgive and Heal

WALKING WITH JESUS

17 Responding In Worship.png

Responding in Worship

WALKING WITH JESUS

4:31.47
18worthy_of_it_all_lyric_video_(1080p)...

Shout Praises Kids

0:04.00
19 WWJ Theme Loop.mp4

WALKING WITH JESUS