

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

- Welcome Question: What is the best thing a friend has ever done for you?
- Curiosity Questions
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: Matthew 11:28
- Word of Wonder Activity
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Our Sicknesses, Our Sins, Our Savior



Notes! Use the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet each week to help kids stay engaged and remember what they are learning. Encourage kids to make notes, draw pictures, and write questions throughout small group and large group. This also provides parents with resources to keep the conversation going throughout the week!



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.

Small 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

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2

WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

Pre-Service Connection (15-20 min)

RESOURCES: Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“What is the best thing a friend has ever done for you?” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- What are you willing to do for a friend?
- What would you want a friend to do for you if you were sick or hurt?

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Mark chapter 2. As kids find the passage, explain that 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.

Read Mark 2:1–12 aloud. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and draw a picture of the story as you read.

- **When the friends of the man who was paralyzed saw the crowds around Jesus, what did they do with their injured friend?** (They dug a hole in the roof and lowered the man through it on a mat.)
- **When Jesus first saw the man who was paralyzed, what did He say to him?** ("Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5).)
- **The religious teachers didn't like what Jesus was saying. Why were they upset?** (Only God can forgive sins, and they didn't know Jesus is God's Son.)
- **What is sin?** (Sin is the wrong things we do that separate us from God.)
- **How did Jesus show the crowd that He has the power to forgive sins?** (If needed, reread Mark 2:9–10.)
- **Jesus has power to forgive and heal each of us! How does that make you feel?**

"When Jesus saw the faith of the man who was paralyzed and his friends, Jesus forgave and healed him. Jesus has power to forgive and heal because He is God. Let's pray to Jesus—He forgives our sins when we trust in Him!"

Make It Inclusive! Some kids struggle to answer open-ended questions, especially kids who are younger and those with language processing challenges. If needed, modify discussion questions by asking them as either/or questions. For example, "Did the four friends carry the man who was paralyzed through the front door to see Jesus, or did they lower him through a hole in the roof?"

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Lead the kids into a time of prayer. As you prepare to pray with them, remind them that when they pray, they're talking with Jesus, the Son of God who has power to forgive and to heal. Invite them to share requests and praises and to pray for one another.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–10 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Mark chapter 2. As kids find the passage, explain that 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.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

Invite two volunteers to read Mark 2:1–6; 7–12. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **The religious teachers didn't like it when Jesus said to the man who was paralyzed, "Son, your sins are forgiven"** (Mark 2:5). **Why were they upset?** (Only God can forgive sins.)
- **What did Jesus say and do in response to the religious teachers?** (If needed, reread Mark 2:8–11.)
- **Only God has power to forgive and heal sins, but Jesus was able to heal and forgive the man who was paralyzed. What does that tell us about Jesus?**
- **How did the people respond when the man picked up his mat and walked away?** (See Mark 2:12.) **How do you think you would have responded?**
- **When have you seen Jesus' power to forgive and heal in your life or the life of someone you know?**

"When Jesus saw the faith of the man who was paralyzed and his friends, Jesus forgave and healed him. Jesus is the God of miracles, and when we trust in Him, we too can experience His forgiveness! What a miracle! Let's talk with Jesus in prayer now."

Leader Tip: If needed, remind kids that sin is the wrong things we do. When we sin, we disobey God, and our sins separate us from Him.

Make It Inclusive!

Some kids struggle to answer open-ended questions, especially kids with language processing challenges. If needed, modify discussion questions by asking them as either/or questions. For example, "Were the religious teachers upset because Jesus was teaching in a crowded house or because only God can forgive sins?"

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Lead the kids into a time of prayer where they share prayer requests, pray for each other, and offer praises to God. Spend some time thanking Jesus for His power to heal. Then spend some time thanking Jesus for His power to forgive through His death and resurrection.

WORD OF WONDER

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

— Matthew 11:28 (NirV)

Word of Wonder

2–3 minutes

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

RESOURCES: **Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)*keep for entire series**

"The Word of Wonder for our Walking with Jesus series is Matthew 11:28. Today we've seen how Jesus has power to forgive and heal. The man who was paralyzed was probably very weary and discouraged from all the difficulties he was experiencing in life. But Jesus gave him forgiveness, healing, and rest! Let's read the Word of Wonder together.

Have kids open their Bibles to Matthew 11:28. Read the verse several times together. Consider having the kids walk around the room acting like they're tired and carrying a heavy load as they say the verse. Then have them say it again as they act rested and refreshed.

For an optional discussion, gather kids to talk about these questions:

- What are some things in life that can cause us to be tired and feel like we're carrying a heavy load?
- What kind of rest does Jesus give us?

Word of Wonder Activity

5–8 minutes

SUPPLIES: posterboard (1 sheet per small group), markers, coloring utensils (optional), masking or painter's tape (optional)

Read and review Matthew 11:28. Then posterboard, markers, and, if available, other coloring utensils. Invite each group to write the Word of Wonder in the middle of the posterboard in big, bold letters, leaving space above, below, and to the sides of it to draw pictures that represent various words

within the Word of Wonder (e.g., a picture of Jesus to represent me, a picture of someone yawning to represent tired, a picture of someone carrying an oversized backpack to represent heavy loads, etc.).

If possible, use tape to post the completed Word of Wonder posters somewhere prominent in your space so kids can refer to them each week throughout the Walking with Jesus series.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Write the Word of Wonder on each posterboard ahead of time and invite younger kids to simply add their illustrations to the poster.

PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

Responding in Worship: Our Sicknesses, Our Sins, Our Savior

SUPPLIES: paper (3 sheets per kid), writing utensils, coloring utensils, painter's or masking tape (3 rolls)

RESOURCES: [Prayer Station Sheets \(3-4 /campus\)](#) [Walking with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print the Prayer Stations Sheets. Set up three prayer stations in your space, displaying one Prayer Station Sheet at each: Our Sicknesses, Our Sins, Our Savior. Set a pile of blank paper (1 sheet per kid) at each station along with writing and coloring utensils and a roll of tape. Gather kids together.



"In God's big story today, Jesus forgave the sins of the paralyzed man and healed the man's body. Jesus has power to forgive and heal, and His power isn't just for that one man a long time ago. Jesus is powerful today! When we trust in Him, He will forgive our sins as we walk with Him now and forever!"

In a moment, you will have a chance to visit three prayer stations: Our Sicknesses, Our Sins, and Our Savior. At each station, you can take a blank sheet of paper and draw a picture or write words that show what you think of when you see each of those phrases. When you finish drawing or writing, you can tape your papers below the station signs and quietly talk to Jesus about what is on your heart. Visit each prayer station as you introduce the activity to the kids. **For example, at the "Our Sicknesses" station, you might pray for yourself or someone you know who is sick and thank Jesus for times He has already healed you and others. At the "Our Sins" station, you might tell Jesus ways you have disobeyed God and ask for His forgiveness. This is called confession. At the "Our Savior" station, you might thank God for sending us His Son, Jesus, who has the power to forgive and heal us.**

Quietly play music from the [Walking with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids visit the prayer stations. Be available to support kids by reading the station signs, giving them ideas of what to draw or write if they need help, and praying with them. When all the kids have had an opportunity to visit all three stations, gather everyone together.

Leader Tip: Be sensitive to any kids in your ministry who have a disability or long-term illness (or a family member with a disability or illness). If they ask why God didn't heal 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 and illnesses, but we can 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.