

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.

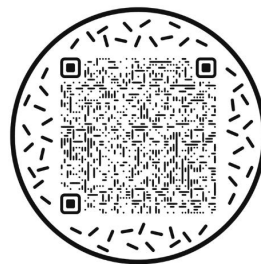
WORD OF WONDER: Come to me, all who are tired. I will give you rest. —from Matthew 11:28

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: God's Way, All I Wanna Do
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



Walking With Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Forgives and Heals

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2

WORD OF WONDER: From 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.



LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Forgives and Heals

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2

WORD OF WONDER: From Matthew 11:28

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi, Tac! I'm so glad to see you today! How are you doing?

Tac the Cat: Hi, everybody! I'm doing all right. Feeling a little sad, though.

Leader: Oh, I'm sorry, Tac! Why are you feeling sad today?

Tac the Cat: Well, my friend got hurt this morning while we were playing, and I feel sad when my friends are hurt.

Leader: I'm so sorry that your friend got hurt, Tac! That is sad.

Tac the Cat: I wish there was something I could do to help.

Leader: You know, Tac, there actually is something you can do!

Tac the Cat: Oh, really? Please tell me!

Leader: Of course! When we have friends or family members who are sick or hurt, we can help them and also pray for them.

Tac the Cat: Oh, you're right! Praying for my friend is a great thing to do!

Leader: You've got it, Tac! God hears our prayers. God has the power to heal!

Tac the Cat: Wow! I'm curious about what it means to be healed. Did Jesus heal people when He was on the earth?

Leader: He definitely did, Tac! There is a story in the Bible that's about when four friends helped a man who couldn't walk by taking him to Jesus. We'll hear more about that today in our story! There are many other times in the Bible when Jesus healed people who were sick or hurt.

Tac the Cat: I am so thankful that Jesus has the power to heal! Now, I think it's time for me to go see my friend so I can tell her that I'm praying for her. See you all next time!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Did you know that Jesus has the power to heal? Allow the kids to respond. Can you think of a time when Jesus healed you or someone you know? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God forgives and heals?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS**. Today we'll discover how Jesus forgives and heals!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

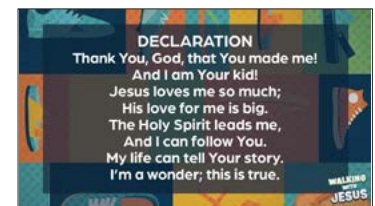
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



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.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn about how Jesus healed a man who couldn't walk. Let's sing about how Jesus forgives and heals!"

WORSHIP SONGS: God's Way, All I Wanna Do

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Mark is one of the first four books of the New Testament. They're called the Gospels."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, toy people figures (5–7), toy house, small mat or fabric piece, twist ties or pipe cleaners (4, prep only)

Before God's big story begins, place the props nearby so kids will be able to see them. Use the twist ties or pipe cleaners to attach the small mat (or fabric piece) to the hands on four toy figures.

"When Jesus started doing God's work, He told people about the good news of God's kingdom. "It's time," he said. "The kingdom of God is close. Stop sinning and believe the good news!" Jesus was letting people know that God is in charge and is fixing the broken parts of the world. Jesus healed people and helped people. Everything He did showed them what God's kingdom is like.

One day Jesus was teaching at a house in a town called Capernaum. 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 even room to stand outside the door and listen.** Place more toy people figures in the house.

Then four friends came to the house carrying a man who couldn't walk. Pretend that the four toy people figures are holding a 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 toy 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 said to the man on the mat, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5).** Jesus was letting the man know that God forgave him for all the wrong things he had done. **This was a great gift.**

Some people did not understand what Jesus meant. They did not understand why Jesus said that the man was forgiven. They did not understand that Jesus is the Son of God!

Jesus told them that He had the power to forgive sins. Then 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 before stood up. He took his mat and walked away! Make the male toy figure stand up with his mat and move away from the house.

It was a miracle! Everyone at the house praised God. The kingdom of God was close. Jesus was the one who had brought the kingdom of God close because Jesus forgives and heals.

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 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.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

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

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for healing and forgiving us!

Thank You, God, for healing and forgiving. Thank You for showing us in Your Word 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. 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 all our sins as we trust in Him.