



JESUS FORGIVES SINS

Young Preschool • #NT10 • February 4, 2024

Concept

Jesus can forgive all our bad choices because He is God.

Goal

Children will learn that Jesus was able to do many miracles, such as make a paralyzed man walk. Because He was God He was able to do the greatest miracle—die on the cross to pay for our sins. They will learn what it means to accept His forgiveness.

Passage

Mark 2:1-12

Key Verse: "When Jesus saw their faith He said, 'My son, your sins are forgiven.'" Mark 2:5

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Box "house"• Modeling clay, 1½ sticks/room• Spring-type clothespins, 12/room• Laminated, magnetic-backed pictures of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 8 separate people◦ 2 separate groups of people◦ Lame man on stretcher◦ Lame man rejoicing◦ Jesus	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed house outside w/lame man on roof & inside copied on white paper, 1/child• Standing "lame" man figures copied on white paper, 1/child• Scissors• Glue sticks• Crayons or markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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After teaching and healing in the desert, Jesus returned to Capernaum to find that His fame had spread. So many people gathered to hear Him speak that the house and the courtyard where He taught were totally filled. Four men carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus to be healed, but found it impossible to reach Jesus because of the crowds. The men must have been disappointed when it seemed that they would be unable to bring their friend before Christ. But they continued to look for a way to get him to Jesus.

Palestinian houses typically had flat roofs accessible by an outside stairway. The roof was usually made of a thick layer of clay supported by a mat of branches across wooden beams. Unwilling to return home without seeing Jesus, the four men took their friend to the roof, dug through it, and lowered their friend on a mat through the hole. "And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, 'My son, your sins are forgiven'" (Mark 2:5 NASB), thereby causing a stir among the onlooking scribes.

"The scribes are correct in their conclusion that only God can forgive sins. In claiming this right for Himself, Jesus asserted His deity. To the scribes, who failed to recognize Jesus for who He truly was, this was blasphemy. The physical healing of the paralytic man served to validate the authority of Jesus to forgive sins. Jesus demonstrates His concern for the well-being of the whole man, but it should be recognized that receiving forgiveness of sins (spiritual healing) is the more essential and primary miracle, while physical healing is secondary."^[1]

"Jesus asserts that, by comparison, the forgiveness of sin is an infinitely more profound and difficult work than the healing of the paralytic's body. After His authority to forgive sins was questioned, Jesus healed the man. The fact that Jesus ignored the obvious bodily infirmity and moved immediately to remedy the spiritual illness establishes an unqualified priority of spiritual matters over physical ones."^[2] Jesus' response is interesting, as He points out that neither forgiveness of sins nor healing was possible for man, but both were easy for God. Jesus met the man's deeper need first, that of forgiveness, then evidenced His authority by healing the man's physical condition.

[1] Believers Bible Study Notes, QuickVerse, Parsons Technology, Notes on Mark 2:5-12.

[2] Believers Bible Study Notes, QuickVerse, Parsons Technology, Notes on Luke 5:23.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

The day of class:

- Cut out the standing “lame” man for the children to glue on the printed page in LEARNING ACTIVITY #1.
- Form the provided modeling clay into 12 balls. Put a clothespin on the bottom of each laminated figure and stick the end of the clothespin in the clay so the figures will stand up.

Activity Stations:

- **Creative Movement / Play – “Five Little Teddy Bears”[1]**
 - **Instructions:** Recite this poem, holding up one finger as you begin. Each time another bear comes along, hold up another finger. On the last line, conceal your hand behind your back.

One little teddy bear eating some stew,
Along came another bear and then there were two.
Two little teddy bears bouncing on their knees,
Along came another bear and then there were three.
Three little teddy bears knocking at the door,
Along came another bear and then there were four.
Four little teddy bears found a beehive,
Along came another bear and then there were five.

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz,

Run away teddy bears.

[1][1] Jackie Silberg, Games to Play with Toddlers, © 1993 Jackie Silberg, Gryphon House, Inc., p. 7.

Have you ever tried to move without using your legs? It's really hard, isn't it? We could try to move like this (have a student assistant or another teacher scoot along on his bottom) or this (roll). But nobody can WALK without using their legs, can they?

Today we are going to learn about a man who couldn't walk. This man had four friends who loved him. They believed that Jesus could make him walk so they carried him to Jesus. Listen now to what happened.

Instructions: Set the "house" on the edge of a table so all the children can see. As the teacher tells the story, add the figures using the clay balls and clothespins to stand them up. "Act out" the story using the laminated characters. Add some drama by grunting and groaning as the men carry the lame man up the stairs; grunting as they dig and pull the roof to make the hole in the roof, etc.

One day Jesus went to a house to tell people about God. The house was really full. There were even people standing outside, all around the house.

**Lesson
Continued
Lg. Group**

Jesus told the people that God loved them and that God wanted to forgive them for all the bad things they did. Jesus can forgive all our bad choices because He is God.

There were four men who were carrying a friend on a small bed. Their friend's legs didn't work. They believed that Jesus could heal their friend's legs, but there were so many people they couldn't get through the door. They thought and thought and thought about what to do.

"I know," one of them said, "let's climb to the top of the house and make a hole in the roof!" So they climbed up and up the stairs, lifting their friend and trying not to drop him. Up they went and up they went. Let's count how many stairs - 1, 2, 3... until finally they reached the top of the roof. WHEW! They put their friend down on the roof and started to dig and pull, dig and pull until finally they had a hole in the roof big enough through which to lower their friend. (Push the rectangle of cardboard from the inside of the box up to the roof to open the hole.) They picked up their friend and lowered him gently, gently, gently down through the roof right in front of Jesus!

(Very quietly) What do you think Jesus did? Do you think Jesus was surprised? Jesus was amazed that the friends worked so hard to get their friend to Him. Jesus knew the men believed that he could heal their friend! So Jesus said to the man, "Son, your sins, all your bad choices, are forgiven."

Is that what you thought Jesus was going to say to the man? Did you think he would say something about the man's legs instead?

Jesus wanted the people to know there is something even more important than walking. Being friends with God is the most important thing of all. Jesus knew that the man needed to be friends with God even more than he needed to be able to walk. Jesus wanted everyone to know that He could forgive and they could be God's friends. That's why He said, "Son, your sins, all your bad choices, are forgiven."

You see, Jesus can forgive all our bad choices because He is God. That's why He said, "Son, your sins, all your bad choices, are forgiven," He then said to the man, "Get up and walk." And do you know what? The man got up and walked out of the house in front of everyone! Everyone was amazed and said, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**Lesson
Continued
Lg. Group**

Do you remember what Jesus wanted the people to know? Jesus wanted all the people to know that God loved them. Jesus also wanted them to know that He could forgive them so they could be His friends. Jesus wants to be your friend, too. He died on the cross for all our bad choices and sin. If you want Jesus to be your friend, all you have to do is thank Him for dying on the cross for you.

Let's pray now. Let's thank Jesus that He loves us and wants to be our friend. Let's also pray that we can help people get to Jesus like the man's friends did. We can tell our friends how much Jesus loves them.

Transition

Let's make a craft that will remind us that the man who couldn't walk had friends who loved him and took him to see Jesus.

**Learning
Activity#1
Lg. Group**

Craft – Lame Man and House

Instructions: Give each child a printed page and a standing “lame” man. Color the house and the man. Glue the standing man in front of Jesus in the room of the house. While the children are working on their craft, talk with them about the man’s good friends. They wanted their friend to know Jesus so they carried him to where Jesus was teaching. When they got their friend to Jesus He said, “Son, your sins, all your bad choices, are forgiven.” We can be good friends, too, by telling our friends about Jesus.