



# JESUS FORGIVES SINS

Preschool-K • #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.

## 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><b>Activity Stations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25 Styrofoam cups</li></ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Box "house"</li><li>• Modeling clay, 1½ sticks/room</li><li>• Spring-type clothespins, 12/room</li><li>• Laminated, magnetic-backed pictures of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ 8 separate people</li><li>◦ 2 separate groups of people</li><li>◦ Lame man on stretcher</li><li>◦ Lame man rejoicing</li><li>◦ Jesus</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Learning Activity #2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The Beginner's Bible</i>, Karyn Henley</li></ul>	<p><b>Learning Activity #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printed house inside and outside copied on white cardstock, 1/child</li><li>• Puppet figures copied on white cardstock, 1/child</li><li>• Jumbo craft sticks, 1/child</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue sticks</li><li>• Crayons or markers</li></ul>

### \*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."<sup>[1]</sup>

"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."<sup>[2]</sup> 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 the dotted slit above the roof of the outside of the printed house. Cut the puppets so each child will each have the two puppets to fold along the dotted line and glue around a craft stick.
- 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**
  - **Instructions:** Have children try as many ways as they can think of to move from one place to another without using their legs. Be silly and have fun. Ask if they know anyone who uses a wheelchair to get around and explain that there were no wheelchairs in Jesus' time.
- **Frozen Friends [1]**
  - **Instructions:** Players should be balancing a cup on their heads. On a signal, players move around the area at their own pace. To change the pace or action, the leader can ask the children to hop or skip. If the cup falls off a child's head, that child is frozen. Another child must pick up the cup and replace it on the first child's head without losing his or her own cup. When the game is over, ask the players how many times they helped their friends, or how many times their friends helped them.

[1] Adapted from "Frozen Bag" by Darren Gerson, <http://www.gameskidsplay.net/>.

Can anyone tell me how you would walk without using your legs? A little while ago some of you found ways to move from one place to another without using your legs. You can move by scooting around on your bottoms while pushing with your arms or lying down and rolling. But it is very hard to move from one place to another if you can't use your legs. And you can't walk without your legs, can you?

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 heal him, so they carried him to Jesus. Let's find out 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 filled up quickly because everyone wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. There were even people standing outside, all around the house.

Why do you think all these people wanted to hear Jesus? What do you think Jesus wanted to say to the people? Some people knew that Jesus could heal people. Some people even knew that Jesus can forgive all our bad choices because He is God.

Jesus wanted to tell them that God loved them. God wanted to forgive them so they could be His friends.

There were four men who wanted to hear Jesus, too. These four men were carrying a friend on a small bed because his legs would not work and he couldn't walk. These men 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 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 down, gently down through the hole in the roof right in front of Jesus!

What do you think Jesus did? Do you think Jesus was surprised?

Jesus was amazed that the friends worked so hard to get their crippled friend to Him. Jesus knew the men believed that he could heal their friend! Then Jesus said to the man who could not walk, "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 something else: 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 all the people to know that He could forgive them so they could be God's friends. That's why He said, "Son, your sins, all your bad choices, are forgiven."

## Lesson Continued Lg. Group

You see, Jesus can forgive all our bad choices because He is God. After 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 they all thanked God! Jesus heard them say, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Do you remember what Jesus wanted the people to know? Jesus wanted everyone 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. What are some of the bad choices you have made? Have you ever grabbed a toy from a friend? Have you ever told your mommy, "NO!"? Then you need to be forgiven if you want Jesus to be your friend, all you have to do is thank Him for dying on the cross for you so He will forgive your sins.

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

### 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 – 2-Sided Lame Man Puppet and House**

**Instructions:** Give each child a printed house and puppet figure. Color the puppets and fold back to back on the dotted line. Glue or staple them to the craft stick with the lame man on one side and the healed man on the other. Show them how to put their puppet in and out through the slit in the roof with the lame side showing on the outside of the house and the healed side showing on the inside of the house. Have them lower the man through the roof with the page turned to the outside. Turn the page over to the inside when the man gets through the roof. 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 the place 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 that Jesus can forgive all our bad choices because He is God.

### Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

#### **Story Reenactment – "Through the Roof"**

**Instructions:** Read the story from The Beginner's Bible, pages 326-330. Have the children take turns being the lame man, his friends, or Jesus while other children pretend they are the watching crowds. Have "Jesus" and the "crowd" go under one of the tables or in a small room adjoining the classroom.

## Learning Activity# 2 Continued

### Transition

## Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

Have the “friends” help the “lame man” into the crowd (do NOT let the children pick each other up) so that Jesus can tell him he is forgiven. Then the man will jump up and walk out of the crowd.

Let’s talk about what we just heard and watched.

The man who couldn’t walk had friends who loved him and took him to see Jesus. Jesus knew that it was more important to forgive his sins than heal him, even though being able to walk is important!

- How can we have our sins forgiven?
- Why can Jesus forgive our sins? (He died on the cross.)
- How can you be a friend to someone like the friends of the man who couldn’t walk were?

Pray for opportunities to be a friend to others who don’t know that God loves them and wants to be their friend.