

STORY

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man - Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, the world around us offers so many alternatives to You to deal with sin and sickness. Help us to learn that God alone has the real solutions to these problems. Help me to be Your spokesman to tell my students to look to You alone for complete forgiveness of sins through Jesus' blood and righteousness. Teach us to be persistent and not let obstacles keep us from bringing our needs to You for the best solution. Trusting in Jesus, I pray, Amen.

VOCABULARY

His own city - Jesus used Capernaum as a base of operations at times. He had not received a good welcome in His hometown of Nazareth.

Blaspheme - claiming to be God when not truly God, or misusing the name of God in a false or sinful way, insulting God.

Scribes - originally men who copied the Scriptures by hand. But as their knowledge of the scriptures grew from their work, they were considered authorities of it and were regarded as "professors of theology" are today. They held high positions in the religious government of the Jews. (See Rupprecht pp. 47-48)

Paralytic (KJV) - a person who has no movement in some or all of the body.

OUTER AIM

Jesus heals a paralyzed man.

INNER AIM

Jesus has the power and authority to forgive sins.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp. 137-142)

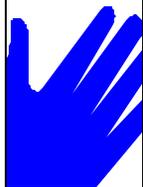
There are many kinds of sicknesses today. Some of these are very serious. Everyone tries to find a cure for disease. The thing that is not understood is that sickness is a result of sin, of man's rebellion against his Creator-God. Because of this, it was necessary for Jesus to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah (Is. 53 and Matthew 8:17), "He took up our diseases and carried our illnesses." In this episode, Jesus made the connection between sin and sickness and showed that He had power to heal both.

Mark 2:1

- ▶ Jesus traveled throughout Galilee and in the regions on both sides of the Sea of Galilee.
- ▶ According to Matthew 9:1, this event happened when Jesus returned to the west side of the Sea of Galilee, after serving on the east side for a time.
- ▶ News about Jesus' location rapidly traveled about because at this time He was very popular with the people. *Use map to find Sea of Galilee and Capernaum.

v. 2

- ▶ People quickly came to hear Jesus and be healed by Him.
- ▶ This time the crowd was so thick that people were crowded outside the house to hear Him.
- ▶ Jesus did not waste the opportunity to preach.



v. 3

- ▶ The friends of a paralyzed man brought him to Jesus.

v. 4

- ▶ In testimony to their faith, these people did not let the crowd discourage them from their goal.
- ▶ They went up outside stairs onto the flat roof. Roofs were made either of branches and mud or else clay tiles. (see Rupprecht pp. 138-139)
- ▶ So with some effort they were able to open up the roof above Jesus to lower the bed of the man down to Jesus.
- ▶ The bed was portable, perhaps a stretcher or cot-like bed.

v. 5

- ▶ Jesus, as both God and man, knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. Jesus knew what was most important to the sick man, but calling him "son," Jesus shows His love for the man, and indicates His saving relationship with this man through the forgiveness of sins..
- ▶ More than healing of any diseases or sickness, people need to have their sins forgiven. Matthew 9:2 adds, ".. be of good cheer, .." for the forgiveness of sins brings peace and joy to replace sorrow over sin.

(Many have had the misconception that a specific sickness is a direct cause of a particular sin. Although some sicknesses can be the consequences of sinful behavior, sickness is one of the results of all people being sinful. No matter how unusually good they and we are, we and they will continue to suffer ailments until the end of this sinful world.)

vs. 6-7

- ▶ On scribes, see vocabulary. The scribes became jealous enemies of Jesus and audited His public appearances in order to find fault with Him. They thought within themselves that only God had the authority to forgive sins but failed to believe that Jesus was God. So they thought Jesus was blaspheming by claiming to do something that only God had the power and authority to do.
- ▶ Ironically, they became the ones blaspheming because they denied Jesus had the power of God.

v. 8

- ▶ Even before they had a chance to criticize Jesus, Jesus knew what was in their hearts and answered their thoughts!
- ▶ In a demonstration that He was God, He asked them why they thought such things (and by implication, why they didn't believe He was God).

v. 9

- ▶ Jesus' asked a reasonable question: which impossible thing is easier for a man to do?
- ▶ Directly forgiving sins and healing a paralyzed man with only a spoken word are things only God is able to do.

vs. 10-11

- ▶ To show them that He, as God, had the power of God to do what only God could, Jesus commanded the paralyzed man to arise.

v. 12

- ▶ And immediately, without a long recovery period or months in therapy, the man who had been paralyzed got out of his bed, picked up his bed, and walked (maybe even ran) to his house. Amazing!
- ▶ That would be our reaction too if we had been there.
- ▶ And the people glorified God, saying "We never saw anything like this." Or as Matthew says, glorified God for giving such power to mankind. Note that the people realized the supremely astounding truth

that God had indeed given the authority to forgive sins to people (note: plural “men,” not just to a man, Jesus of Nazareth. This is a prelude to the giving of the Keys – John 20.

- ▶ This miracle highlighted for the scribes and the people that Jesus' power was God's.
- ▶ Yet not all would believe in Him even after this and other miracles.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Lord, Jesus, You show us through Your Word today Your great power over sin and sicknesses. When our sins trouble us, draw us in faith to You for the forgiveness that You alone can give so that we may find peace and joy through sins forgiven. And when sickness comes upon us, give us a patient faith to continually come to You in faith. And when we are healed may Your name be glorified before those who doubt You. We pray, trusting in Your grace and mercy, Amen.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account.) Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATIONS

1. Jesus knows and is able to take care of our greatest ailment: sin. He searches our hearts in order to bring comfort to those who need assurance of sins forgiven and to instruct those who need to learn more about Jesus. The sicknesses and needs of the body are not as dangerous and permanent as our spiritual condition. So Jesus meets our spiritual needs first.
2. Jesus also is concerned about our physical needs. The world and its storms are restrained by His power so that they can do only what God allows. Sometimes, as the disciples and the paralyzed man discovered, God demonstrates His loving power so that people may end up glorifying Him. Usually God works in natural ways: adults work and earn money to buy us food, clothing and a home. Doctors are given skills and medicines to use to heal and repair us when we are sick or hurt. God gives people knowledge to predict storms and to protect themselves from them. We can plant gardens and crops where God grows food for us. But because these support systems are imperfect we are made to realize that He alone can help. When we are in need, we should look to Jesus alone in confidence and trust. 1 Peter 5:7
3. Jesus proved He is true God by His power to forgive sins. In John 20:23 Jesus gives His Church the authority to forgive sins on His behalf. Every Christian has the power given them by Jesus to announce or withhold the forgiveness of sins. We can forgive the sins of the penitent sinner or the impenitent sinner is stuck with his sins as long as he doesn't repent.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

1 Peter 5:7 - casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1 John 1:7 - ..the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Middle any of the above and..

Matthew 11:28-29 - "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Upper any of the above and..

Romans 3:23-24 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

HYMN CHOICES

"O Faithful God, Thanks be to Thee" (TLH #321 *can change tune*)

"When in the Hour of Utmost Need" (TLH #522)

"Alas, My God, My Sins are Great" (TLH #317 - 1, 4-6)

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

One day, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee and came to the city of Capernaum. There He preached to many people and told them the way to salvation. So many people came to the house where He preached that they filled it.

Four men came to the house carrying a man who was so sick he could not walk. They knew Jesus could heal the sick man. When they came to the house and saw they could not get inside the crowded room, they carried the sick man to the top of the house. There they made an opening in the roof and let the sick friend down right before Jesus.

Jesus was happy to see the faith these men had in Him. He said to the sick man, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

Some enemies of Jesus were also in the room. They heard Jesus speak of forgiving sins. "Only God can forgive sins," they said among themselves.

Jesus knew what they were thinking. To show them His power as the Son of Man and also as the Son of God, He said to the sick man, "Arise, take up your bed and go to your house." Immediately, the sick man stood up, picked up his bed and went home.

The people who saw this were surprised. They praised God for the miracle performed by Jesus.

Passage

The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Hymn - TLH 653 v. 2, 4

Jesus, Savior, wash away
All that has been wrong today;
Help me ev'ry day to be
Good and gentle, more like Thee.

Now my evening praise I give;
Thou didst die that I might live.
All my blessings come from Thee;
Oh, how good Thou art to me!

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for forgiving the sins of the whole world. Help me to be like the paralyzed man and always trust in You. Amen.

Jesus took away the sins of the paralyzed man and also healed him.

Jesus has taken our sins away.



Classroom Activity - Cut out the figure of the paralyzed man and place on a tissue. Have the students take turns being the friends and Jesus. Have the children act out the story repeating the dialog below.

CHARACTERS FOR THE DRAMA

Four Friends (**FF**) *if there are enough students*

Jesus (**J**)

Jesus' Enemies (**E**) *if there are enough students*

People Watching (**P**) *if there are enough students*

Paralyzed Man (**M**) *if there are enough students - he has no words to say*

FF: Let us take our friend to see Jesus.
Jesus will tell us of salvation.
He can heal our friend also.
We will carry him on his bed.

(Lift up the man on his bed and walk over to Jesus.)

FF: The house is full of people.
What will we do?
Let us take him up to the roof.
We will pull apart the roof and let him down in front of Jesus.

J: Son, your sins are forgiven you.

E: Only God can forgive sins.

J: Arise, take up your bed and go to your house.

(M immediately, stands up, picks up his bed and walks home. FF will follow.)

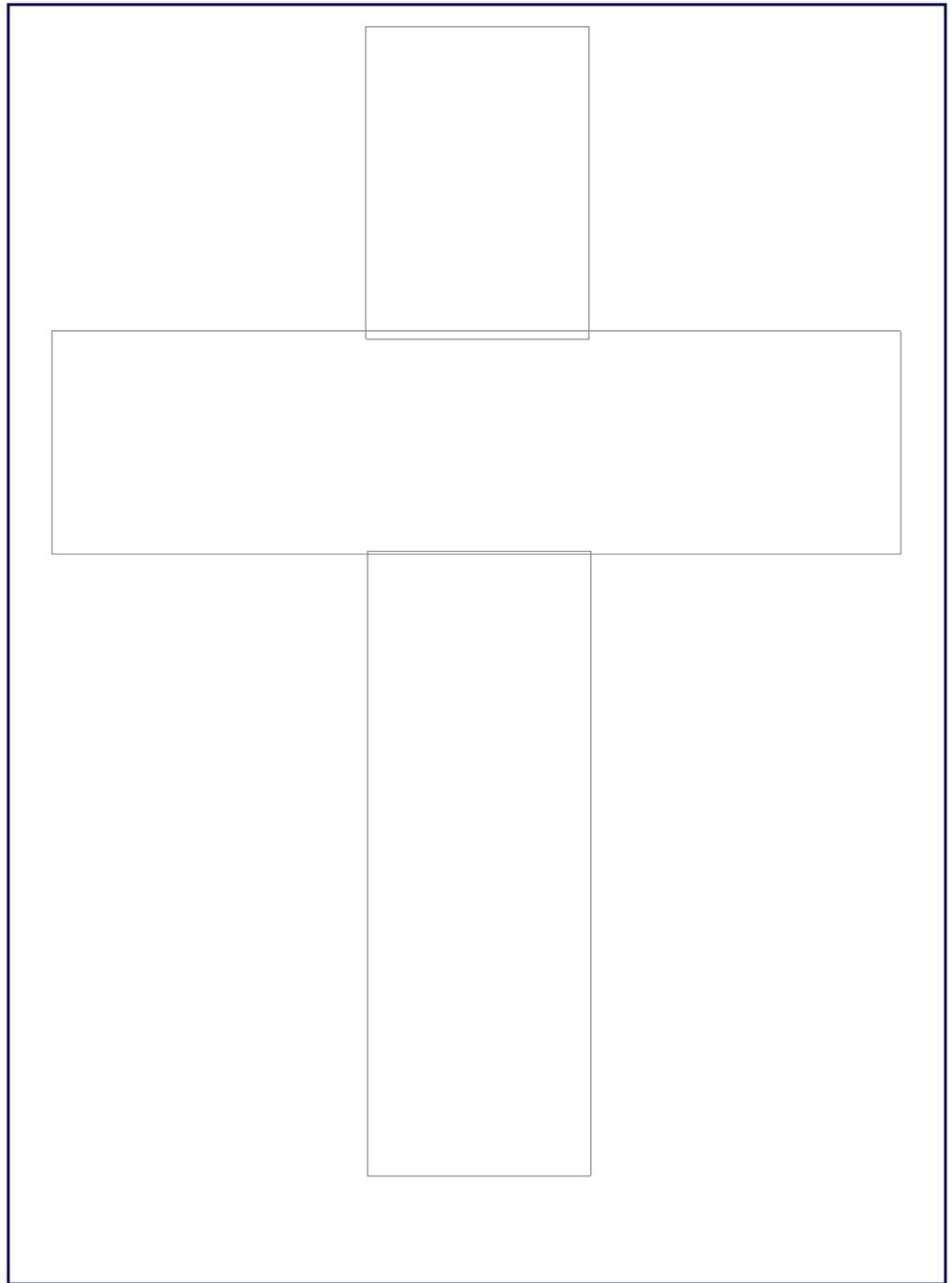
P: We are surprised!
We will praise God for this miracle performed by Jesus.



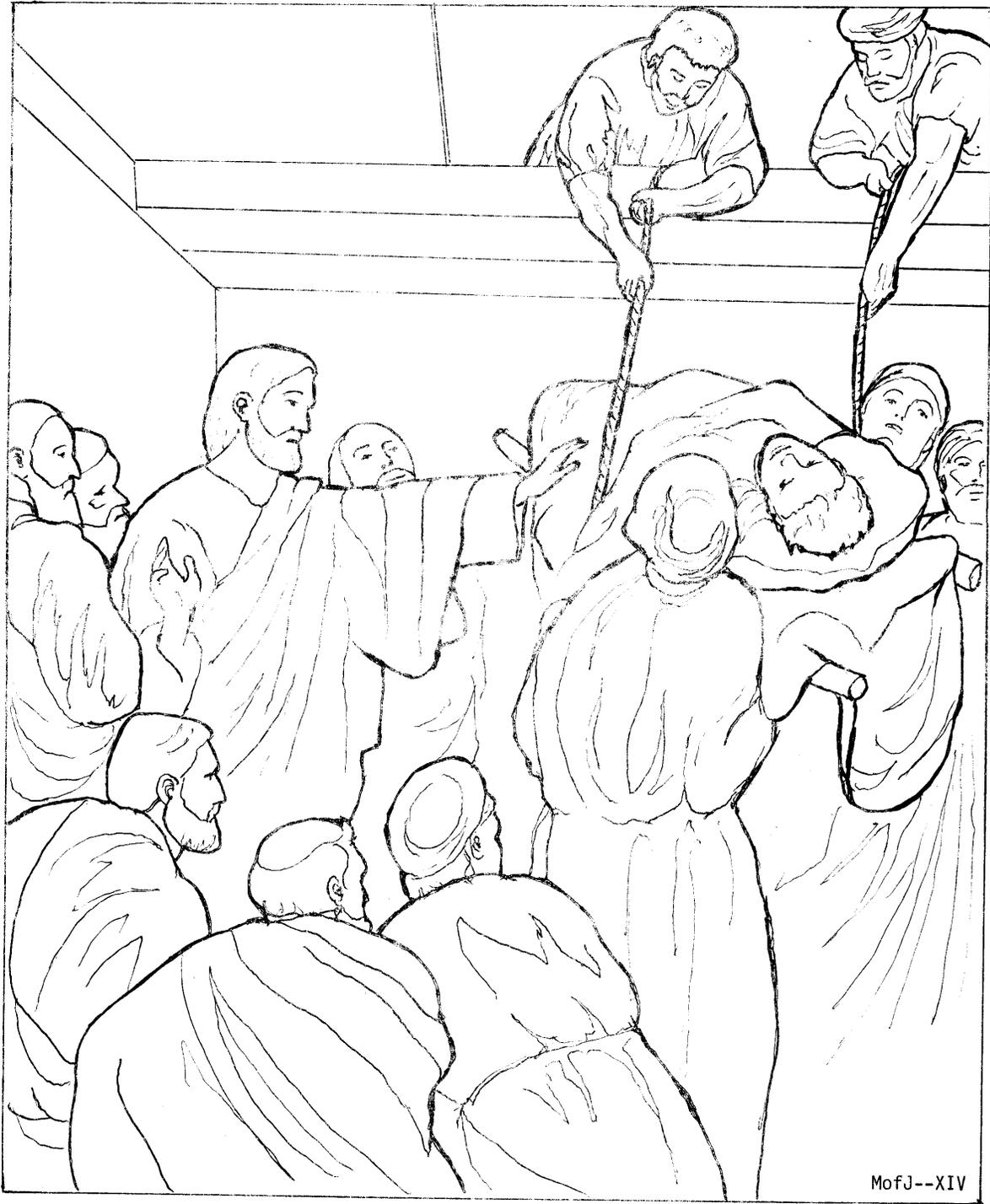
Classroom Art

Activity - Cut out the cross pieces and glue them to the cross at the right. Decorate as you wish and make into a card, door hanger or magnet. Help the children read the words of the cross.

sins.



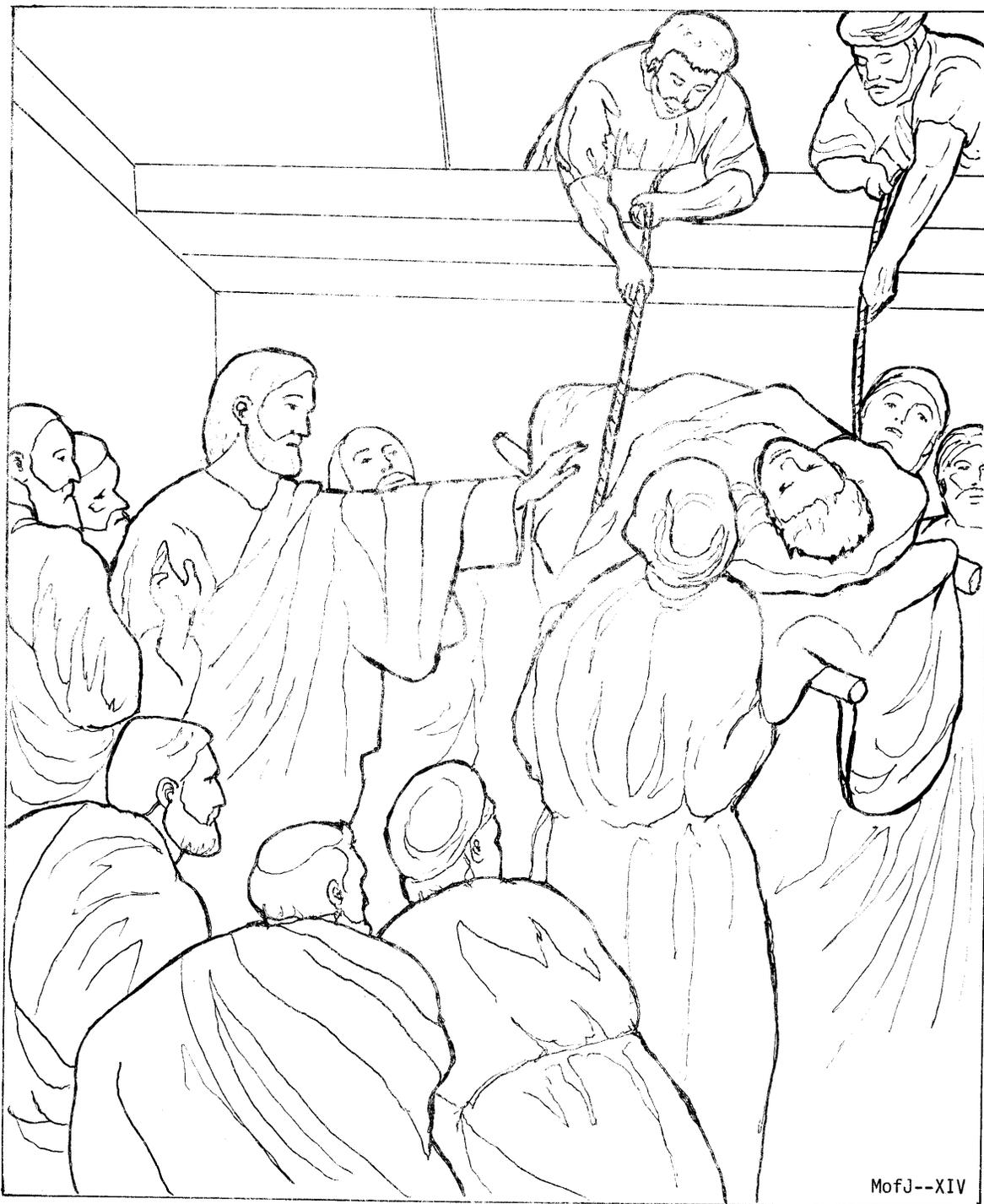
forgives



MofJ--XIV

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12



The Story

One day, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee and came to the city of Capernaum. There He preached to many people and told them the way to salvation. So many people came to the house where He preached that they filled it.

Four men came to the house carrying a man who was so sick he could not walk. They knew Jesus could heal the sick man. When they came to the house and saw they could not get inside the crowded room, they carried the sick man to the top of the house. There they made an opening in the roof and let the sick friend down right before Jesus.

Jesus was happy to see the faith these men had in Him. He said

to the sick man, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

Some enemies of Jesus were also in the room. They heard Jesus speak of forgiving sins. "Only God can forgive sins," they said amongst themselves.

Jesus knew what they were thinking. To show them His power as the Son of Man and also as the Son of God He said to the sick man, "Arise, take up your bed and go to your house." Immediately, the sick man stood up, picked up his bed and went home.

The people who saw this were surprised. They praised God for the miracle performed by Jesus.

Activity One - Draw lines to match.

Jesus can●

● make people well.

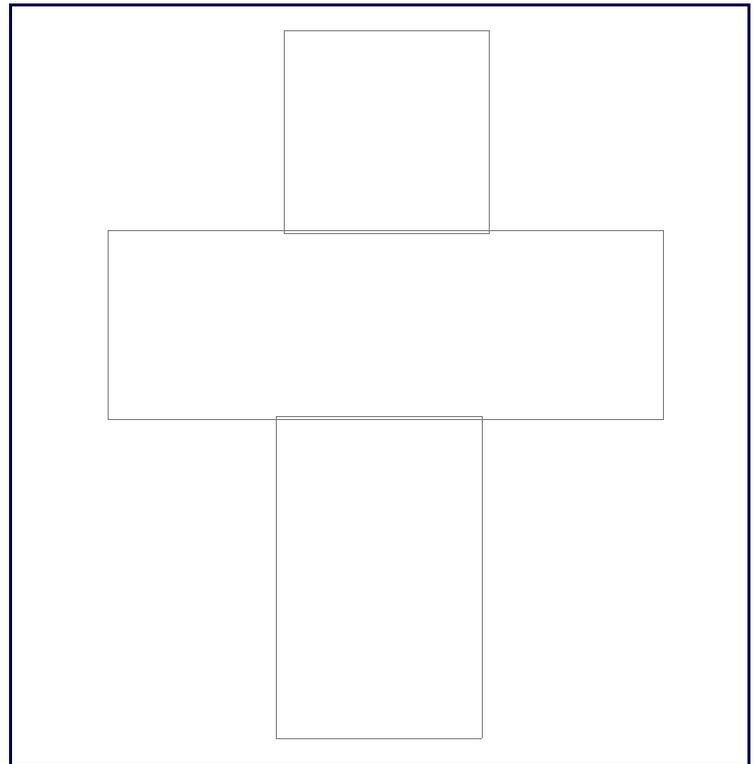
● forgive sins.

We should remember◆

◆ to pray to Jesus.

◆ to thank Jesus.

Activity Two - Cut out the cross pieces at the bottom of the page and glue them to the cross at the right.



Passages

**Casting all your care upon Him,
for He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7**

**The blood of Jesus Christ His Son
cleanses us from all sin.
1 John 1:7**

Prayer - Write the word **sins in** the box below. Use this prayer every day.

Dear Jesus,
Thank you, Jesus, for forgiving my . Amen.



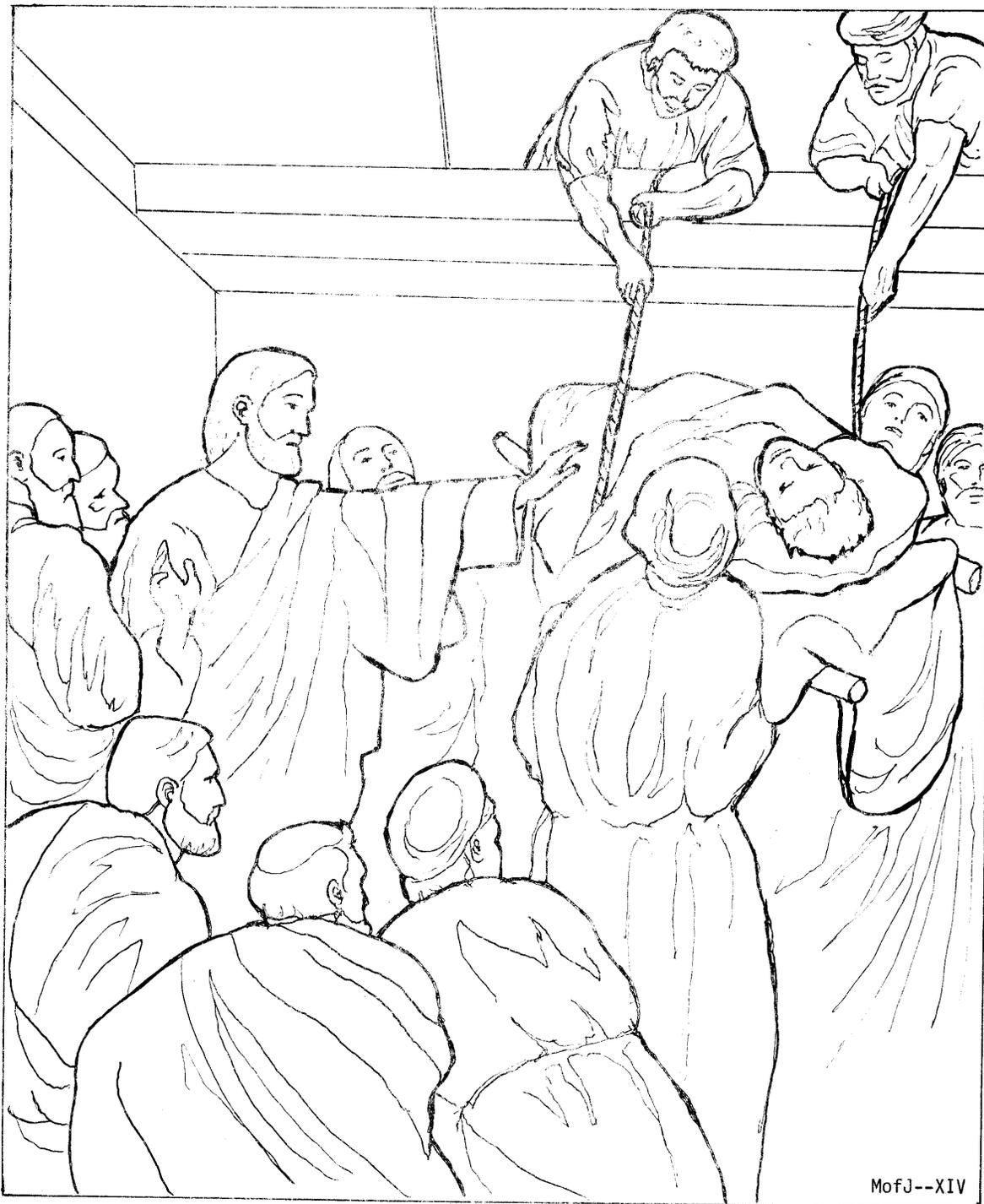
forgives



sins.

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12



The Story

One day Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee and came to the city of Capernaum. Here He preached to many people and told them the way to salvation. So many people came to the house to hear Jesus that they filled the house. Four men came to the house carrying a man who was so sick he could not walk. They knew Jesus could heal the sick man.

When they came to the house and saw they could not get inside, they carried the sick man to the top of the house. There they made an opening in the roof and let the sick friend down right before Jesus.

Jesus was happy to see the faith these men had in Him. He said

to the sick man, "Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven.

Some enemies of Jesus were also in the room. They heard Jesus speak of forgiving sins. "Only God can forgive sins," they said to themselves.

Jesus knew what they were thinking. To show them the power of the Son of Man, and also that He is the Son of God, He said to the sick man, "Arise, take up your bed and walk." Immediately the sick man was able to stand. He picked up his bed and went home.

The people who saw this were surprised. They praised God for the miracle performed by Jesus.

Jesus heals a paralyzed man.

Review - Circle the correct answer.

1. Jesus came to (Capernaum, Jerusalem) to preach God's Word.
2. The room where Jesus preached was (full, empty).
3. (Two, four) men came to Jesus carrying a sick friend.
4. They knew Jesus had power to (help, hurt) the sick man.

5. Jesus saw that His enemies had (hatred, faith) in their hearts.
6. Jesus (did forgive, did not forgive) the sins of the sick man.
7. Then Jesus made the sick man (well, sad).
8. The people (praised, surprised) God for healing the sick man.

Activity - Use the picture on page one to help with this activity.

1. Color the man who needed help.
2. Tell what you do when you are sick or need help.
3. Color the person who helped the sick man.
4. How does Jesus help you?
5. Color the people who praised God.
6. What do you do because Jesus helps and blesses you?

Jesus has the power and authority to forgive sins.

Passages

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

God tells us to take all our troubles to Him in prayer. Why?

The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
1 John 1:7

How did Jesus wash away all sin?

Hymn - TLH 515 v. 4, 6

If worn with pain, disease, or grief
This feeble body be,
Grant patience, rest, and kind relief;
Dear Lord, remember me.

And when before Thy throne I stand
And lift my soul to Thee,
Then with the saints at Thy right hand,
dear Lord, remember me.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

We thank and praise You for making people well and taking care of us.
You died on the cross to bring us forgiveness of sins. Thank You for this blessing,
Jesus. Amen.

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12

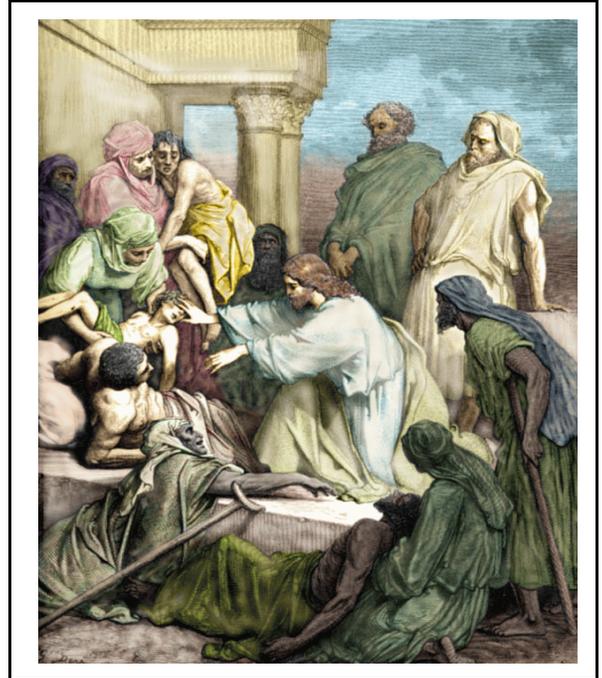
How does it feel when you are sick or have an injury?

What are some things that make you feel better?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts so we will gladly hear and study Your Word. Help us today as we learn how Jesus, Your Son, has power to forgive sins and help in all our needs. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story - Mark 2:1-12

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. {2} Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

{3} Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. {4} And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

{5} When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are

forgiven you."

{6} And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, {7} "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

{8} But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? {9} "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? {10} "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"; He said to the paralytic, {11} "I say



to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

{12} Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the

presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Outer Aim - Jesus heals a paralyzed man.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks with words from Mark 2:1-12

1. Jesus entered the city of _____.
2. Jesus _____ the Word to a large crowd of people.
3. Four men carried a paralyzed man to Jesus to be _____.
4. When Jesus saw their _____, He said to the paralyzed man, "Son your sins are _____ you."
5. The _____ thought Jesus was speaking blasphemies.
6. Jesus told them that the _____ _____ _____ has power to forgive sins.
7. When Jesus healed the paralyzed man he was immediately able to _____.
8. The people were amazed and _____ God.

What God Tells Us - Cross out the incorrect answers only. In some sentences, both answers are correct.

1. Jesus knows that the most important thing is (to make our bodies well) (to forgive our sins).
2. God heals us by using (doctors) (medicines).
3. God wants us to (bring our problems to Him) (only ask for help with major problems).
4. Jesus proved He is true God by (His power to forgive sins) (His power to make the paralyzed man well).
5. Read John 20:23 Every Christian (has) (does not have) the power to announce or withhold the forgiveness of sins.
6. Read John 20:23 As a Christian we too can (forgive the sins of the penitent sinner) (retain the sins of the impenitent).

Inner Aim - Jesus has the power and authority to forgive sins.

Passages - Read each passage.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you.

1 John 1:7 The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Matthew 11:28-29 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Hymn - TLH 515 v. 1, 2, 4, 6

O Thou from whom all goodness flows,
I lift my heart to Thee;
In all my sorrows, conflicts, woes,
Dear Lord, remember me.

When on my poor and burdened heart
My sins lie heavily,
Thy pardon speak, new peace impart;
Dear Lord, remember me.

If worn with pain, disease, or grief
This feeble body be,
Grant patience, rest, and kind relief;
Dear Lord, remember me.

And when before Thy throne I stand
And lift my soul to Thee,
Then with the saints at Thy right hand,
dear Lord, remember me.

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story and hymn to write a prayer you could use for yourself or someone else who is sick.

Prayer

Dear Lord, Jesus,

You show us through Your Word today Your great power over sin and sicknesses. When our sins trouble us, draw us in faith to You for the forgiveness that You alone can give, so that we may find peace and joy through sins forgiven. When sickness comes upon us, give us a patient faith that continues to seek Your strength and healing through prayer. When we are healed, may Your name be glorified before those who doubt You. We pray, trusting in Your grace and mercy, Amen.

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12

How does it feel to be sick?

What does your family do when you or a family member is sick?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts so we will gladly hear and study your Word. Help us today as we learn how Jesus, Your Son, has power to forgive sins and help in all our needs. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

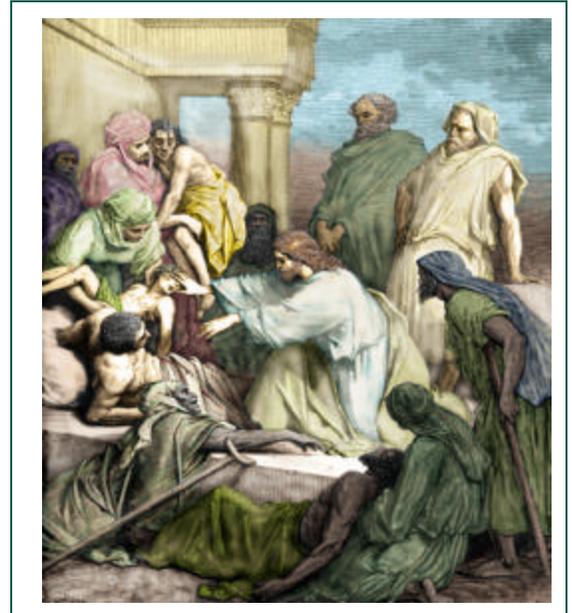
The Story (Mark 2:1-12)

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. {2} Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

{3} Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. {4} And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

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{12} Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" (Teacher's Note: Older students could also read this story from Matthew 9:1-8.)



Recalling Details

1. In what town did this story take place?
2. How was the paralyzed man able to come to Jesus?
3. Why did they have a problem getting into the room?
4. How did they get the paralyzed man into the room?
5. What did Jesus tell the paralyzed man?
6. Who thought Jesus was speaking blasphemies?
7. Why did the scribes believe Jesus spoke blasphemies?
8. How could Jesus know the thoughts of the scribes?
9. What did Jesus say the Son of Man has power to do?
10. How did the paralyzed man show he was made well?
11. What did the people do after seeing this miracle?

What the Story Tells Us - Jesus heals a paralyzed man.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did the four men bring the paralyzed man to Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus say, "Son, your sins are forgiven you," before He made him well?
3. How did Jesus have power to forgive sins?
4. What does He mean when He says, "The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins?"
5. Read Matthew 9:2. Why did Jesus say, "Son, be of good cheer," as He granted the paralyzed man forgiveness of sins?
6. What do we learn from Mark 2:12?

7. Read Matthew 9:8 and John 20:23. What is the power God has given to men?

8. Read 1 Peter 5:7. What does the Lord want us to do?

What God Tells Us

Jesus has the power and authority to forgive sins.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to you.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you.

1 John 1:7 the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Matthew 11:28-29 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Hymn

Look at the Lutheran Hymnal 522 and match the verses to the verses in Mark 2:1-12.

Prayer

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