

LESSON 12

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

LUKE 5:17-26



BIBLE TRUTH

FORGIVENESS IS THE GREATER HEALING

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Luke 5:17–26 from the Scriptures or read story 90, “Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

Crowded Out

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ an unusual, interesting item, e.g., a special coin or rock or shell, a small pet, a photograph of you as a child
- ✓ a deep box

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

Perseverance Demonstrates Faith

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ empty two-liter soda bottles (or gallon milk containers)—one for every four students
- ✓ marbles—two per child
- ✓ prizes for the winner

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 12—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

Acting It Out

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ flat sheets and to serve as costumes and a stretcher for carrying the crippled man

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Among a crowd of skeptics, men of faith were found—Consider who made up the crowd in this familiar story. Word spread throughout Israel about a new teacher who performed miracles and spoke with authority. As a result, on this day, religious leaders from across the country gathered to meet and listen to Jesus. By the time the men came with their paralyzed friend, the crowd had blocked their entry. Desperate to bring their crippled friend to Jesus, the men hoisted the stretcher up onto the roof and cut a hole to lower him through. The opening verse tells us that the power of the Lord was present for healing (Luke 5:17), but we do not read about any Pharisees being healed. They sat all around Jesus, and many of them had ailments Jesus could have cured. Yet the Pharisees had come to evaluate and judge Jesus, not to cry out to him. Doubt filled the hearts of the religious leaders, but the friends of the paralyzed man were filled with faith. Nothing would stop them from getting to Jesus.

Jesus knew their thoughts—Jesus knew the thoughts of everyone present. He knew the crippled man believed he could heal him, and he knew the religious rulers were doubters. So, instead of healing the man descending from the ceiling, Jesus called out and forgave his sins. The scribes and Pharisees were outraged, since they knew that only God could forgive sins. *“Who gave this Jesus such authority,”* they thought. But just as Jesus knew the faith of the crippled man, he also knew their thoughts. Today, we quickly forget that God is aware of every one of our thoughts. At times, we fool ourselves into thinking that our sins are somehow hidden from view. Our sins may be hidden from man (our friends, coworkers, parents), but our sins are never hidden from God. In spite of their unbelief, Jesus didn’t rebuke them; he gave them reason to believe and healed the paralyzed man. By restoring the man’s legs, Jesus demonstrated that he also possessed the authority to forgive sins.

The paralyzed man was healed and everyone was amazed—It is interesting to see the results of Jesus’ miracle. The man was no longer paralyzed and he left praising God, while everyone, including the Pharisees, gave praise to God as well. Though they were critical of Jesus, and didn’t fully see that Jesus was God, they knew that any healing was a work of God. Perhaps many religious rulers thought Jesus was a prophet, for the prophets of old could heal. Even so, prophets from the Old Testament did not personally forgive sins. In time, the Pharisees would become jealous of Jesus, feel threatened by his teaching, and label his claims blasphemous. Never did they realize that Jesus was more than a great teacher, a great prophet, and a great healer. Jesus was God.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus could forgive the sins of the crippled man because he knew what was before him. In a few short years, he would walk the road to Calvary and hang upon a tree. The crippled man's sins would be placed upon Jesus, and the Father would pour out his anger for them and all the sins of mankind. Jesus would bear the punishment until God's anger was completely exhausted, and then he would say, for the crippled man and for all the sins of all those who place their trust in Jesus, "It is finished" (John 19:30). People today have the same choice as those gathered in our story. We can either approach Jesus, critical of his teaching and skeptical of his claim to be God, or like the crippled man, we can demonstrate faith and allow nothing to come between us and seeing Jesus.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 5:17–26 from the Scriptures or read story 90, "Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Crowded Out

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ an unusual, interesting item, e.g., a special coin or rock or shell, a small pet, a photograph of you as a child
- ✓ a deep box

Prior to class, place the item in the box.

After reading today’s Bible story, tell the class that you would like to show them something amazing. Encourage the first few children to crowd close to the box to get a good look at the item. Let them see it and then go on to talk about how amazing it is to see and touch the item. The rest of the class should start to complain that they can’t see. At that point, have a volunteer lift one child above the crowd to see over the others’ shoulders. As soon as the child is lifted, allow the child to have a good look at the item in the box.

Use this as a way to demonstrate to the class how it feels to be on the outside, wanting to get in to see something special. Connect this exercise to the lesson as you continue with the story. Point out that the men and their crippled friend wanting to see Jesus were like the children on the outside of the crowd wanting to see the special item.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Perseverance Demonstrates Faith

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ empty two-liter soda bottles (or gallon milk containers)—one for every four students
- ✓ marbles—two per child
- ✓ prizes for the winner

This relay race will help the children understand how faith informs our perseverance. (We have faith that the marbles fit through the opening of the bottle; we know it is true. Therefore we hope to drop them in through the opening. The men in the story had faith that Jesus could heal; therefore, they persisted in finding a way to bring their friend to Jesus.

Evenly divide the class into teams of four children. Line up each team in front of a bottle. Give each student two marbles. Instruct them to drop their marbles into the bottle one at a time from a standing position. The marble should touch their nose and be dropped from that position. (This will ensure the children do not lower their hands to the bottle.) At the word “go,” the first team member in line will attempt to drop their marbles into the bottle one at a time, retrieving them from the floor as often as necessary. The first team to drop all their

marbles into their bottle is the winner. (If this is too difficult, set a time limit. The team with the most marbles in their bottle when time runs out is the winner.)

After the game, lead the class in discussing the following questions:

- **How did knowing the marble would fit in the bottle help you persevere?**
(Because we knew the marble fit we had faith to keep trying. If the marble did not fit we would not have had faith to keep trying.)

- **What did the friends of the crippled man know and believe about Jesus that helped them persevere?**
(They believed Jesus could heal their crippled friend. In spite of not finding a way through the crowd, they did not give up.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 12—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why did the men take their paralyzed friend up to the roof?**
(A crowd filled the house and blocked the doorway so they could not get in.)

- **What did the crippled man's friends do once they got him up on the roof?**
(They lowered him down so that he could see Jesus.)

- **What did Jesus do for the crippled man?**
(Jesus forgave his sins and healed him.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Acting It Out

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ flat sheets and to serve as costumes and a stretcher for carrying the crippled man

Have the class act out today's story. Get creative. Assign the roles of Jesus, the paralyzed man, and his friends to volunteers and hand out costumes. Use an extra sheet as a stretcher. The rest of the class can be the crowd.

Have the class act skeptical, even cynical, and then erupt in praise and amazement. After dramatizing the story, ask the class the following questions:

How did acting out the scene help you to imagine what it must have been like?

What is the most significant part of this story? (The most significant part of the story is that forgiveness is granted. Though Jesus does not explain in this passage the basis of his granting forgiveness, we know this is only possible because of his death on the cross. Jesus was aware, as he extended forgiveness to the crippled man, that he would soon die for that man's sins. Forgiveness can be granted only because of Christ's atonement on the cross. Help the class see that in order the grant forgiveness Jesus had to take the Father's wrath for our sin and die upon the cross in our place.)

NOTE FOR NEXT WEEK: For next week's "You Are the Light of the World" object lesson, send notes home with your students asking them to bring in a flashlight labeled with their name.

