

**06.29.09/ Mark 2:1-12**

**Materials Needed:** A small blanket or rug (a coloring page is included for younger kids)

**Opening Activity:**

Step 1: Define Paralytic: someone who is sick and unable to move parts or all of his body.

Step 2:

- Ask for a volunteer to be the paralytic.
- Have them lay down on the rug. Tell them that they can't move their arms or legs.
- Tell them they need to get to the other side of the room? Help them understand that they couldn't do it alone, that they would need help.
- Ask for 1 friend volunteer. See if they can help the "paralytic" get across the room. Hopefully they can't.
- Then ask for 3 more friend volunteers and tell them to help the "paralytic" across the room.

Read Mark 2: 1-12

**Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

<sup>1</sup>And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup>And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men "who were probably his friends". <sup>4</sup>And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup>And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup>"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." <sup>12</sup>And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

**Discussion**

Question 1: How does the paralytic get to Jesus?

Question 2: Why do you think they brought the sick man to Jesus? *They had heard of his power to heal. -Remind them of the leper that was healed in the story last week.*

Question 4: What was special that Jesus noticed that they had? *Faith*

Question 5: What does Jesus do first? Heal the man or forgive his sins? *Forgive his sins*

Question 6: Why does Jesus first forgive his sins? *His heart and spiritual healing was more important than his bodily or physical healing.*



**Clarification:** So Jesus' real desire is for our *hearts* to be whole and free of sickness or sin. He also cares for our physical needs but wants our hearts to be well first. Jesus also wants us to help our friends to find Jesus so they can be healed of their sin as well. We are not just responsible for ourselves but we are responsible for helping those around us. Sometimes we are the helpers and sometimes we need help.

### Wrap Up

Question 7: How can you help someone you know find Jesus?

Close with prayer thanking God for his love and for forgiving our sins by sending Jesus to die for us. Thank him for caring about healing our bodies as well. Ask that God would give us opportunities to help our friends find Jesus.