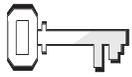


Friends Find a Way



References

Matthew 9:1-8;
Mark 2:1-12;
Luke 5:17-26; *The
Desire of Ages*,
pp. 267-271



Memory Verse

"Be devoted to
one another
in love"
(Romans 12:10, NIV).

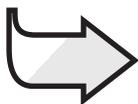


Objectives

The children will:
Know that Jesus can
use them to bring
others to Him.

Feel a desire to help
bring others to Jesus.

Respond by sharing
time and money to help
bring others to Jesus.



The Message

I serve Jesus when I
bring others to Him.

Monthly Theme

Jesus calls us to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is teaching many, including Pharisees and teachers of the law, in a house in Capernaum. Because they can't get through the crowd, four men make an opening in the roof and lower their paralyzed friend. Jesus says, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." Jesus reads the thoughts of the Pharisees and teachers who think He is speaking blasphemy. Jesus tells the paralytic to get up, take his mat, and walk home, proving that Jesus has authority to forgive sins. The man does what Jesus says, and the people praise God.

This is a lesson about service.

Like the friends of the paralytic, human need should move us to do whatever it takes to bring people to Jesus, who is the only one who can meet their needs, solve their problems, and forgive their sins.

Teacher Enrichment

"The Pharisees regarded affliction as an evidence of divine displeasure, and they held themselves aloof from the sick and the needy. Yet often these very ones who exalted themselves as holy were more guilty than the sufferers they condemned" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 267).

"It has often been assumed that the four friends who brought their paralytic friend to Jesus broke through the mud and brush-wood roof to let him down. This assumes that the roof was easily repaired. The tiles Luke refers to would then be sun-baked mud. But Luke was writing to a Roman who knew about Roman tiling. It is therefore more likely that Jesus was talking under a colonnade/veranda attached to the house, and that the friends, having gained access to the roof, stripped off some of the tiling of the colonnade" (Ralph Gower, *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times* [Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1987], p. 41).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Paralyzed Limbs</i> B. <i>Wheelchair Guest</i> C. <i>Can You Help?</i>	Bibles, book for each child Bibles, a person in a wheelchair Bibles, wheelchair/regular chair
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbooks Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy, He Is Our Song</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container used last week picture of Jesus for each child
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	adult "paralytic"; adult Bible-times costume active music, memory verse written for all to see Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>The Serving Body</i>	several pieces of newspaper, tape, pencils, markers, scissors
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Whom Will You Bring?</i>	index cards, pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk (or newsprint taped to wall), tape, picture of Jesus (optional)

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:
For each child:

- Bible
- book

A. Paralyzed Limbs

Have the children pretend they don't have arms by clapping their hands behind their backs. Then ask them to turn the pages in a book.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to be unable to use your arms?** (difficult, annoying, hard to do simple things) **Do you know anyone whose arms or legs are paralyzed?** (yes, no, explain the term if necessary) Say: **Our lesson today is about a man whose legs were paralyzed. Paralyzed people need help to get around. Let's find and read our memory verse, Romans 12:10. Read aloud. Today's lesson is about a man who needed help to get to Jesus. We will discover how much his friends were willing to help him. Our message is:**



I SERVE JESUS WHEN I BRING OTHERS TO HIM.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- Bible
- a person in a wheelchair

B. Wheelchair Guest

Ask a person in a wheelchair to visit your Sabbath School and talk to the children about their situation. Ask them to speak about specific challenges they face because of their special need.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you learn about serving others by meeting our guest?** (At times I maybe able to assist someone with special needs, etc.) Say: **Our Bible lesson is about a paralyzed man who needed help. Let's find and read our memory verse. Read Romans 12:10 aloud. Showing brotherly love would include bringing someone to Jesus. Our message for today is:**



I SERVE JESUS WHEN I BRING OTHERS TO HIM.

Say that with me.

C. Can You Help?

Place the wheelchair or other chair near a table, just far enough away so that it is impossible to take something off the table without leaving the chair. Invite a child to sit in the chair and ask: **Can you get the paper from the table without getting out of the chair?** Invite other children to sit in the chair and do other tasks

such as pick up something from the floor, reach up to get something, etc., without leaving the chair.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you could not do what I asked you to do?** (frustrated, annoyed, etc.) **What would it be like if you were in a wheelchair permanently?** (Difficult, hard to do anything, impossible to care for myself or others, etc.) Say: **In today's story we will learn about a man who couldn't do anything for himself because he was paralyzed. He needed help to get to Jesus. We will learn just how much his friends were willing to help him.** Find and read Romans 12:10. **Today's message is:**

You Need:

- Bibles
- wheelchair or regular chair



I SERVE JESUS WHEN I BRING OTHERS TO HIM.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study, and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"God Calls Us" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 130)

"We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129)

"Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 133)

"Pass It On" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 130)—theme song from Lesson 1.



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **When we give mission offerings, we help provide ways to bring others to Jesus.**

You Need:

- container used last week



Prayer

Ask the children for personal prayer requests. Then ask them to think of someone whom they would like to bring to Jesus. Have them write the name of that person on the back of the picture of Jesus. Make one or more prayer circles and invite the children to pray for the person whose name they wrote on the picture.

You Need:

- picture of Jesus for each child

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- adult “paralytic”
- adult Bible-times costume

Experiencing the Story

In advance: Invite an adult male to tell the story in first person. Have him wear a Bible-times costume.

Read or tell the story.

[Adult “healed paralytic” stands in front of class and tells the following story:] I am standing here before you. “What’s so exciting about that?” you ask. Well, let me tell you. Before I met Jesus I couldn’t stand, I couldn’t sit, I couldn’t move. I was paralyzed. Added to that, I felt very bad about myself.

Then I met Jesus. Oh—let me tell you how I met Jesus! You won’t believe this. You might even laugh. One day four of my friends came to where I was living—if you can call it living. I was really dying. They said, “Jesus is in town!” *Could it be true?* I thought. *Was Jesus really in our town of Capernaum?* I had heard about Jesus. He was my only hope. But maybe He wouldn’t want to get near a bad person like me.

I was so sick, I could only speak in a whisper. I whispered to my friends that my problems were all my own fault, that Jesus probably wouldn’t help me any more than the Pharisees had.

My friends said that Jesus would not turn me away, because He loves all people and forgives sins. “Please let us carry you to Him,” they begged.

I whispered to them, “Oh, I want to be forgiven! Take me—take me to Jesus.”

So they each took a corner of my mat and carried me to a house where Jesus was healing people. What a crowd there was! My four friends couldn’t bring me anywhere near Jesus. No one would

let us through. But my friends would not give up. They carried me to the roof of the house!

My friends began taking the roof apart! *I hope the house owner doesn’t get too angry*, I thought. Soon there was a big hole in the roof, big enough for me and my mat to fit through. I felt myself slowly dropping through the roof into the house. My four friends used ropes to let me down, down, down right in front of Jesus!

There were some important people in the crowd that day—Pharisees and teachers of the law. They were unhappy when my mat came through the roof. They yelled, “Get him out of here!”

But Jesus was different. He looked at me kindly and said, “You are forgiven for the things you have done wrong.” I was so happy!

But the Pharisees and teachers of the law were not happy. They thought to themselves, *Only God can forgive sins!*

Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Get up and walk’? You will soon know that I can forgive sins!”

Then Jesus turned to me and said, “Rise up, take your bed, and go back to your house!”

Suddenly I could move! Not only that—I could walk! The Pharisees and teachers of the law looked stunned.

Everyone was amazed. Most of them praised God as I ran around, rolled up my mat, and headed for my house. My four friends were really glad that they had brought me to Jesus. And so was I! Right then I decided I wanted to help people come to Jesus too.

Debriefing

Ask: **How had the Pharisees responded when the paralyzed man had turned to them for help?** (They wanted nothing to do with him. They said that it was his own fault.)

What happened when his friends took him to see Jesus? (They couldn't reach Jesus because of the crowd.) **What did they do?** (They made a hole in the roof and lowered him.)

What are some words you can think of that describe the healed man's friends? (didn't give up; caring; loving, etc.) **Do you want to be like them?** (yes)

How can you be like them and bring someone to Jesus? (by showing kindness to others, inviting them to church, praying with them, telling them about Jesus, sharing the Bible with them, etc.)

Say: **Let's say our message like we really mean it:**



I SERVE JESUS WHEN I BRING OTHERS TO HIM.

Memory Verse

Form pairs of children. In each pair, call one buddy A and the other buddy B. All A's form a circle and hold hands. All B's form a circle around the A's and hold hands. As music is played, children in circle A circle to the left. Children in circle B circle to the right. When music stops, children drop hands and quickly find their original buddies. Buddies hold hands and read

You Need:

- active music
- memory verse written for all to see

the memory verse together: **"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love" (Romans 12:10, NIV).** Repeat several times.

Finally, have all the children form a circle and say the verse together. (Adapted from Christy Weir, ed., *The Big Book of Bible Games*, Ventura, CA, 1996, p. 31.)

(Note to teacher: If this activity will not work in your situation, have the children draw a picture of their favorite scene in the Bible story, then write their memory verse below it and say the verse together several times.)

Bible Study

Have the readers in your group take turns reading aloud Luke 5:17-26 with expression. Then have someone read Romans 12:10.

You Need:

- Bibles

Debriefing

Ask: **Why can we say that the four friends showed the kind of love expressed in our memory verse?** (They were devoted and really cared for the sick man as a brother would.)

What is the best thing they did for their sick friend? (They brought him to Jesus.)

When someone comes to you with a big problem that you can't solve, what will you do? (Bring them to Jesus by praying with them, helping them all I can, telling them more about Jesus, etc.)

Say: **Let's say today's message together:**



I SERVE JESUS WHEN I BRING OTHERS TO HIM.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- several pieces of newspaper
- tape
- pencils, markers
- scissors

The Serving Body

In advance, tape together several pieces of newspaper and place them on the floor. Draw an outline of a primary child on the newspaper. Cut out the shape and tape it to the wall.

Say: **We all belong to Jesus and are part of one big family—one big body.**

Point to the paper child. Ask: **What part of our bodies do we use when we tell others about Jesus? For example, I think I am a mouth because I love to talk. What do you like to do?** Give the children time to think.

Say: **When you have thought about what you are good at, write your name on the part of the body that is most involved in that activity** (such as: arm—hugs; hand—takes care of; ear—listens, etc.).

Debriefing

After you read the names printed on

the arms, ask: **How can the arms help bring others to Jesus?** (do kind things; give money to help bring others to Jesus, etc.)

Read the names written on the legs and ask: **How can the legs help bring others to Jesus?** (do errands for people; take them to where they can learn about Jesus, etc.) Continue with the eyes, mouth, hands, etc.

Which parts of the body did the four men in our Bible story use to bring their friend to Jesus? (arms, legs, eyes, mouth, ears, hands, brain, etc.)

Which part of the body is most important and can do most to bring others to Jesus? (All are important and can do much to bring others to Jesus.) **Will you use all the parts of your body to bring others to Jesus? If so, say our message with me:**



I SERVE JESUS WHEN I BRING OTHERS TO HIM.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Whom Will You Bring?*

Ask: **Do you know someone who doesn't know Jesus? Think of a certain person that you would like to introduce to Jesus this week.**

Give out index cards and say: **Draw a picture of that person on this card. Think of ways you can bring them to Jesus. It's OK if your ideas are unusual. The four friends who helped the paralyzed man did something unusual too.**

Write the word "Jesus" in big letters or attach a picture of Him on the chalkboard, white board, or newsprint taped to the wall. As each child mentions an idea or ideas about how to bring their person to Jesus, ask them to tape their drawing under the word "Jesus."

At the end of Sabbath School have each child remove their index card and take it home as a reminder to carry out their ideas to bring that person to Jesus.

Debriefing

After the children have taped all their index cards under the word "Jesus," say, **As Christians, one of our biggest goals is to bring people to Jesus. There are**

lots of ways to do that. The four men in our Bible story wanted their sick friend to meet Jesus so much that they did the unusual—they lowered him through the roof.

What can you do in bringing your friend or relative to Jesus this week? Next Sabbath be ready to share your experiences. Let's say our message together one more time.



I SERVE JESUS WHEN I BRING OTHERS TO HIM.

**(From *The Children's Workers' Encyclopedia of Bible Teaching Ideas: New Testament* [Loveland, CO: Group Publishing], 1997, p. 39.)*

Closing

Pray that the children will be successful in carrying out their ideas for bringing others to Jesus during the week to come. Then sing the theme song "Pass It On" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 130), using new words from Lesson 1 Prayer and Praise.

Remind the children to use their Bible Study Guides every day and to do the daily activities.

You Need:

- index cards
- pencils
- white/chalkboard or newsprint taped to wall
- tape
- picture of Jesus (optional)

Friends Find a Way

References

Matthew 9:8;
Mark 2:1-12; Luke
5:17-26; *The
Desire of Ages*,
pp. 267-271

Memory Verse

“Be devoted to
one another in
love” (Romans
12:10, NIV).

The Message

I serve Jesus when
I bring others to
Him.

Do you know someone who has a very serious disease? If they needed to see a doctor, would you rip off the hospital roof to get them inside? One sick man’s friends did something like that!

If you had taken a walk in the town of Capernaum one certain day, you would probably have heard, “Jesus is in town! Jesus is in town!”

A crowd of people hurried to a house where Jesus was healing and teaching. And what a crowd it was! There was no room inside the house. There was no room in the yard either. All kinds of people were in that house with Jesus: Pharisees, teachers of the law, ordinary people, and many, many sick people.

There was a very sick man in that town and oh, how he wanted to meet Jesus! But he had a problem. He was paralyzed. How could he get to Jesus? He couldn’t move. All he could do was lie on his bed and think about how sick he was. If only he could meet Jesus! He just knew that Jesus would make him well.

The paralyzed man was fortunate in at least one way. He had four very good friends who were happy to carry him to Jesus. Each took a corner of his mat, and off they went. But when they found the house where Jesus was healing, they couldn’t reach Jesus. There were people everywhere. No one would let them through the crowd. So near and yet so far!

The sick man was worried

that he wouldn’t see Jesus after all. What could he and his four friends do? There had to be a way to get through that crowd.

His friends took him up to the roof of the house. How strange! Have you ever entered a house from the roof? It isn’t easy. Do you know what the four friends did next? They made a hole in the roof—big enough for their sick friend and his mat to fit through. Then, with ropes, they let the sick man on his mat down, down, down. He landed right in front of Jesus!

Jesus’ eyes were so kind. He said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Forgiven, I’m forgiven! the man said to himself. What a happy day!

The Pharisees and teachers of the law were not happy about this. They had already refused to help this man because of his sins. They thought to themselves, *How dare Jesus try to forgive sins! Only God can forgive sins!*

Jesus could read their minds. He spoke strongly to them, “Why are you thinking these things? People need to be helped. Which is easier: to say you are forgiven, or to say you are healed? You will soon know that I can forgive sins on earth!”

Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Rise up, take your bed, and go back to your house!” Suddenly the man could move his legs and his arms. He was healed all over! He got up, rolled up his mat, carried it out of the room, and headed home. This time the crowd let him through!

Everyone was amazed and praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

The four friends were really happy that they had brought their friend to Jesus. How about you? Do you want to bring someone to Jesus?



Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go with your family to a quiet place in nature. Sit down together and read your Bible lesson.
- Find and read Romans 12:10 in your Bible. Discuss it and teach it to your family.
- Sing a song about loving others, then pray for someone who is sick.

Sunday

- During family worship read and discuss Mark 2:1, 2.
- Find Capernaum on a Bible map. (Look near the Sea of Galilee.) About how far is it from Nazareth? Which direction would you travel if leaving Nazareth for Capernaum? How did people get from one place to another in Jesus' time? How do you think Jesus got from Nazareth to Capernaum?
- Make a heart drawing and write your memory verse on it. Put it where you will see it when you wake up each morning. Thank Jesus for His love for you.

Monday

- Read and discuss Mark 2:3, 4 for family worship. How many friends brought the sick man to Jesus? _____
- Read what Luke says about the roof in Luke 5:19. What is the roof of your house made of? How easy would it be to make a hole in it?
- Why did the sick man's friends work so hard to bring him to Jesus? (Hint: say your memory verse.) Ask Jesus to help you always to be willing to help your friends.
- Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129).

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Mark 2:5 during family worship. The friends did not give up! What did Jesus think of what they did?
- Try to find out how houses were built in Jesus' time. (Hint: Use research resource.)
- Work with your family as a team to do something helpful at home today. Then thank Jesus for your home.

- Make up a tune for your memory verse and sing it together.

Wednesday

- Read and discuss Mark 2:6, 7 for family worship. How did the teachers of the law feel when Jesus forgave the man's sins? How do you feel when someone's sins are forgiven?
- Write about or draw a picture of one thing you will do (or have done) this week to bring a friend closer to Jesus. Share it with your family. Ask them to pray with you while you pray for your friend.
- Sing or say your memory verse together.

Thursday

- Read and discuss Mark 2:8-12 with your family. Tell in your own words why Jesus healed the man. Then read Mark 2:10 again. Were you right?
- Tie some string to the four corners of a small towel. Put a book in the towel and lower it from a chair to the floor. How easy would it be to lower a person from the roof to the floor?
- Where can you bring someone to meet Jesus?
- Say your memory verse without help. Then tell what it means to you.
- Sing together "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134). Then ask Jesus to help you bring someone to Him.

Friday

- Write the following, each on a different piece of paper: SICK MAN, JESUS, FOUR FRIENDS, CROWD. Divide these papers among your family. Then act out the Bible story with your family playing the part of the character(s) written on their paper.
- Think of the person you chose to bring to Jesus this week. Draw a picture of what you did. Take your picture to Sabbath School tomorrow.
- Ask your family to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Sing or say your memory verse together. Then ask God to fill your hearts and lives with His love for others.