

BIBLE STORY: “Paralytic Man Healed”

TEXT: Luke 5:17-26

BACKGROUND: Several people came from nearby villages to the home where Jesus was teaching. In those days, many homes had steps outside the house, going up to the roof. In the cool of the evenings, people would sleep on the roof. The story is about a paralyzed man; he was unable to walk.
(Initial Situation)

BIBLE STORY: Use your own words as you tell the Bible story in chronological order.
Option: If you wish, you can use actions while telling the story. This story is prepared to be repeated three times in one setting:
 1st Tell the story, using actions. (Listeners do not do the actions.)
 2nd As you retell the story, the listeners will do the actions with you without speaking.
 3rd Let each one think about the story as the story is retold the third time only using actions.

ORDER	ACTION (Option to use)	TELL THE BIBLE STORY
1 st	■ <i>Walk with hands extended, as if carrying someone.</i>	There were four men who carried the paralytic man on a mat to Jesus. However, when they got to the house, they couldn't enter because of the huge crowd. There was no room for them!
2 nd	■ <i>Walk and repeatedly move hands upward, one on top of the other, as if going up the stairs.</i>	So the men carried the paralyzed man up to the roof.
3 rd	■ <i>Hands are down; several times lifting them upward as if taking tiles off a roof.</i>	There they took away some tiles. Through the opening, they carefully lowered him on his mat and placed him in front of Jesus.
4 th	■ <i>Put both hands to your heart.</i>	Jesus looked up and saw the faith of the men. Then Jesus looked at the paralyzed man and said, “Your sins are forgiven.”
5 th	■ <i>Put both hands on hips and turn to side.</i>	“The religious leaders said, “Only God can forgive sins.”
6 th	■ <i>Put hand on chin, pondering.</i>	Jesus replied, “Is it easier to say ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’”
7 th	■ <i>Point to the floor to the paralytic man</i>	Jesus told the paralyzed man, “Get up, pick up your mat and go home.”
8 th	■ <i>With knees bent, rise upward.</i>	The man immediately got up,
9 th	■ <i>Pretend to pick up a mat and throw it over your shoulder.</i>	picked up his mat and
10 th	■ <i>Walk as if going home and then raise one of your arms (the arm not carrying the mat).</i>	went home, praising God because he was healed!
11 th	■ <i>Make a big circle with your hand and then raise both arms upward.</i>	All the people were amazed and praised God.

* Do not use shadowed areas (5th and 6th) with very young children.

CONCLUSION:

(Choose one or more options.)

■ **Option 1:** **Pray.**

After telling the story, close with prayer.

■ **Option 2:** **Give a Devotional Thought.**

After telling the story, state one or more Life Lessons from the story to apply to listeners' lives.

Examples:

LIFE LESSON 1: Jesus wants His people to help one another.

Explain

- The men helped the paralyzed man by carrying him to Jesus.

Apply

- Help those around you, such as your family members, friends at home, church and neighborhood.

LIFE LESSON 2: Jesus forgives.

Explain

- Jesus forgave the man of his sins, the things that he had done wrong.

Apply

- Pray and ask God to forgive you of your sins, the things that you have done wrong. God will forgive you.

■ **Option 3:** **Lead a Discussion.**

After telling the story, ask questions, allowing listeners to talk about the story. Examples:

GENERIC QUESTIONS:

1. What did you like about the story?
2. Who were the main characters in the story? Describe them.
3. Can you relate to one of the characters in the story? Which one?
4. What does this story teach us about God?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. Who helped the paralyzed man?
2. Why did they help the paralyzed man?
3. Do you know someone who is paralyzed or disabled who needs help? How can you help that person?
4. Are there other people who need your help? Who? How can you help them?
5. How can you help people know about Jesus?
6. Jesus forgave the man of his sins? What does that mean?
7. What should we do to have Jesus forgive us our sins, the things we have done wrong?
8. What did Jesus tell the man to do? What did the paralyzed man do?
9. How does Jesus help us when we are sick?
10. Who are some people who help us when we are sick? How? If we go and see a doctor, should we obey him? Should we take the medication prescribed? Why?

■ **Option 4:** **Do an Activity:**

- Let the listeners dramatize the story.
- Ask for a volunteer to retell the story.
- Divide into small groups and let them tell the story to each other.
- Encourage each one to share this Bible story with others.
- Invite someone who is disabled, such as a person who broke his leg, to come to your meeting, talk about his experiences and share ways that they can help him.
- Plan a project in which you can help someone in need in your community.
- Take crutches or a wheel chair to the meeting. After the story, specify certain tasks that members of the group must do as they use the crutches or ride in the wheel chair. Then talk about ways that they could help disabled people in their home, community, work and/or school.

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