

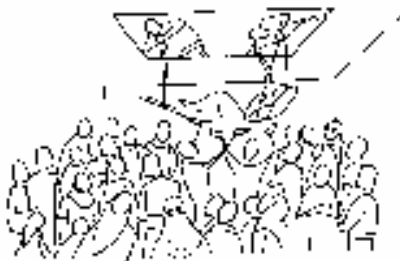
The Paralyzed Man and his Friends who Came to Jesus for Help!

1. When Jesus arrived at Capernaum, people in that town began spreading the news that He had come. "Soon the house where He was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no room for one more person, not even outside the door." NLB*

2. Jesus began to teach them the truths about God. As He was teaching, four men came to the house, carrying one of their friends on a mat. The man was paralyzed. There was no way that he could come to Jesus on his own because he could not walk. But the man's four men had agreed to help their friend come to Jesus. They had heard that He could heal sick people.



3. As the men came near the house, they realized they had a problem. There were too many people around and they could not take their friend to Jesus. He was in the house and they could not get in. They could not even get close to the door. Then they thought of another way to help their friend. They went up onto the flat roof of the house and "dug through the clay roof, and lowered the sick man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus." NLB*



4. Jesus looked up into the hearts of the man's four friends and saw their faith. They believed that Jesus could help their paralyzed friend. Then, Jesus said to the man lying on the mat, 'My son, your sins are forgiven.'

5. Some religious teachers heard Jesus say those words and were upset. They said to each other, 'He shouldn't say that. Only God can forgive sins.'



6. Jesus knew what they were thinking in their hearts and asked them a question, "Is it easier for me to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk?'"

7. Then Jesus told the religious teachers that He would show that He had power to forgive sins. Then He turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, take your mat, and go on home, because you are healed." NLB*

8. "The man jumped up, took the mat, and pushed his way through the stunned onlookers. Then they all praised God. 'We've never seen anything like this before!' they exclaimed."*



Mark 2:1-2

*Quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996.

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Listening Questions: (Teacher: Read the story aloud before giving a copy to the students.)

- What was wrong with the man on the mat?
- What were his four friends doing and what did they want to happen?
- What strange thing did the four friends do in order to get help from Jesus?
- What did Jesus do for the sick man?

Comprehension Questions:

- What happened when Jesus arrived at the town of Capernaum?
What was Jesus doing in the house where He was staying?
- Five men came while Jesus was teaching. Tell about them:
What were they doing when they came to where Jesus was?
Why did they want to be with Jesus?
What problem did they have that made it difficult to be near Jesus?
- What did the four men do so that their friend could meet Jesus?
What did Jesus see in the heart of the four men?
- What is the first thing that Jesus said to the paralyzed man?
Who was not happy when they heard what Jesus said? Why?
(Note: It was not the owner of the house who was upset. The roof of the houses in Palestine in those days could be removed without doing lots of damage.)
- What question did Jesus ask the religious teachers?
What did Jesus say next?
- What did the paralyzed man do next?
- What did the people who saw what happened think?
- What two things did Jesus prove that He could do?



Something to think about: A paralyzed person has a very difficult life.

- Discuss what it would be like to be paralyzed from the neck down.
List things that a paralyzed person cannot do. What things can they do?
- How do you think you would feel if you were paralyzed?
- Do you think a person can be sick because they have done something wrong?
- Of the two things that Jesus did for the man in this story, which do you think was the most important need in the man's life?
- How was the man's life different after he met Jesus?

Mark 2:1-2