



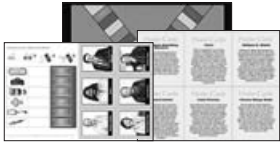
# Four Friends Help a Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12

How many third- and fourth-graders believe that they've done wrong only after they've been caught? Otherwise, they don't regard their wrong behavior as sin. Before you can help children discover how they can be forgiven, you must help them understand their need for forgiveness. Use this lesson to guide kids' understanding of sin and that everyone needs God's forgiveness.



► **Bible Point**  
Jesus forgives us.


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Too Much to Handle</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Carry things in a relay, discuss sin and forgiveness, and clean up the room after the messy relay.	Bible, CD player, books and various items from around the room, large plastic trash bag <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Place piles of books and other small items that can be carried at one end of the room. Piles should include enough items that a child can't carry it all at one time.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Faith and Forgiveness</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Experience the events of Mark 2:1-12 through physical action, listening, and discussion.	Bibles, CD player, masking tape, pennies <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Jesus Can</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Compare what Jesus can do with what doctors can do.	<b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Jesus Can" game board and game pieces, "Healer" cards 	Punch out the "Jesus Can" game pieces, and fold them into triangles according to the instructions on the sheet.

**Key Verse**  
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will forgive others in their lives and ask Jesus to forgive them for their sins.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Forgive Me</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create heart indicators, and pray for forgiveness.	Bible Truth Sleuth, several pairs of scissors, paper fasteners	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.***







### Too Much to Handle Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
books and various items  
from around the room  
large plastic trash bag  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “Thankful” (track  
7); “If We Confess”  
(1 John 1:9) (track 21)

### Too Much to Handle Easy Prep

Place piles of books and  
other small items that  
can be carried at one  
end of the room. Piles  
should include enough  
items that a child can’t  
carry it all at one time.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Too Much to Handle

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

As kids arrive, have them form teams of five or six. When everyone’s arrived, have teams line up in single file at the end of the room opposite the piles of books and other items.

Say: **The first person in line will walk to the other end of the room, pick up an item, and carry it back to the next person in line. Then that person will walk to the other end of the room, pick up a second item, and carry both items back to the next person in line, and so on. If someone drops any items, the team will need to pick the items up together, pile them up again, and start the relay over.** Be sure kids understand that they must carry the items in their hands—not in their shirts. When kids understand how to play, begin the relay by playing “Thankful” (track 7 on the CD).

Have kids play until the song has finished or until all the teams have dropped the items at least once.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to try to carry all those things back and forth?
- What would have made it easier to do the relay?
- Tell why it was frustrating or not when you dropped things and had to start over.
- Tell about a time you had to start something over because you did something wrong at home or at school.
- In life, what kinds of wrong things can get us into trouble?

Say: **The wrong things we do in life are called sins. We may think we can deal with the trouble sin brings all on our own, but we can’t. Much like trying to carry all the objects in our relay, our sin is too much for us to handle. We need forgiveness—which means the sin has been cleaned away—so we can put the sin behind us and try again. Our Key Verse today, 1 John 1:9, teaches us that ► JESUS FORGIVES US.**

Have a willing child read 1 John 1:9 aloud. Then hold an item from one of the piles.

Say: **During the relay, these items were like sin. They got us into trouble, and it was very difficult to manage it all on our own. But today we’re going to learn about Jesus’ forgiveness. So let’s clean up this “sin”—the mess of things in the room.**





Have kids form an assembly line from the piles to a large plastic trash bag at the opposite end of the room. Play “If We Confess” (1 John 1:9) (track 21 on the CD) as they pass one thing at a time from one end of the line to the other until everything is in the bag.

Ask:

- What about cleaning up the room is like being forgiven and getting clean of sin?
- Tell about a time someone forgave you and what the experience was like.

Say: **Today we’ll explore a Bible passage about four friends helping a paralyzed man. Jesus forgave the man’s sins and made him well again. We’ll learn that ► JESUS FORGIVES US, and we can have another chance after we’ve sinned.**



## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Faith and Forgiveness

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure everyone has a Bible, and have kids turn to Mark 2:1-3. Invite a willing child to read aloud the verses, and then have kids form new groups of five. Invite the smallest child in each group to be “paralyzed.”

Say: **The Bible says four men carried their paralyzed friend all the way to see Jesus. I’d like four members of each group to carry their “paralyzed” group member once around the room to see what that was like. Move carefully and if you think you’re about to lose your grip, let your group know so everyone can set your paralyzed person down gently to give your muscles a rest.**

When groups have circled the room once, have group members sit down together. Say: **Paralyzed group members, you still can’t move. But you can share answers!** Have groups discuss the following questions.

Ask:

- What was it like to carry someone around the room?
- Based on what you just experienced, what struggles do you think the men carrying their paralyzed friend to Jesus might’ve faced along the way?

Invite a willing child to read aloud Mark 2:4.

Say: **Not only did the man’s friends have to carry him to Jesus, but when they got there they had to climb up on the roof of a house and then dig through it to get the man to Jesus. There was a large crowd gathered around Jesus, and this was the best way the friends could think of to get the paralyzed man near Jesus. Let’s try digging to get to something now.** Give each group a penny, and set out masking

### Faith and Forgiveness Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- masking tape
- pennies
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Forgiven and Healed” (track 22)





tape to share. Say: **In the next minute, try to hide your penny the best you can in a big wad of masking tape. After one minute, you'll trade and another group will try to dig out the penny. And remember, your paralyzed person still can't move.** Allow a minute for kids to prepare their wads. Then have groups trade and try to dig out the penny as quickly as possible. Have groups discuss these questions.

Ask:

- **What was difficult about digging through the thick tape to find your penny?**
- **What do the lengths these friends were willing to go to in getting their friend near Jesus show about them?**

Say: **Let's find out what happened to the paralyzed man when his friends lowered him down through the roof.**

Play "Forgiven and Healed" (track 22 on the CD).

Invite a willing child to read aloud Mark 2:9-12. Have the paralyzed group members get up and lead their other group members in a few exercises, such as running in place and jumping for joy. Then have everyone sit in a circle.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Paralyzed group members, what was it like to be able to move again?**
- **What makes Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man amazing?**
- **Which do you think means more, being forgiven or being healed? Explain.**
- **Why do you think the man's faith in Jesus was important?**
- **Jesus forgave the man before healing him. Why do you think that was fair or not?**

Say: **The paralyzed man went through a lot to see Jesus. Clearly, he and his friends knew that Jesus was special. Jesus saw their faith, and he forgave the man. Since people couldn't prove that the man had been forgiven, some didn't believe Jesus. To show the people he could forgive sins, Jesus performed the miracle of healing the man. We can show our faith by telling Jesus about our sins. When we do,**  
**► JESUS FORGIVES US.**

## Jesus Can

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids form six groups. Distribute the "Jesus Can" game pieces to each group. Then assign each group a different healer by handing out the "Healer" cards, being sure to assign the Jesus card to the group with the cross game piece. Set out the "Jesus Can" game board, and have each group put its game piece at the bottom of one spoke.

### Jesus Can Supplies

#### Teacher Pack

"Jesus Can" game board and game pieces  
 "Healer" cards

### Jesus Can Easy Prep

Punch out the "Jesus Can" game pieces, and fold them into triangles according to the instructions on the sheet.





Say: **To play this game, you'll read in your groups about your healers on the back of your cards. Go ahead and do that now. Allow time. Now groups will take turns naming amazing things their healers have done. For each amazing thing that your healers have done, you'll get to move one space.**

Find out who has the next birthday, and have that person's group start and then move clockwise around the game board.

When groups have moved their pieces as far as they can, say: **Now we'll see who are the most amazing healers of all. You can move your game piece to the middle of the board if your healer can also forgive people of their sins and make them right before God.**

Only the Jesus group can move.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it that only the Jesus group got to move into the center?
- What's different about what Jesus can do compared with these other incredible healers?

Say: **People can do amazing things. They can heal people, though in a different way from how Jesus healed people. But no matter what amazing things people can do, only Jesus can forgive us of our sins. Jesus did both for the paralyzed man. When we ask for forgiveness ► JESUS FORGIVES US, too.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Forgive Me

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, scissors, and paper fasteners. Have kids sit in a circle and find the "Heart Indicator" activity. Show kids how to cut out the two heart indicator pieces, being careful to not cut the center hole of the partial circle. Help kids poke holes in the centers of both pieces with their paper fasteners and attach them together.

Ask:

- What does the heart indicator look like it's meant to do?



### Forgive Me Supplies

- .....
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- several pairs of scissors
- paper fasteners





Say: Think for a moment about times you've done something wrong. Remember, we're all human and that means we've *all* done wrong. Every one of us. When you've thought of something you've done wrong, turn your heart indicator so the sin heart shows. Allow time.

Ask:

- What can we do when we know we've done something wrong?

Say: When we believe that God sent Jesus to save us from our sins and we have a relationship with him, ► **JESUS FORGIVES US**. All we need to do is tell Jesus we're sorry for the wrong things we've done. I'll begin a prayer, and as part of the prayer we can silently tell Jesus about our sins.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for promising to forgive us when we confess our sins to you. We'd like to tell you we're sorry for these things. Pause for silent prayer. Thank you for loving us so much that you clean our sins away. We love you, too. In Jesus' name, amen.

Have kids turn their heart indicators to the forgiveness heart and cheer to celebrate Jesus' forgiveness.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's it like to be forgiven—to have a heart that Jesus has cleaned?
- What difference can it make in your life when Jesus forgives you?
- What difference does it make in your life when other people forgive you?
- When you forgive someone else, why do you or don't you think it helps you, too?

Say: When we sin, it makes Jesus sad. But every time we ask him to, ► **JESUS FORGIVES US**. So when others do things that make you sad, you can remember to forgive them again and again as Jesus forgives you again and again. Forgiveness makes our lives better, the way it did for the paralyzed man when Jesus forgave him.

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## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: It's a relief to know that ► **JESUS FORGIVES US**. Let's think about ways we can remember and respond to that this week.

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

.....  
Bible Truth Sleuth







Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Write a letter to a friend who hurt you. Tell your friend that you forgive him or her.**
- **Pray to ask Jesus to forgive you for hurting him with sin.**
- **After you've been forgiven for doing something wrong, don't do the wrong thing again.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Jesus' forgiveness and love does amazing things. It changed the paralyzed man's life forever, and it can change our lives, too. Let's celebrate the fact that**  
▶ **JESUS FORGIVES US** as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus' forgiveness. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Close with prayer. Have kids lie very still as if they are paralyzed. Pray: **Dear God, sometimes sin makes us feel paralyzed and far away from you. Thank you for your forgiveness. Help us to make good choices, and help us to remember that your forgiveness is stronger than our sin. In Jesus' name, amen.** Have kids jump up and down.



