



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Forgives and Heals

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2

WORD OF WONDER: From Matthew 11:28

The Bible gives account after account of miracles Jesus did while walking on earth. Sometimes we read through these familiar stories and lose sight of the true power that Jesus demonstrated.

Read Mark 2:1–12. In this passage, we learn about the time when Jesus, teaching in a crowded house, healed a man who was paralyzed. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be in the crowd that day? The physical healing of this man is impressive, but the spiritual healing, the forgiving of the man's sins—that demonstrated the type of power that the religious onlookers found offensive. Jesus' power isn't merely for physical healing or forgiveness. Jesus has power for both.

When we recognize Jesus' power over sin and His complete defeat of death, we too can experience the spiritual healing Jesus offers. First John 1:9 tells us that if we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive our sins. Only Jesus has the power to forgive.

Take a moment to rest in awe of Jesus' power. In what part of your life do you most want to see Jesus work today? There is nothing we face in this world that is more powerful than Jesus. What an amazing truth we can rest in as we walk with Jesus!

—**Ana Dutton**

Children's Ministry

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Wonder Ink

LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO IS PARALYZED

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Teachers of the law, or scribes, were experts in the law of Moses and in traditions about how the law should be applied. They were responsible for teaching others, especially children, how to read and understand the Scriptures. Some scribes were also Jewish religious leaders called *Pharisees*.

WHAT?

While Jesus taught inside a crowded house in Capernaum, four people dug out a hole in the roof to lower down a man who could not walk. Jesus forgave the man's sins and then healed him, demonstrating His authority to the teachers of the law.

WHERE?

Jesus' early ministry took place in the region of Galilee, north of Jerusalem and the region of Judea. Capernaum was a town in Galilee located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus used it as a home base.

WHEN?

This story comes early in Jesus' ministry. Jesus had begun preaching about God's kingdom and had called His first disciples. Because Jesus cast out demons and healed many sick people, word about Him started to spread, and large crowds found Him wherever He went.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus inaugurated God's kingdom and made a way for all people to be part of it. This story demonstrates Jesus' power to forgive sins and to heal—that is, to bring about the realities of God's kingdom, which was beginning to break through.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Build a House

SUPPLIES: interlocking plastic blocks, toy people figures

Place small interlocking plastic blocks and toy people figures in the activity area. Allow kids to use the various blocks to build houses for the toy people. Kids can put the people in or on top of the houses.

In God's big story today, we'll hear about a time when Jesus was teaching in a house. The house was so full of people who wanted to listen to Jesus! Let's build a house and put people inside just like in the story.

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—*Touch the tip of the middle finger into the center of the palm of your opposite hand, then touch middle finger to palm of other hand (nails through His palms while on the cross).*

FORGIVES AND—*Place hands on heart.*

HEALS—*Move arms around shoulders and squeeze (hug).*



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for loving us and caring for us. Thank You for Your great power that can heal our bodies and forgive our sins. Through the power of Your Spirit, please teach us today about Jesus' amazing power to forgive and heal. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 328-333

A Hole in the Roof

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Come to me, all who are tired. I will give you rest.

—Matthew 11:28

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Tell about a time when you felt very tired.** Allow the kids to respond. **What are some things in life that can cause us to be tired or feel like we're carrying a heavy load?**
- **How has Jesus helped you?**