



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

Volunteer Contributor to

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: toy doctor supplies; dolls; coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Heals the Man Who Is Paralyzed Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Doctor Play

Set-up: Provide a variety of toy doctor supplies and dress-up clothes (toy stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, medicine cup, bandages, lab coat, hair net, face mask) and dolls or stuffed animals. If using hair nets and face masks, make sure to have enough for all the kids so they don't share.

Play: Encourage the kids to dress up like a doctor and pretend to take care of the dolls or stuffed animals with the doctor supplies. Kids can work together and pretend to take the doll to a doctor's appointment or an animal to the veterinarian's office.

Play Station: Jesus Heals the Man Who Is Paralyzed Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Jesus Heals the Man Who Is Paralyzed Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a time they got hurt or sick.



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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.

—from Matthew 11:28

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Why did the friends have to carry the man to see Jesus?** (*He couldn't walk.*)
- **Why couldn't the man and his four friends get to Jesus easily?** (*Lots of people came to see Jesus. The house where Jesus was teaching was full of people. There wasn't room even to stand outside the door and listen.*)
- **What did the friends of the man do to get him to Jesus?** (*They dug a hole in the roof and lowered the man through it on a mat.*)
- **When Jesus saw the man on the mat, what did He say to him?** (*"Son, your sins are forgiven" [Mark 2:5], and then later, "Get up. Take your mat and go home" [Mark 2:11.]*)
- **What is a miracle?** (*something that only God can do*)
- **Jesus has power to heal and forgive each of us! How does that make you feel?**
- **Have you ever been healed? Do you know someone who has been healed?**

When Jesus saw the faith of the man and his friends, Jesus forgave and healed him. Jesus has power to forgive and heal because He is God.



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Craft: Make a Mat

SUPPLIES: cardstock or foam sheet rectangles (1 per kid), scissors (prep only), marker (prep only), tape, dowel rods (2 per kid), Wonder Truth label, decorative stickers
Ahead of time, cut cardstock or foam sheets into rectangles approximately 8" x 4".

Today we're going to make a craft that will help us remember God's big story and the Wonder Truth. Does anyone remember how the man got around since he could not walk? Allow time for responses. His friends carried him on a mat! We're going to make a mat. How did Jesus help the man on the mat? Allow time for responses. He forgave the man's sins and healed him! Jesus told him to pick up his mat and walk!



To make a mat, we will tape a rod along the edge of the long sides of your rectangle. Then you can add our label that reminds us Jesus forgives and heals. Use the stickers or our class markers to decorate your mat. Demonstrate how to tape the straws onto the cardstock or foam sheet. Give kids small pieces of tape (at least four per child). Walk around the room to assist kids as needed.