

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 7: Paralyzed Man (from Luke 5:17-26)

To the Teacher:

This week we hear a story of a paralyzed man and his friends who do everything they can to get him to Jesus, because they knew he had the power to heal. Jesus does, but he first heals him spiritually. Pray that our kids would know the healing power of Jesus that saves us from the sickness of sin!

- **Big Idea:** Jesus has the power and authority to heal physical (*disease*) and spiritual (*sin*) sickness.
- **Question:** Here are a few questions you could start with...
 - What does authority mean?
 - Who has authority in your family?
 - Who has authority at school?
 - Does any person you know have the authority or power to heal sin? Why not?
 - How could Jesus heal sickness and disease?
- **Starter:** You may choose to show this cartoon video on the story you are about to read: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cmppSIQUX4&t=3s>
- **Story:** from Luke 5:17-26

[READ]

One day, Jesus was teaching people in someone's house about the good news of God's rescue plan. Some Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come to hear what Jesus had to say. There were also a bunch of people from the neighborhood gathered around. The house was packed!

Now, a group of friends heard that Jesus was in the neighborhood and they had also heard that this Jesus would sometimes perform miracles, healing people. So, they took their friend, who was paralyzed and couldn't walk, to go see Jesus. They knew Jesus had the power to heal their friend! Once they got to the house, they couldn't even get in the door because it was so packed with people. So, they got a great idea. They climbed up onto the roof, dug a hole in the roof, and lowered their paralyzed friend down through the hole right in front of Jesus!

When Jesus saw the faith of the men, that they believed so strongly he could heal their friend they were willing to do this, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

When the Pharisees heard Jesus say this, they thought to themselves, "Whoa, whoa, whoa! Who does this guy think he is? Only God has the power to forgive sins!" Jesus sensed in his Spirit that they were thinking this, so he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?"... which probably freaked them out that he could read their minds! He said, "Which do you think is easier; for me to say with words, 'Your sins are forgiven', or for me to tell this man to get up and walk?" Then he turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Get up, take your mat, and go home." The man stood up in front of everyone, got his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone saw what happened and they were amazed!

[Some Things to Point Out]

- At that time, people believed physical defects (*like paralysis*) were a punishment from God for sin.
 - For this reason, paralytics and other disabled people felt excluded from community and rejected by God.
 - Jesus teaches the opposite! The faith of the paralytic and his friends was a sign that they were accepted by God. This is why Jesus begins with, "Your sins are forgiven!" - that is, "God has not rejected you!"
- The friends brought the paralyzed man to Jesus to be healed so he could walk again, but Jesus forgave his sins. It wasn't until his authority was questioned that he healed him physically.
 - Ask: Why do you think Jesus did that?
 - Often times Jesus would heal people of their physical sickness in order to show that he had the power to bring full restoration - including healing people from sin!
- **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank you that you have the power to heal. You have the power to heal us from our physical sickness and pain, but more importantly, you have the power to heal us from our spiritual sickness, called sin.
- **Craft: 'A Man and His Mat'**
 - Using paper and yarn: <http://themixedupmama.blogspot.com/2013/05/the-para-l-ized-man-jesus-heals-and.html>
 - Using popsicle sticks: <https://sundayschoolzone.com/activity/jesus-healed-a-man-who-could-not-walk-bible-craft/>

- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

Not many people wanted to be friends with people who couldn't walk, but the paralyzed man in this story had friends who helped bring him to Jesus. Is there someone at school or in your neighborhood who doesn't have many friends?

How can you be a friend to them?

How can you **Listen** to their story?

How can you **Speak** the story of Jesus to them?