

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



JULY 5, 2026

JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS

MATTHEW 9; MARK 2; LUKE 5

CHRIST CONNECTION

By forgiving the man's sins, Jesus revealed that He is God. Jesus has power to heal and forgive. Only through faith in Jesus can people be saved from their sins.

LEADER DEVO

Jesus posed an intriguing question in today's passage: "Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk?'" We're presented with quite a few crises in this story: a man suffering from paralysis was carried into Jesus' presence by his friends, the house was too crowded to allow new guests, and the Jewish leaders watched it all unfold with cynical hearts. It appeared to be a lose-lose situation from every angle. As Jesus kept teaching, the men devised a plan to get their friend to the Healer while the scribes and Pharisees continued to cry blasphemy in their hearts.

Yet Jesus was demonstrating this truth to every person involved: He alone has the power to forgive sin. In this scriptural account, we see Jesus' authority—His power, ability, and willingness to intervene in the lives of God's people through their faith. Though the religious leaders in the crowd were unable to see the state of the paralyzed man's heart, they could witness Christ's power to physically heal.

When Jesus saw the friends' desperate, inventive, and faith-fueled means of bringing their friend to Him, He extended forgiveness to the man. However, Jesus' forgiveness was viewed as an overstepping of authority. After all, the Jews knew that only God has the right to forgive sins. The scribes and Pharisees believed it would be more difficult for Jesus to forgive the man than to heal him. To prove His power to accomplish both, Jesus extended forgiveness and physical healing to the man in need.

Jesus meets the needs of the humble and lowly. He recognized the faith of the men who took such a great risk to deliver their friend at His feet. They believed they could boldly approach the one with the power to heal.

Lead the kids in your class this week to see that the Jesus in this story is the same Lord who desires to forgive their sins today! Ask the Lord to go before you as you bring children to Him by teaching them His Word. May they trust in Him by faith, believing in His authority and desire to heal and save them also.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

JULY 26

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

When learning longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once! Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those memorized, add another five or so words, and so on.

LESSON

Jesus returned to Capernaum, and news spread that He was back in town. So many people gathered to hear Jesus teach God's Word that there was no more room in the house.

While Jesus was teaching, four men came to the house carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. But the men could not bring their friend to Jesus because of the crowd.

So, they carried the paralyzed man up to the roof and dug a hole through the roof. They lowered the mat on which the man was lying through the roof. Jesus saw their faith, and said to the paralytic man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

But some of the religious leaders heard this, and they thought to themselves, "Why would Jesus say this? Doesn't He know that no one can forgive sins but God?"

Jesus knew what these leaders were thinking. He said, "Why are you thinking these things to yourself? Which is easier to say to this paralyzed man? 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk?'"

Then, to show that He had the power to heal and to forgive sins, Jesus turned to the man and said, "I tell you, get up, take your mat, and go home."

Immediately the man got up, picked up his mat, and left in front of everyone. The people were amazed and gave glory to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

CHRIST CONNECTION

By forgiving the man's sins, Jesus revealed that He is God. Jesus has power to heal and forgive. Only through faith in Jesus can people be saved from their sins.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

1) Even though the friends brought the paralyzed man to Jesus for physical healing, why do you think Jesus' first response was to forgive his sins?

Read **Mark 2:17** – Jesus came to heal sinners. His first priority is healing sin rather than physical sickness/disability.

2) Why were the religious leaders nearby so angry when Jesus said “Your sins are forgiven”?

3) Read **Matthew 9:6**. Why did Jesus heal the paralyzed man?

4) Imagine if you were the paralyzed man. What would you be feeling or thinking after this encounter with Jesus?

Make a connection to the joy we have when Jesus forgives our sins and we put our trust in Him. The joy that the paralyzed man felt is the same joy we can have today!

5) How can you be like one of the four friends this week? What is one way you can show God's love by helping, encouraging, or being kind to someone?

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!