



LESSON 56

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Jesus has the power to heal and the power to forgive.

Bible Character(s): Jesus and the paralytic

Scripture Reference: Mark 2:1-12



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Mark 2:1-12. As you read

through the verses, focus on the faith of the friends and the paralyzed man in seeking Jesus for healing. They believed Jesus could heal the physical need of their paralyzed friend. In verse 5, Jesus responded by forgiving the man's sin. What is more important, to have our sins forgiven or our circumstances changed? Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to die for our sins and provide spiritual healing. He has the power to change our circumstances and heal us physically, but this is not His focus. The condition of our heart is His priority. Do you dwell on your circumstances as you pray or do you focus on the condition of your heart? Are you more concerned with your outward circumstances, with getting what you want now, or are you seeking to bring glory to God in all that you say and do despite your circumstances?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Get Well Worksheet

Supplies:

Worksheet – Get Well side (1 per camper)

Have campers complete the Get Well worksheet.

** Campers can use the passage on the back to follow along with part of the reading later in the lesson.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will discuss the faith of the paralytic's friends, and Jesus' authority over sin and illness. We will review the definition of sin and forgiveness, and the importance of spiritual healing over physical healing. Sin causes eternal separation from God – physical illnesses and circumstances do not.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What did the staff member with the problem learn? (We don't need to try to figure out our problems alone, we can go to Jesus because He has all the power to help no matter what the problem may be.)

Last week we learned about what it means to be born again. Who did Jesus talk to? Nicodemus. Jesus explained that you cannot enter the Kingdom of God without being born again. Our hearts are filled with sin, but Jesus came to take our punishment for sin upon Himself and give us new life. What does it mean to be born again? To be born again we must recognize that we are sinful, repent of our sin and turn to God, and believe and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Today we will learn more about the power of Jesus. Jesus was traveling and teaching God's Word to people who would listen. We will read in the Bible from Mark 2 about some men who had a friend who was paralyzed, and we will see what Jesus did when these men brought their friend to Him. We have already seen Jesus begin His ministry. He has called a group of people to be His disciples, and He has already begun teaching God's word to the people around Him. Jesus continues to travel and teach throughout Israel. Jesus has now come to the city of Capernaum. Let's begin reading the Bible in Mark 2.

Mark 2:1-2a

1 When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. 2 Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door.

The house that Jesus was teaching in was probably the size of this cabin. Can you imagine this cabin packed with people? There were people outside the door as well, trying to listen to everything Jesus was saying. Let's continue reading the Bible.

Mark 2:2b-4

While he was preaching God's word to them, 3 four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. 4 They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.

What does it mean to be paralyzed? (A person who cannot move his or her legs and/or arms.) These four men believed that Jesus could heal their paralyzed friend. They went to a lot of trouble to bring their friend to Jesus.

Belief and Action



The purpose is to show that faith leads to actions.

Supplies:

Blanket/sheet (1 per bin)

Spread the blanket on the ground. Have one camper sit down on the blanket. The other campers will circle the blanket evenly, each one holding a portion of the blanket. The campers will lift the blanket so that they can feel how hard it would be to lower someone through a hole in the roof. (Remind them to be careful, and not drop their friend!)

Tie It Together



How hard was it to lift up the blanket with someone on it? (Allow responses.) It was pretty hard, and took a lot of people to help in order to do it. We can understand now that these four men went through a lot to bring their friend to Jesus. If they did not believe Jesus could heal their friend, do you think they would have worked so hard to get him there? Do you have friends that need to know about Jesus? Do you work hard to show them Jesus' love for them? Do you believe that Jesus can help them? (Allow responses.) Let's continue reading the Bible to see Jesus' response.

Mark 2:5

5 Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

Jesus saw the faith of these men. He saw that they believed He had the power to heal. But what did Jesus do? Did Jesus heal the man's legs right away? (No.) What did he tell this man? (His sins were forgiven.) Jesus came to change our hearts. He came to forgive our sins so that we can live with God forever. This man needed his sins to be forgiven more than he needed his legs to be healed.

Healing the Heart



The purpose is to remind the campers that Jesus has the power to forgive our sins.

Supplies:

Craft stick (2 per camper)

Stretcher cutout with verse (1 per camper)

Glue

Have the campers glue the craft sticks onto the back of the verse paper cutout, to be sticks for the stretcher. Go over the verse a few times. They can take this home to remind them of Jesus' power over sin.

Tie It Together



What is more important: to be healed or to be forgiven of sin? (Allow responses.) We are all sinners. Our sin separates us from God. We might be healthy on the outside, but our hearts are filled with sin. We are not living like God wants us to when we are sinners and separated from Him. It is more important that our sins are forgiven than our bodies be healed. Jesus can do this. He can forgive our sins so that we can know His love and live with Him, our Creator, forever! Let's keep reading the Bible and see how the people watching this responded.

Mark 2:6-7

6 But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, 7 "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

These people did not believe that Jesus is God. They are right when they said that only God can forgive sins, but they did not believe that Jesus is God.

Let's see what happens next in the Bible.

Mark 2:8-11

8 Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? 9 Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? 10 So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, 11 "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

Jesus responded to these questions by healing the man's legs. He wanted them to know that He is God and could forgive their sins. Only God can forgive our sins, and Jesus is God. God has the power to heal our hearts and our bodies. How do you think the man felt? (Allow responses.) What do you think those who saw what happened thought? (Allow responses.)

Mark 2:12

12 And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

The man got up immediately. He did not question Jesus. He believed Jesus and got up and walked. All those around him "praised God." When we see God do great things we should praise Him. When we see God heal the hearts of those around us, we should praise Him. Do you praise God every day for all that He has given you - family, friends, etc? When you hear a story like this that shows how powerful and amazing God is, does it make you want to praise Him? (Allow responses.)

Forgiven



The purpose is to illustrate how God forgives sin and gives us a clean heart.

Supplies:

Dry erase board

Dry erase marker

Eraser

Draw a large heart on the dry erase board. Write “sin” inside the heart. Talk about the word sin and what it means. (Sin: disobeying God.) “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) Ask the campers to tell you some things they consider sins. Talk about forgiveness. (Forgiveness: to take away or remove sin, letting go or sending away) Then wipe inside the heart so “sin” disappears and the clean heart remains.

Tie It Together



Each one of you has sin in your heart. On your own, you cannot have a relationship with God because God is holy and cannot be around sin. God is the only one that can forgive your sins. We saw the eraser wash away the “sin” from the heart. This is what God wants to do for you. He wants to remove the sin from your heart. He has the power to do this, to clean your heart and forgive your sins. When this happens, we can experience His love and blessings in an amazing way.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Praise God that He forgives our sins when we believe and trust in Him.



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