

GET UP AND WALK!

Many people wanted to hear Jesus preaching. There was no more room at the home where he was. Some people came with a man who was lying on a stretcher. He was a paralyzed, which means he could not move. He wanted Jesus to heal him. His friends brought him to where Jesus was. When they came, they couldn't get him through the doorway because it was crowded. Instead, they went onto the roof.

They took pieces of the roof off, and then lowered their friend down in front of Jesus. They so wanted him healed, and they believed Jesus would do just that.

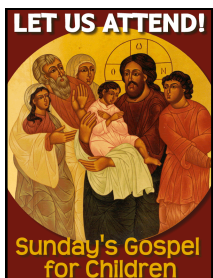
Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." So that you may know the Son of man can forgive sins, I say to the paralytic, 'Rise, take up your stretcher, and go home.' The man rose, and did just that. Everyone was amazed and said, "We never saw anything like this!"



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Imagine a home made of mud brick, with a roof made from sticks and mud. Now imagine Jesus teaching the people crowded inside . . .
2. Why couldn't the paralytic, and his friends, come in through the door?
3. Where did they go because they couldn't walk in?
4. What did Jesus say when He saw the man?
5. Would you be amazed if you saw this happen?



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Pre-12



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RISE AND WALK!

One day, our Lord Jesus Christ went back to Caper'na-um. People found out that He was there and came to the house where He was. They all crowded in as close as they could. The house was packed! Everyone wanted to hear Jesus preaching.

Four men brought their friend who could not move by himself. They knew Jesus could help him. Because the house was so full of people, the four men could not get in the door. They really wanted their friend to get to Jesus, so they climbed onto the roof of the house. They took off part of the roof right over Jesus. Then, they lowered their friend to Him through the hole.

Jesus saw their faith and told the man, "Your sins are forgiven."

Some scribes were sitting in the crowd. When they heard this, they thought to themselves, "Why does this Man talk like that? How dare He say that? Only God can forgive sins!"

Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, "What is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk'? But so you all can know that I can forgive sins...." He turned to the man and said, "Get up, pick up your mat, and walk!"

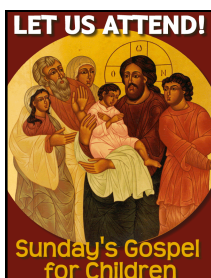
The man who could not move got right up, picked up his mat, and walked out of that house! Everyone who saw the miracle was amazed and praised God. They said, "We never saw anything like this!"



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Imagine a home made of mud brick, with a roof made from sticks and mud. Now imagine Jesus teaching the people crowded inside...
2. Why couldn't the paralytic, and his friends, come in through the door?
3. Where did they go because they couldn't walk in?
4. What did Jesus say when He saw the man?
5. What did Jesus do to show He was God?



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WHO CAN FORGIVE SINS BUT GOD?

At that time, when Jesus returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who

can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'--he said to the paralytic--"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home."

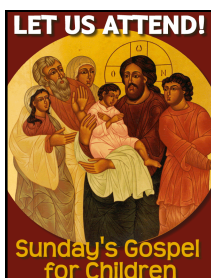
And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why do you think people go stand outside of a hotel in order to catch a glimpse of a rock star? What do you think they hope to gain? What needs are they trying to meet?
2. Do you think seeing this star fills those needs?
3. Why do you think the people in this gospel crowded into a room to see and hear Jesus? What needs do you think these people were trying to fill?
4. Do you think Jesus can fill those needs? Why or why not?
5. If Jesus can meet those needs, what needs do you have that Jesus can meet?



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WHO CAN FORGIVE SINS BUT GOD?

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Scribes, All the people

Narrator: At that time, when Jesus returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

Narrator: And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,

Jesus: Son, your sins are forgiven.

Narrator: Now some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts,

Scribes: Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?

Narrator: And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them,

Jesus: Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Rise, take up your pallet and walk?" But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins

Narrator: --he said to the paralytic--

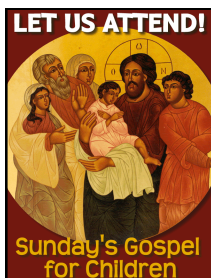
Jesus: I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.

Narrator: And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,

People: We never saw anything like this!



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THE PARALYTIC AND HIS FRIENDS

At that time, when Jesus returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God



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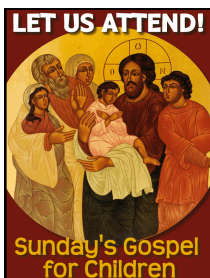
alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--he said to

the paralytic--"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home."

And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What happens when Jesus goes home?
2. What does this suggest about Jesus?
3. Do you think we can see Jesus today? Why or why not? If so, how?
4. What do the people in this Gospel do when they are in his home?
5. How is this similar to what we do at Church? How is it different?
6. Do you think we have anything in common with the people in this Gospel?



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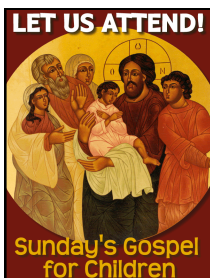


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And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What do the scribes ask?
2. Why are they asking it?
3. How does Jesus respond to them?
4. Why does Jesus heal the paralytic?
5. How do the people respond to Jesus healing the paralytic?
6. What does this suggest about having questions about Jesus or God? How do you think God would respond to our questions based on this Gospel?
7. Do you think we can ask God questions or not? Why or why not?



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