

41. Needs



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Mark 2:1-12,
Romans 3:23-25a

Jesus heals the paralysed man and also forgives his sin



AIMS

To encourage the children that God knows, and cares about, our needs.

To help them understand that our deepest need is for our sin to be dealt with, and that God has met that need by sending Jesus to die for us.

Jesus met the obvious need of the paralysed man by enabling him to walk, but he also met his deeper need of forgiveness. We can ask God to help with the things we need too, but we all have the same ultimate need to receive his forgiveness.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passages for this session and reflect:

- Why do you think Jesus talked of forgiveness before meeting the man's obvious need for healing?
- How have you known God meeting your needs?

Take some time to pray for your group.



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

▶ Jelly Baby Obstacle Course

You will need: jelly babies, cloths/ napkins, timer (optional), equipment to make an obstacle course, masking tape (optional)

Set up an obstacle course. Depending on what you have available you could have tables to crawl under, objects to walk around or climb over, hoops to go through etc, or you could use masking tape to mark out a course on the floor.

Get the children to find a

partner and give each pair a cloth or napkin and a jelly baby. Their challenge is to see which pair can complete the obstacle course the fastest, but they must do it with each of them holding one side of the cloth and the jelly baby lying on top. If the jelly baby falls, they must start again.

Depending on numbers and the space you have, you could do this with each pair of children racing separately and being timed or you could have a few pairs racing against each other. If you have a large group, you might want to divide the children into teams and do it as a relay race.

▶ Hula Hoop Challenge

You will need: hula hoop(s), timer (optional)

Get the children to stand in a circle. Give one child the hula

hoop and get them to put it over one arm. Then everyone in the circle should join hands. Their challenge is to work together to make the hula hoop travel right round the circle until it is back where it started without letting go of one another's hands. You could time the children and then let them have another go to see if they can do it faster. Alternatively, if you have a large group, you could divide them into smaller groups to do the game and see which group is able to complete the challenge first.



EXPLORING THE BIBLE

► What Do They Need?

You will need: pictures from additional document: People in need

Show the pictures to the children and ask them to suggest what each of the people might need. For some pictures the answers will seem very obvious, and for others it will be much less clear. Sometimes there are needs that we can't see.

Today we are going to hear about someone who came to Jesus because he needed help, but as well as his obvious need there was something much deeper that Jesus could see that he needed.

► Jesus Heals The Paralysed Man Story

You will need: 4 strips of cardboard, joined together with paper fasteners.

You can use the strips to make different shapes to correspond with the words and phrases that are underlined as you tell the story. For some ideas of how to make the different shapes using the strips of card, see the additional document: Paralysed Man Story Strips.

There was a man whose legs didn't work properly. At the time this story took place, there were no wheelchairs, so the man just had to lie on a mat every day. He wasn't able to do much, but, fortunately, he had 4 good friends.

One day Jesus came to town. A crowd of people followed him, and Jesus began speaking to all the people who had gathered at his friend's house. However, because this story takes place in Israel, the house had a flat roof and it had steps up the side.

The 4 friends had a good idea. They had heard about Jesus and that he could do miracles, so they decided to take the man whose legs didn't work properly to meet Jesus to ask if he could help him. They carried him across town on his mat. But when they got there, the house was so crowded that there was no way they could get in.

They didn't want to give up because they were sure Jesus could help their friend, so the 4 friends came up with a bold plan. They climbed up the steps on the side of the house onto the flat roof and they started making a hole. Then they tied some rope on to the bed mat and let the man down through the hole on the rope so that he landed at Jesus' feet.

Jesus saw the man whose legs didn't work properly, and he saw his 4 friends. He could see that they trusted him. Jesus spoke to the man lying on the mat, and he said, "Your sins are forgiven."

Some of the people who were there - the religious leaders and teachers of the law - got annoyed. "Jesus can't say that," they said. "It's only God who can forgive sins." But Jesus said, "I'll prove that I have the power to say this."

Then he spoke to the man and he told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat and walk."

The man jumped up. He folded up his mat, and he walked home on legs that worked properly, praising God all the way.



REFLECT & RESPOND

► Discussion

Talk together:

What was the obvious need that the man had when he came to Jesus?

What was surprising about the first thing Jesus said when he saw the man?

Jesus didn't deal at first with the obvious need that the man had, which was to be healed so that he could walk. Instead the first thing he did was to deal with his deeper need - to have his sins forgiven.

Why do you think the religious leaders got so angry about this?

It was because they believed that only God could forgive sins, and they didn't understand who Jesus was. Jesus showed his power and revealed again that he was the Messiah by both healing the man's legs and forgiving his sins.

► Prayer Activity

You will need: printout of Romans 3:23-25a (from additional document: Romans 3) - optional, large sheet of paper, pens or pencils

In advance, stick the printout of Romans 3 in the middle of the large sheet of paper, or write the verses out by hand. Fold each end of the piece of paper into the middle, so that the two

ends meet in the centre, concealing the Bible verse inside.

The size of paper you need will depend on the size of your group. If possible, it should be large enough that all the children can write or draw on it at the same time. If you have a large group, you may want to have multiple sheets and allow the children to work in small groups.

Ask the children to take a moment to think: **what do you need today?**

We all come to Jesus with different things that we think we need. Some of us might be feeling sad or worried or lonely. We might be feeling ill or know others who are struggling with illness. There might be situations with family or friends where we need God's help. Or we might be feeling happy and just feel that we need someone to share that with or to say thank you to God.

Get the children to suggest some of the things that they, or others, might need, and get them to write or draw their prayers.

God cares about all those things and he wants to help us with those needs, but he also sees that, like the man in the story, all of us have a deeper need.

Open out the sheet of paper to reveal the verses from Romans and read them out.

The Bible tells us that we have all sinned and that creates a barrier between us and God. We need something to be done about that so that we can know God and be friends with him, and God provided exactly what we need by sending Jesus to die on the cross to deal with our sins so that we can be forgiven.

Give the children a moment to think about what they want to say to God in response to that. It might be to say thank you, or to ask a question. Let them write or draw their prayers on the sheet around the Bible verse.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS

▶ God's Story / Max 7 Videos

You will need: equipment to play video

One of these videos could be used to tell or recap the story:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWDgdPiNpz0&list=PLactlIEFMk_IOLqO5DebtTLDjFcLajXGB&index=39&t=0s

<https://www.max7.org/en/resource/crippledman>

▶ Story Strips

You will need: cardboard, scissors, paper fasteners, printouts of additional documents: Paralyse Man Story, and Paralyse Man Story Strips

If you have time, you could let the children make their own set of strips that they can use to tell the story. You could give them a copy of the story and the sheet showing them how to make the different shapes so that they can practice and tell the story to others.