



## STORY 59

# Get Up!

## MARK 2

### BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read Mark 2.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*

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### THE BIG PICTURE

*Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}*

How does God forgive sins? In the Old Testament, God gave his people certain things they had to do. First, he asked his people to build him a tabernacle (later called the temple). In the temple was a holy place where our holy God would meet with his unholy people and they could seek forgiveness. Second, only certain people could go into this place on behalf of the rest of God's people. Do you remember Moses's brother Aaron? Only people from Aaron's family (from the tribe of Levi) could go into the holy place. Third, God instructed these men (called priests) to offer sacrifices for the sins of God's people in that holy place—that was how God forgave sins. Outside the holy place, there weren't signs that said "Restricted Access" or "Authorized Personnel Only," but everyone knew only priests could enter. So, in today's lesson when Jesus—who was outside the holy

1

Read

2

Teach

place and not a priest from Levi’s line—announced to someone, “Your sins are forgiven,” it makes sense that the religious leaders said, “Why does this man speak like that?” (Mark 2:7). They knew God alone—through his priests, in the temple—could forgive sins. So what is Jesus talking about, and who does he think he is? Let’s find out.

## TELL THE STORY

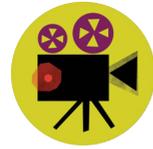
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the Bible passage together



Read from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*



Play *The Biggest Story* video

## TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

**Big Truth**  
Jesus has  
the power to  
forgive sins.

Famous people are hard to get close to because they usually have crowds around them. Jesus had become famous, and crowds surrounded him all the time. He was not famous for being a great singer, actor, or politician. He was famous because of what he said and what he did. People came from all over to hear him teach and be healed by him.

Today’s story starts with a packed house. Mark tells us that there were so many people in the house “that there was no more room, not even at the door” (Mark 2:2). The living room was packed. The bedrooms. Even the front hallway. As Jesus was teaching in that packed house, four men arrived carrying their friend on a stretcher. Their friend was paralyzed (he couldn’t move from his back to his toes), so they carried him. They carried him to Jesus because they believed Jesus had the power to heal. They couldn’t enter by the front door, but that didn’t stop them! At the back of the house was a stairway that led to the roof, which was flat and made of straw, twigs, and dried mud. They carried him up, dug a hole through the roof, and lowered him down.

When Jesus “saw their faith,” he said something strange: “Son, your sins are forgiven” (2:5). The man wasn’t there to have his sins forgiven but his body

healed. The man and his friends were probably confused. The religious leaders, we know, were steaming mad! “Only God can forgive sins,” they thought to themselves. “What on earth! Does Jesus think he is like God in heaven? This man needs to have a priest offer a sacrifice in the holy place so his sins can be forgiven—not have an ordinary man say the words, ‘Your sins are forgiven!’” (see 2:6–7).

Well, they were right that only God can forgive sins. But they were wrong, because they didn’t know that Jesus is the God-man—so he can do what only God can do. To prove he had authority to forgive sins, he performed a miracle. He told the man, “Get up, take your bed, and go home” (see 2:11). Suddenly, his feet, legs, arms, and back were as strong as he and his friends’ faith. He did exactly what Jesus told him to do. He walked home. Maybe he skipped. Maybe he jumped up and down, then skipped! And the crowd responded, like we would, praising God and saying, “We never saw anything like this!” (2:12).

## GOSPEL CONNECTION

*Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.*  
{5 minutes}

When Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Your sins are forgiven” (2:5), we don’t know what sins the man committed. But in the very next story, we are told about the sins of a man named Levi. He had a priest’s name, but he was a tax collector! What’s wrong with that? No one likes to pay taxes (money for the government), and Levi was the one who collected them. But he did more than that. He overcharged people. He squeezed his own people (the Jews) for money, gave some to the Romans, and kept the rest for himself. Because of this, the Jews hated tax collectors like Levi more than anyone.

But Jesus didn’t! He called Levi to leave behind his sinful life and follow him. And—miracle of miracles—he accepted Jesus’s invitation. More than that, he invited all his sinful friends to meet Jesus so they too could be loved and forgiven. When the Pharisees heard about this, they didn’t understand why Jesus would get together with such terrible people. They forgot what Jesus taught when he healed the paralyzed man. That he “came to call not those who think they are good but those who know they need a Savior” (see 2:17). Jesus came to forgive *sinners*—that’s the point. To experience the good news that Jesus has the power to forgive all sins, we must first recognize how much sinners like us need him.

### 3

## Engage

### DISCUSS THE STORY

*Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}*

1. **QUESTION:** Why were so many people trying to get to Jesus? Why were the friends of the paralyzed man trying to get to Jesus? Did Jesus say he came to call those who are good or those who know they need a Savior? Why did Jesus heal the paralyzed man?

**TAKEAWAY:** Jesus came to heal those who know they need a Savior.

2. **QUESTION:** According to the Old Testament, how would people find forgiveness for their sin? Who is the only one that could forgive sins? Why did it make the religious leaders angry when Jesus told the paralyzed man, “Your sins are forgiven”? What did they get right? What did they get wrong?

**TAKEAWAY:** Jesus has authority to forgive sins.

#### Memory Verse

The Son  
of Man has  
authority  
on earth to  
forgive sins.

MARK 2:10

3. **QUESTION:** If you break something of your parents, ask their forgiveness, and are forgiven by them, how do you feel? What about if you’re feeling really sick and a doctor gives you medicine that makes you feel better? How do you think the paralyzed man felt when Jesus healed and forgave his sins? How did the crowd respond?

**TAKEAWAY:** When Jesus heals and forgives, the people of God celebrate.

4. **QUESTION:** According to Jewish law, who should the paralyzed man have gone to for forgiveness of his sins? Who are we to go to for forgiveness of our sins? Why don’t we need to go to a temple anymore?

**TAKEAWAY:** Because of Jesus, we no longer need a temple priest to ask forgiveness for our sins; we can ask Jesus directly.

## ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from *TheBiggestStory.com*, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

### Option 1: Pass the Man Race

*Supply List: ping-pong balls, small pillows*

*Before Class: Gather supplies.*

Divide children into teams and have them stand in single file lines. Give each team a ping-pong ball (representing the paralyzed man) and a small pillow. Set the ball in the center of the pillow. On “Go” the first child in each line must pass the pillow between his legs to the person behind him. The children continue to pass the pillow in this way until it reaches the end of the line. It is then returned to the front by passing over the children’s heads to the person in front of them. If the ball drops, the team must start over. The first team to get the “man” back to the front wins. Remind children that the paralyzed man’s friends carried him to Jesus to be healed.

### Option 2: Friendship Tag

*Supply List: none*

Have children link arms with a partner. Choose one pair to disconnect. One of the “disconnected” kids is “It” and tries to tag the other child. To avoid being tagged, the runner can link onto one of the connected pairs. When he links onto a pair, the child on the opposite side of the link is now the runner. If a child is tagged, she becomes “It.” If the leader calls “Find a new friend,” all pairs must break apart and make new pairs. Anytime the children are not connected, they can be tagged and become “It.” Remind children that the paralyzed man had friends who brought him to Jesus. Continue play as time allows.

3rd–5th

### Option 1: Pass the Man Race

*See above.*

## Option 2: Shoebox Relay

*Supply List: adult-sized shoeboxes (two per team), scissors, packing tape*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut openings on top of the shoeboxes so children can slip their feet into them. Tape the tops of the shoeboxes to the bottoms.*

Divide children into teams of six or less and give each team two shoeboxes. On “Go” the first person on each team slips his feet into the boxes, walks to the other side of the room, then returns to his team to give the boxes to the next person. The first team to race all their members wins. Remind children that the ability to walk is a gift and that the paralyzed man struggled to get around.

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## CRAFTS

*Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}*

K–2nd

### Option 1: Dress the Paralytic

*Supply List: cardstock, scissors, glue, scrapbook/construction paper, pom-poms, buttons, sequins, felt, googly eyes, markers*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, print a simple outline of an 8-inch person. Make a sample craft.*

Give each child a person paper, scissors, and glue. Set remaining supplies on tables. Have children cut out the person and write “Jesus forgives sin” on the back. Have the children use the supplies to make clothes and decorate their person. Remind children that the paralyzed man had to have people help him do everything, including getting dressed, but that his greatest need was forgiveness.

### Option 2: Paper Weaving Bookmark

*Supply List: white cardstock, construction paper, scissors, tape, markers*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut construction paper into ½" x 5" strips. Cut white cardstock into 3" x 9" pieces. Make a sample craft.*

Give each child a piece of white cardstock and scissors. Set construction paper strips, tape, and markers on tables. Have children fold the cardstock in half to

form a 3" x 4.5" rectangle. Have children make five evenly-spaced cuts that start at the folded edge and end an inch from the open edge. Unfold the paper. Have children weave in the paper strips by alternating over and under the lines they cut. Trim the strips as needed and use tape to secure. Have children write the Big Truth on the bookmark.

3rd–5th

### Option 1: Paper Patchwork Quilt

*Supply List: paper, scrapbook paper, scissors, glue*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. Print sample patchwork quilt templates. Print the Memory Verse (one per child). Make a sample craft.*

Give each child a piece of paper, Memory Verse, and scissors. Set quilt templates and remaining supplies on tables. Have children use the quilt templates as inspiration to design their own quilts by gluing scrapbook paper pieces onto their paper. After their quilt design is complete, glue on the Memory Verse. Remind children that before Jesus healed the paralyzed man, he had to lie around and depend on others for help.

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