

## His Story, My Story - Session 1

### Jesus Forgives & Heals the Paralysed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

#### Group building

Go around the group. Each person tell:

- Where I mostly grew up.
- One of the best places I have lived.

#### Introduction

I am going to tell you a story from the Bible. We are actually going to hear this story three times. The first time, I want you to imagine the story. The second time, I want you to remember the story. And the third time, you are going to help me tell the story. Listen carefully because you are going to have to help me retell it, and we'll also talk some more about the story afterwards.

This story is told in the Bible my Mark.

#### First time

Jesus often stayed in the lakeside town of Capernaum. One time he went back there. And crowds of people came to hear him. They crowded into a house until it was full of people. They even crowded outside around the door.

Four men arrived bringing a paralysed friend. They wanted Jesus to heal him. But the crowd around the house was so big they had no chance of getting inside.

The men were sure Jesus could help, so they went up to the flat roof. They dug a hole in the roof right above where Jesus was speaking. When they got through, they lowered their friend down to Jesus.

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Jesus appreciated the faith of those men showed. And he said to the paralysed man, 'Young man, your sins are forgiven.'

Some of the religious teachers there got annoyed. They thought, 'He shouldn't say that! He is speaking as if he were God. Only God can forgive sins.'

Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, 'Which is easier? To tell this paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to tell him, "Stand up. Take your mat and walk?"' Well it is easy to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' because nobody can see if it happens. But they can see if a person is healed or not.

Jesus said, 'I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' Then he said to the paralysed man, 'Get up. Pick up your mat and go home.' And the man did it—he got up, grabbed his mat, and walked out, with everyone there watching him. The people rubbed their eyes, stunned. They praised God, saying, 'We've never seen anything like this!'

## Second time

*This time I will add some pictures.*

Jesus often stayed in the lakeside town of Capernaum. One time he went back there. And crowds of people came to hear him. They crowded into a house until it was full of people. They even crowded outside around the door.



Four men arrived bringing a paralysed friend they wanted Jesus to heal.



But the crowd around the house was so big they had no chance of getting inside.

So the men climbed up the stairs on the outside of the building onto the flat roof. They dug a hole in the roof right above where Jesus was speaking. When they got through, they lowered their friend down to Jesus.



Jesus appreciated the faith of those men showed. And he said to the paralysed man, 'Young man, your sins are forgiven.'



Some of the religious teachers were sitting there. They were thinking, 'Why does this man say things like that? He is speaking as if he were God. Only God can forgive sins.'

Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, 'Which is easier? To tell this paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to tell him, "Stand up. Take your mat and walk?"'

'I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' Then Jesus said to the paralysed man, 'Get up. Pick up your mat and go

home.' And the man did it—got up, grabbed his mat, and walked out, with everyone there watching him.



They rubbed their eyes, stunned. Amazed. Incredulous. They praised God, saying, 'We've never seen anything like this!'

### Third time

OK this time you get to tell the story. Let's do it as a group.

### Discussion

Now we are going to share our own thoughts on the story. I want six of you to pick up a card. (Lay the question cards out.) We will work through the six questions. If you have a card, you will read the question.

- The rule is that everyone answers in a sentence or two
- For the first four questions you can't answer the same as someone else!
- If you can think of several possible answers, try and say the thing that you think will be of most benefit to the group.

Here are the questions.

1. What do you like about this story? Why?

2. What questions might someone have about this story?
3. What can we learn about people from the characters in the story?
4. What can we learn about God/Jesus from this story?
5. This week, what do you want to change in your life because of this story? State your answer in the form "This week I want to..."
6. Who else needs to hear this story? (Can you think of a name?)



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