

## Four Friends Helped

**Bible Passage:** Mark 2:1-12

**Main Point:** Jesus healed a man and forgave his sins.

**Key Passage:** Psalm 103:2-3

**Big Picture Question:** What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

### Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus was in Capernaum, a city on the Sea of Galilee. The Pharisees and scribes—teachers of the law—came to listen to Jesus' teaching. They were curious about His message and wanted to make sure He was teaching things that were true. So many people came that they crowded the house; there was no more room.

That day, four friends came to see Jesus. The four men carried their friend who was paralyzed. Jesus had healed people before—even people who were paralyzed. (See Matt. 4:24; 8:6.) The men believed Jesus came from God, and He could heal people. So their faith led to action. Because the friends could not get through the crowd, they carried their friend to the roof and lowered him down to Jesus.

Jesus' words to the man surprised the Pharisees and teachers of the law. Rather than saying, "Get up and walk," Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven." The religious leaders kept quiet, but Jesus knew their thoughts. They accused Jesus of blasphemy, dishonoring God by claiming to do what only God can do. But Jesus did not blaspheme. He is God, and He has authority to forgive sins.

Jesus asked them, "Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'" Simply saying, "Your sins are forgiven," seems to be the easier thing, but to actually forgive sins is harder, something only God can do. As God, Jesus has the power and authority to heal and forgive. And Jesus knew He would take the man's sins upon Himself on the cross—an act of love that would cost Him His life.

Jesus healed the man who was paralyzed to prove to the religious leaders His power to forgive. Mark 2:12 records the crowd's reaction: "They were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'"

## The BIBLE Story

### Four Friends Helped

*Mark 2:1-12* (bolded text can be read as a shorter version of the story)

**Jesus had been traveling, and He went to Capernaum** (kuh PUHR nay uhm). **When the people in the town heard that Jesus was home, they gathered at the house to hear Him teach.** Pharisees and other teachers of the law had traveled from villages all over Galilee and Judea. Some even came from Jerusalem to hear Jesus. **So many people came that they stood in the doorway, and there was no more room for anyone else.**

**Just then, four men came to the house. They were carrying their friend on a mat because he could not walk. They wanted Jesus to heal him, but they could not get through the crowd. So the men carried their friend up to the roof. They took off part of the roof above Jesus. Then they lowered their friend through the crowd so that he was right in front of Jesus.**

**Jesus saw that the friends had faith, and He told the man lying on the mat, “Young man, your sins are forgiven!”** When the religious leaders heard this, they thought, *Who does Jesus think He is? He is being disrespectful to God! Only God can forgive sins.*

**Jesus knew what the religious leaders were thinking. He said to them, “Why are you thinking like that? Is it easier for Me to say to this man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Get up and walk’?”**

As God’s Son, Jesus had the power to forgive people’s sins. But how could He prove that the man’s sins were really forgiven? So **Jesus showed His power on earth to forgive sins by turning back to the man on the mat. “Get up, pick up your mat, and go home,” Jesus said.**

**The man who had been unable to walk immediately got up. He picked up his mat, and he went home, just like Jesus commanded.**

**Everyone in the crowd saw what happened, and they could hardly believe what they had seen! They praised God and said, “We have never seen anything like this!”**

*Christ Connection: The man who was paralyzed needed to be healed. Jesus knew this and did something even greater; Jesus forgave his sins, and then He healed the man. Because Jesus is God, He has the power and authority to heal and forgive. Jesus forgives those who trust in Him.*