



Unit 5, Lesson 18

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: THE FOUR FRIENDS

MATTHEW 9:1-8;
MARK 2:1-12

THE STORY HOME

Both Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:1-12 recount the story of Jesus performing a miracle. He is teaching in a jam-packed home when four friends drop their crippled friend down through the roof to get near Jesus. First, Jesus forgives the crippled man of his sins. Some critics badmouth Jesus because they don't get it that He is God's Son. Jesus knows their thoughts and corrects them. Second, Jesus tells the man, who can't move, to walk. Instantly the man gets up and walks so everyone sees! The crowd is awed. They praise God, and realize God is giving power and authority to Jesus.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Do you think the four men were brave and helpful to their paralyzed friend?
- I wonder if you'd been unable to move and Jesus healed you, would you skip or run.
- First Jesus forgives and then He heals the man. I wonder why He did both.
- What is one way you can be a helpful friend to another person?

TOGETHER HOME

Who is your friend? Tell each family member to think of a friend but keep the identity secret. The object of this family game is to guess the identity of the friend in mind. Choose one family member to start by being "it." Everyone gets to ask that member three "yes" or "no" questions about the mystery friend. If someone correctly guesses the friend, then he or she is "it" and answers the family questions.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Cut out a picture of people from a magazine. Using a fine-point marker, write the memory verse, "No one has ever seen God. But God the only Son is very close to the Father, and he has shown us what God is like," (John 1:18, ncv) on the cut-out picture. Tape the picture, with the memory verse, on the mirror or door of your children's room (or rooms) to help them see and remember the verse.

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