



THE  
**KING**  
OF  
**KINGS**

**MIRACLES  
OF JESUS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
SESSION #3**

**JESUS HEALS A  
PARALYSED MAN**

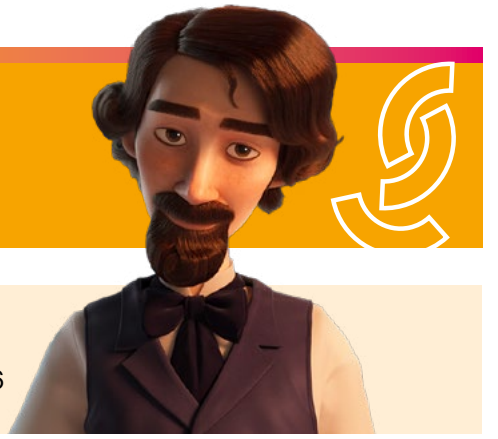
**JESUS' POWER  
...OVER SIN**



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## SESSION #3

### JESUS HEALS A PARALYSED MAN

MARK 2:1–12, MATTHEW 9:1–8, LUKE 5:17–26

## ICEBREAKER

### OBSTACLE COURSE CARRY

In pairs or small groups, have the children place a soft toy or doll on a mat or towel, and carefully lift the corners without letting the toy fall off. Create a simple obstacle course using cones, chairs, or cushions. Teams must carry their 'friend' through the course, being extra careful on tricky turns. You can add funny instructions at certain points, like 'Tiptoe here' or 'Walk backwards.' If you have a little more space, teams can race from one side of the room to the other while carrying the mat. If the toy falls off, they must start again.

*The King of Kings* is very faithful to Scripture, sometimes incorporating details from multiple gospels in its retelling of different events and miracles. Make sure the children know that just because some things in the clip might be slightly different than the passage, it doesn't necessarily mean they 'did it wrong'. Rather, each gospel gives us different details about the same events—just like fans seeing different angles of the same goal in a football match—and *The King of Kings* wanted to incorporate many of these details. If you have a mature group, you could read from multiple accounts, as listed in the key scriptures section above.

### MARK 2:1–12

*A few days later, Jesus entered Capernaum again. The people heard that he had come home. So many people gathered that there was no room left. There was not even room outside the door. And Jesus preached the word to them. Four of those who came were carrying a man who could not walk. But they could not get him close to Jesus because of the crowd. So they made a hole by digging through the roof above Jesus. Then they lowered the man through it on a mat. Jesus saw their faith. So he said to the man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'*

*Some teachers of the law were sitting there. They were thinking, 'Why is this fellow talking like that? He's saying a very evil thing! Only God can forgive sins!'*

*Right away Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? Is it easier to say to this man, "Your sins are forgiven"? Or to say, "Get up, take your mat and walk"? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So Jesus spoke to the man who could not walk. 'I tell you,' he said, 'get up. Take your mat and go home.' The man got up and took his mat. Then he walked away while everyone watched. All the people were amazed. They praised God and said, 'We have never seen anything like this!'*

## READ

## WATCH

Watch the clip of *The King of Kings* and see if you notice any differences from what we read. (Remember, some of these differences are because the gospel writers give different details.) If you have a very keen group, you can hand out papers for the children to make notes on what they notice in the clip. →



## IMAGINE

You can use the following script, or read the Scripture again, inviting the children to imagine what they see, feel, smell and hear throughout. Read slowly, pausing after each question to allow the kids to imagine themselves in the scene. The imagining can be done in quiet, or you can take responses as you go.

If you have children for whom sitting still is challenging, consider handing out a fidget toy or having them draw the scene while you read the following lines:

“ Now I want you to imagine that you are there, just like the little boy Walter imagines himself watching Jesus do this miracle. Jesus can use our imagination to help us understand the story better. So let's pray, Holy Spirit, please help us to really see what it was like to be there with you. Now everyone, close your eyes, fold your hands in your lap and take a deep breath...

*You are in Capernaum. The streets are dusty under your feet. The air smells of fresh bread, fish from the lake, and the sweat of the crowd. What do you see as you arrive at the crowded house? What do you hear around you? What does the air feel like on your skin?*

*The house is packed. People press close, trying to hear Jesus inside. The room is hot and noisy, voices bouncing off the stone walls. Four men climb onto the roof, carrying a friend on a mat. What sounds do you hear as they dig through the roof? What does the falling dust feel like as it lands on the people below? What does the crowd do as the man is lowered down?*

*Inside, Jesus stands surrounded by people. Where is he in the room? Are you close to him? What does his face look like as he watches the man being lowered? Jesus speaks to the man. What is his voice like? What does it feel like in the room when he is talking? How do the important Pharisees look and react? The man stands up and walks. What sounds fill the house now? What do you feel as you watch? How would it have felt to take your first step if you were that man?*

What did everyone imagine? Have a time of open sharing where the children describe what they imagined. Be sure to highlight whether this time of imagining gave them any insights or new ideas about the Bible story.

### DISCUSSION QUESTION:

**If you could ask Jesus to fix one thing for you, what would it be?**

The men believed Jesus could help their friend, so they made a hole in the roof to bring him to Jesus! Everyone thought the man's biggest problem was that he couldn't walk—but Jesus surprised them by saying, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Sin is when we turn away from God and do things our own way. The religious leaders didn't like this, because they thought only God could forgive sins—they didn't realise who Jesus really was. Jesus explained that it's easy to say 'Your sins are forgiven' because you can't see it. But when he told the man to get up and walk—and he did!—everyone saw that Jesus had real power. **Jesus was showing them that he has power over our biggest problem—sin.** →

## DISCUSSION



## QUIZ

### BUZZERS READY!

For this quiz, pair up the children with one acting as the contestant and the other sitting in a chair facing away from their partner, acting as their buzzer. When a question is read out, the contestant taps their buzzer gently on the head if they know the answer. The buzzer must then make a silly sound—this counts as 'ringing in.' The pair who rings in first gets to answer the question. After each question, children can swap roles so everyone gets a turn as the contestant and as the buzzer.

**Q:** Why did the men have to make a hole in the roof to get their friend to Jesus?

*A: It was so crowded they couldn't get into the house*

**Q:** What did Jesus say to the paralysed man before healing him?

*A: 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'*

**Q:** Why were the religious leaders upset with Jesus?

*A: They believed only God could forgive sins, and that Jesus was claiming to have God's power.*

**Q:** Why do you think Jesus forgave the man's sins before healing him?

*A: Because this was the man's biggest need.*

**Q:** What did Jesus mean by, 'Which is easier: to say "Your sins are forgiven" or "Get up and walk"?'

*A: Only God has the power to forgive sins, and only God has the power to heal, so Jesus was telling them that he did actually have God's power.*

**Q:** What did the man do after he was healed?

*A: He stood up, rolled up his mat and walked home!*

**Q:** Why was Jesus able to heal the man and forgive his sin?

*A: Because Jesus really was God!*

## CRAFT

### WEAVING PAPER MATS

In today's story the man had spent most of his life lying on a mat, unable to stand and walk. But when Jesus healed him, he rolled up that mat and went away praising God! Let's weave our own mats to remember his story. (You will find the process for making the craft on next page.)

## PRAYER

*Jesus, thank you that we can learn about you in your Word, the Bible. Thank you for healing the paralysed man and forgiving his sins. Help us to trust in you, just like the four friends who brought their friend to you. Amen.*



## PAPER MATS

We recommend making one paper mat in advance to show the children what it will look like, and to familiarise yourself with the process so that you can be on hand to help younger children. Start the craft with a group demonstration.

## MATERIALS

- ✓ A4 paper in different colours, enough for each child to have two sheets
- ✓ tape
- ✓ glue sticks
- ✓ safety scissors

## METHOD

1. Fold one A4 sheet of paper in half lengthways (along the long edge).
2. Cut even lines from the fold towards the open edge, stopping about 2 cm from the end so the sheet stays in one piece.
3. Unfold the paper—it should look a bit like an air vent.
4. Take the second coloured sheet and cut it into long strips, roughly the same width as the gaps between the cuts made in the first paper.
5. Weave each strip over and under through the first sheet, alternating the pattern (above, below, above, below).
6. Push each strip snugly into place to create a tight, even pattern.
7. Glue down the ends of each strip on the back to secure them.



**UP NEXT...**

**SESSION #4: JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000**