



January 10, 2021
The Healing of the Paralyzed Man
Luke 5:17-26

Last week, we learned about some wise men coming to visit Jesus. They followed the star that God had put in the sky to guide them. They asked questions. They let God guide them and they did what it took to find Jesus. They knew He was someone special, someone sent by God. Then, they obeyed God's warning in a dream to not return to evil, King Herod, but to go back home another way. This week's story is similar in some ways. Some wise friends of a paralyzed man did what it took to get the paralyzed man to Jesus. They knew Jesus was someone special, someone who could help their friend, someone sent by God.

Watch the video to learn what they were willing to do to get their friend to Jesus, where he could find the healing he needed:

<https://youtu.be/8cmppSIQUX4>

Read Luke 5:18-19

This passage says that the man was paralyzed. This means that the man could not walk. In fact, he probably couldn't even move or feel his feet or legs. This may have been something he was born with, or maybe he had an accident or illness that made him this way. When someone is paralyzed, there is usually nothing a doctor can do to help him walk again. It's just something he has to live with for the rest of his life. We don't know how long the man had lived like this, but we can see that God gave him a wonderful group of friends to help him. How did the man's friends get him to Jesus? His friends had great faith that Jesus could help the man. Can you imagine someone going to so much trouble and work to help you? Think of a time when a friend or a family member helped you. Have you ever had to go to the doctor when you were sick? Who took you? God puts people in our lives to help us with lots of different things. He wants us to help others, too.

Read Luke 5:20

What was the first thing that Jesus did to help the paralyzed man?

The scribes and Pharisees didn't think that Jesus should be saying He forgave the man's sins. They said that only God could forgive someone's sin. Jesus seemed like a regular man to them. They didn't know or believe Jesus was the Son of God. To show that He was God and that He had the power to forgive sins, He did something else that only God could do. He healed the paralyzed man and made him be able to walk again. Making the paralyzed man walk again proved that He was God and that He also had the power to forgive the man's sins.

Jesus forgave the man's sins first because that is what he knew he needed the most, even more than he needed his body healed. Sometimes this is hard for us to understand. We have to remember that all of the problems, sadness, and sickness we have in this world happened because sin came into the world. Because Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, we now have hope of going to heaven someday. Heaven will be a place where there is no more sadness, sickness, pain, or death.

When we think about helping our friends and family, we should remember that the most important thing they need is to know Jesus. Jesus is the most important person for all of us to know and we should do whatever it takes to always stay close to Him. We all need to know that Jesus is someone special, someone who can help us, and someone sent by God. By being kind and helpful to other people, you can show that you have faith in Jesus. Your faith and love will make other people want to know Jesus, too.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Thank You for people who help me when I need help. Make me kind and helpful to other people, so that others may learn more about You through me. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

The following activities are attached:

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man Coloring Page

Jesus Heals Coded Message

Jesus Heals Word Search

4 Friends Bend and Tell

Materials Needed:

- The attached page: 4 Friends Bend and Tell
- An 8 1/2" X 11" piece of paper or cardstock
- Scissors
- Brad fasteners or twist ties

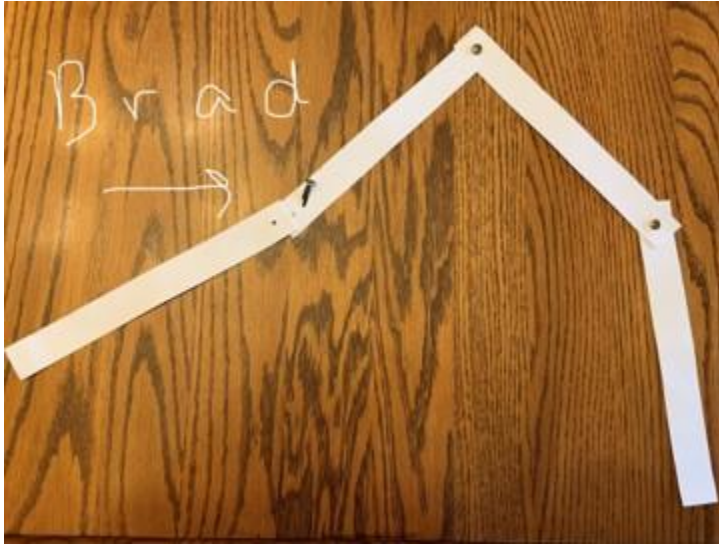
Instructions:

Print the attached page.

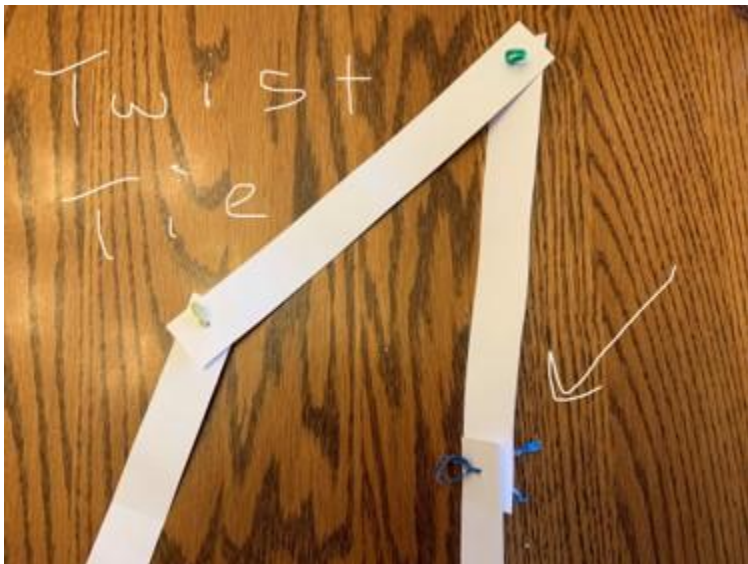
Cut 4 approx..1 inch wide by 8/12 inch long strips from a piece of paper or card stock.

Poke holes in the ends of the strips.

Use brad fasteners to hook the ends of the strips together as shown in the picture. (You can find brad fasteners at Walmart in the office supply section.)



If you don't have brad fasteners, twist ties from a bread sack or a trash bag will also work. Just make a twist tie into a loop with two pointed ends. Poke the two ends through the holes in the paper strips to hook them together. Then twist the loop on top side of the strip and twist the ends on the bottom side of the strip. This should have the same effect as a brad fastener (See the attached picture.)



Use the bendable strips to make the shapes shown in the pictures as you tell the story of the 4 friends.