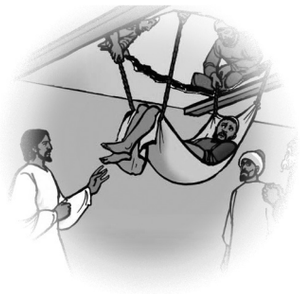
LESSON 16

A Paralysed Man Walks



Aim: **To show the children that Jesus truly is the Son of God. That is why he can forgive sins. He stands before God on our behalf.**

Scripture Reading: **Mark 2:1-12**

Memory Verse: **Mark 2:10**
"[T]he Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins ..."

Presenting the Lesson

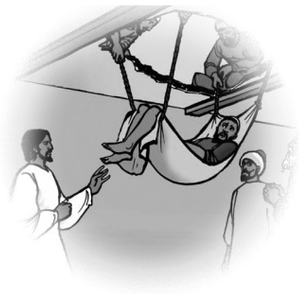
Starting Point

Remind the class of the story you told at the end of Lesson 15, about the tea stain that spoiled the new dress or shirt. Sin leaves an ugly stain on our lives. Sometimes it is so bad that we become ill.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Tell the story of this man in Mark 2, who was too weak to walk. He could not move his arms or legs at all. We say such a person is paralysed.
2. His four friends heard that the great healer Jesus had come to their town. They carried him to the house where Jesus was teaching the people. However, there were so many people who had come to listen to Jesus that there was no way for them to get their paralysed friend to Jesus (2:1-3).
   Show a model of the house made out of a small cardboard box the size of a chalk box or a sugar cube carton. It must have an outside staircase leading to the top of the roof, made of folded paper.
   The friends made a hole in the roof and let the paralysed man down in front of Jesus. **Show Picture 16.**
   The children can make a house using a cardboard box. Let them draw a door and windows. They may need help with the staircase.
3. Jesus saw how much faith these four friends had in him. He told the paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven" (2:5).
4. That made the religious leaders very angry. Who does this Jesus think he is? they thought. Only God can forgive sin, everybody knows that! (2:6-7). They did not understand that Jesus is God himself.
5. To illustrate this to them, Jesus told the paralysed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." The man stood up and walked! Jesus had healed his body and soul.

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Instil the Memory Verse

Note: "Son of Man" is just another Name for Jesus, like "Son of God". This Name of Jesus says that he represents mankind before God; he stands in our place before God the Father.

Our Response to the Story

Refer once again to the tea stain on the piece of clothing. If you can show the children something with a mark or stain on it, it will make your point that much clearer.

There are many different ways you could treat this stain. For example, you could talk about it to your friends, saying how sorry you are. You could stop wearing this piece of clothing. You could just leave it in the sun to dry. However, none of these actions will make the stain go away so that you will have a spotless piece of clothing once again. Only washing it will get rid of the stain.

In the same way, only Jesus can give us forgiveness and make us blameless. Only Jesus can wash away our sins and make us clean in God's eyes.



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