

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Matthew

LESSON 15

FOUR FRIENDS HELP

MATTHEW 9:1-8

Life of Christ

Four Friends Help

Matthew 9:1-8

Younger Verse

O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive. Psalms 86:5

Older Verse

O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all those who ask you for help. Psalms 86:5

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus has the power both to forgive sin and heal people
Recognize opportunities to share Jesus with our friends
Understand the importance of receiving forgiveness of our sins

Welcome Time

Ask: Has anyone ever been sick? Most of us can remember when we didn't feel well (colds, stomachaches, etc.). But we also have another kind of sickness. It is called sin. We all have sin in our hearts. And only Jesus has the power to forgive our sin!

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have learned that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead three days later. Before He left the earth and returned to Heaven, Jesus told His friends to share the Good News of His love with all people.

Today we will look at something that happened earlier in Jesus' ministry. It is about some friends who helped another friend get to Jesus. That is what God wants us to do!

One day Jesus was teaching inside a house. People came from all around to listen to Jesus and see the miracles He performed. In fact, so many people came that the house was full!

Four men had a friend who could not walk. They carried their friend to where Jesus was. They were hoping that Jesus could heal their friend so that he would be able to walk. But when they got to the house, there were so many people that they could not find a way to get to Jesus!

The men, however, did not give up. They went up to the roof of the house. They found a way to get through the roof. Then they lowered their friend down through the roof. They made a way to get him to Jesus!

Jesus saw that the men believed in Him and that they loved their friend. He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." Some of the teachers heard what Jesus said and they were upset. They knew that only God could forgive sin. They didn't understand how Jesus could say this. They did not know that Jesus was God's Son.

Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, "Why are you thinking evil thoughts? Is it easier to heal a man or forgive his sins?" To make His point clear, Jesus looked at the paralyzed man and said, "Get up, take

your mat, and go home.”

Immediately, the man stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on, and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave thanks to God. They thought that they had seen *one* miracle that day, but they had really seen two! The man was healed physically and the man was forgiven from his sins.

Jesus did something for us to forgive us of our sins. He died in our place for ALL the wrong things we have done. The best part is that He came back to life 3 days later. Because Jesus lives, we can be in Heaven with God if we trust Jesus and ask Him into our lives.

Review Questions

1. Why did the men bring their friend to Jesus? (To see if Jesus could heal him)
2. What did Jesus do before He healed the man’s legs? (He told the man that his sins were forgiven)
3. Why were the teachers upset about what Jesus said? (They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God)
4. Do we believe that Jesus can forgive our sins?

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us be a good friend to others. Thank Him for loving us and forgiving our sins.

Life Application

Help the students understand what sin is and why we need forgiveness. Read Isaiah 59:2. It says that sin separates us from God. That is why we need to ask for forgiveness of our sins—so that we can be right with God.

1 John 1:9 says that God is faithful to forgive us when we confess our sins to Him. Notice that the men in the story *brought* their friend to Jesus. God wants us to come to Him. He doesn’t want us to be far away. He also wants us to bring others to Him, like the men did in today’s story.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He told His followers to go into the world and help people know Him. We need to help others receive God’s forgiveness and His gift of eternal life.

Planning for Next Lesson
Matthew Follows Jesus
Matthew 9:9-13

Preschool Lesson for Four Friends Help

One day Jesus was teaching inside a house (Let everyone make a house over their head with their arms). People came from all around to listen to Jesus and see the miracles He did. In fact, so many people came that the house was full!

(Hold up four fingers.) Four men heard about what Jesus was doing and carried a friend who could not walk to the house where Jesus was. When they got to the house, there were so many people that they could not find a way to get to Jesus!

One of the men had an idea. Some houses had stairs on the outside. They climbed up the stairs to the flat roof (Make climbing motions with your feet and hands). The roof was made of tree branches and straw. The men pulled the straw and branches apart to make a hole in the roof right above where Jesus was teaching. Can you imagine what the people inside must have thought--the ceiling is falling!

They lowered the man down, right in front of Jesus. What a surprise! Jesus saw that the men believed in Him and loved their friend. However, He said something that shocked the people. Instead of making the man well, He said, "Friend, the wrong things you have done are forgiven."

Some of the teachers heard what Jesus said and they were upset. They didn't understand how Jesus could say this. They did not know that Jesus was God's Son.

Jesus knew what they were thinking. Jesus looked at the man who couldn't walk and said, "Get up, take your mat, and go home."

Immediately the man stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on, and went home thanking God. Everyone was amazed and thanked God. They knew that they had seen a miracle that day.

Those four men loved their friend. We can help our friends know about Jesus, too! Let's invite our friends to church!

Hands-on Activities For Four Friends Help

Bring a mat, sleeping bag, sheet, etc. to act out the story. Use a stuffed animal or doll for the paralyzed man. Assign four children to carry their friend to Jesus. Have one student say the words of Jesus to the man.

Ask the students if they know anyone who cannot walk. Encourage them to be helpful to those with disabilities. They can take them a Bible or share a Bible verse with them, and “bring them to Jesus” like the men in the story did for their friend!

Make an edible story. Frost graham crackers with frosting, marshmallow cream, or peanut butter. Arrange small nuts, pretzels, or marshmallows to form the body of the person on the mat. Munch on the treats and ask the kids to tell what happens when the man meets Jesus.

Make a house out of a shoebox. Cut a hole in the top and “lower” the man through the roof using yarn and an action figure. Let the kids take turns telling the story.

Make “mats” out of construction paper or sacks. Print the verse on the mat.

Make figures out of clay or play dough. Act out the story.

Make a list of friends that the children can invite to church. Make invitations for them to come next week.



O Lord, you
are so good,
so ready to
forgive.

Psalms 86:5

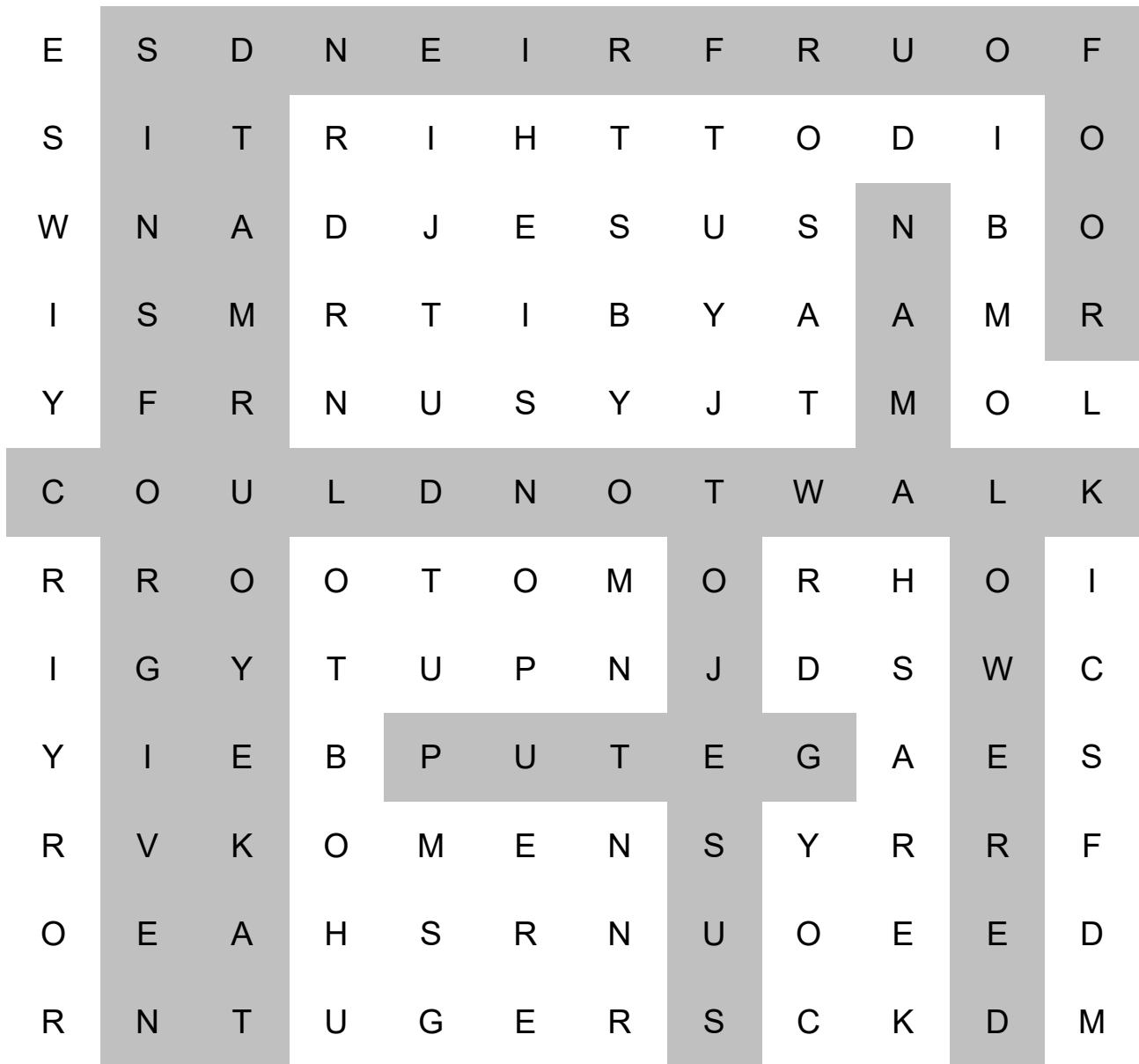


O Lord, you are so
good, so ready to
forgive, so full of
unfailing love for
all those who ask
you for help.

Psalms 86:5

E S D N E I R F R U O F
 S I T R I H T T O D I O
 W N A D J E S U S N B O
 I S M R T I B Y A A M R
 Y F R N U S Y J T M O L
 C O U L D N O T W A L K
 R R O O T O M O R H O I
 I G Y T U P N J D S W C
 Y I E B P U T E G A E S
 R V K O M E N S Y R R F
 O E A H S R N U O E E D
 R N T U G E R S C K D M

a man	could not walk	four friends
lowered	roof	to Jesus
sins forgiven	get up	take your mat



a man could not walk four friends
 lowered roof to Jesus
 sins forgiven get up take your mat