

## What Kind of Friend Should I Be?

### Lesson 38

Luke 5:17-26

### Memory Verse

**Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7**

### Introduction

Who is your best friend in the whole world? (Wait for answers) Have you ever helped your friend when they needed it? Today's story is about 4 friends that helped in an amazing way.

### Scripture

**Luke 5:17-19**

**One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd.**

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 friends heard about what Jesus was doing and carried a friend who was paralyzed 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!

**Luke 5:19**

**When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.**

**Ask: What did the men do to ensure that their friend got to Jesus?**

### Discussion

One of the men had an idea. Some houses had stairs on the outside. They climbed up the stairs (with their friend) to the flat roof. 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!)

Those four friends loved their friend. They thought of a surprising way to help their friend meet Jesus. Nobody would have imagined that they would have dug through the roof. They used their imagination that God had given to them to help rescue their friend.

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.

**Luke 5:20**

**When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."**

**Ask: What did Jesus say that shocked everyone?**

Instead of healing the man, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

**Luke 5:21**

**The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"**

**Ask: What was the reaction of the teachers who were there?**

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.

**Luke 5:22-24**

**Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."**

**Ask: What was Jesus' reaction?**

Jesus knew what they were thinking. He asked them a question. He said, "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."

**Luke 5:25-26**

**Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."**

**Ask: What did the paralytic do?**

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 praise 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.

## Application

### **Ask: What did Jesus say that confused the people?**

Your sins are forgiven. They did not understand how Jesus could forgive their sins. Jesus did something for us to forgive and clean us from our sins. He died in our place for ALL the wrong things we have done. He died for us. The best part is that He came back to life three days later. Because Jesus lives, we can be in Heaven with God if we trust Jesus and ask Him into our lives.

### **Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?**

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

### **Romans 10:9-10**

**That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.