Unfolding God’s Story for Teachers

Jesus cared for the hurting, the sick and the infirm. One cannot read the gospels without realizing the importance of physical healings in Jesus’ ministry. Those who had received the touch of the Master’s hand were restored physically and most for eternity. For many, their healing brought recognition of Jesus’ divinity. While their physical suffering was important to Jesus, their spiritual depravity was paramount. Jesus was interested in making people whole—body, soul and mind. It is interesting to note from Scripture the untold numbers of people who came to Jesus with physical needs versus the number of people who came realizing their spiritual emptiness. Those who were spiritually dead were the least aware of their great need.

Please read Mark 2:1-12. Our story today takes place in Capernaum, located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. This was Jesus’ headquarters, so to speak. It was the central place for His Galilean ministry. He probably stayed at Peter and Andrew’s home. This bustling seaside community was comprised of many nationalities and beliefs. Word of Jesus’ healings and teachings had reached far and wide. People had gathered at His home, and every square inch was occupied. This is where our story begins. Four men desperately wanted to bring their paralytic friend to Jesus. It was obvious upon their arrival that gaining entrance through the front door would not be an option. Unwilling to be defeated, they come up with a plan. They carried their friend to the roof and started removing the tiles. Light began to filter in from above, and most likely dust and dirt fell on Jesus as the men widened the hole in the roof. They lowered their frail friend through the roof until he was suspended directly in front of Jesus. The Master saw their faith and love and said to the man, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5).

A beautiful miracle of spiritual healing had taken place, but it was interrupted by the thoughts of the scribes. Their hearts were crying, “Blasphemy!” Jesus heard their thoughts and in an attempt to give visible proof of forgiveness, He commanded the man to pick up his bed and walk. As the man walked away, all were astounded and gave God the glory.

The take away is not just that Jesus had the power to heal physically, but that His healing was more than skin deep. It involved the soul. Jesus wants us whole in every way. What a Savior!

Another message in this story: Do we love our friends enough to bring them to Jesus? Will we do whatever it takes?

Lesson Plan

Arrival

• Greet children at eye level and express how happy you are to see them.
• Be sure each child has a name tag and the security measures of your church are followed.
• Label all coats and personal belongings. Strongly encourage children who have brought items from home, such as toys and books, to place them on a shelf while they are working with other materials. Assure children their items will be safe and they can take them home at the end of the session.
• Help each child make a choice where he or she would like to begin his or her Center Time.
Art Center
Create a Blob Design
Supplies:
• White paper
• Two or three colors of tempera paint
• Marker
What to Do: Print today’s Bible phrase at the bottom of each sheet of paper. Fold each sheet in half, and then open before painting. To create a blob design, squeeze about a quarter-size dollop of each paint color along the fold of the paper. Ask each child to refold the paper and gently rub his or her hand along the fold. Next, open the paper to reveal an interesting design.
Link to the Bible Story: Read the Bible phrase at the bottom of the sheet. Comment that our story today is about Jesus healing a man who could not walk.

Block Center
Block Center: Build with Blocks
Supplies:
• Wooden blocks
• Piece of cardboard or cardstock
What to Do: Provide a small carpet if possible. Blocks are best located in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow. Encourage preschoolers to work together to build and construct. Explain to children that where Jesus lived, the roofs of most houses were flat. Encourage children to build a house and use the cardboard for the flat roof.
Link to the Bible Story: As children work, look for opportunities in conversation to say the Bible phrase or interject parts of the Bible story.

Center Time

Home Living Center
Role Play Doctor and Nurse
Supplies:
• Doll bed, small rocking chair, sink and stove unit, and small table and chairs. Plastic dishes, child pots and pans, and doll items such as doll bag, blanket, clothes, bottles and diapers.
• Add a toy doctor or nurse kit to the area. Lab coats or scrub tops would be a fun addition. Provide adhesive bandages, cotton balls, craft sticks and gauze tape for play.
What to Do: Straighten and organize the Home Living Center each week. Restock first-aid supplies if needed. Encourage children to role play doctor and nurse. Children can place bandages or gauze on the baby doll.
Link to the Bible Story: Tell children in today’s Bible story four men brought their friend to Jesus. The man could not walk. They wanted Jesus to heal him. Jesus helped the man to walk.

Bible Learning Center
Dot-to-Dot Bible Story Picture
Supplies:
• Copies of Activity Page: “Jesus Healed a Man Who Could Not Walk” (Reproducible)
• Crayons and washable markers
What to Do: Give each child a copy of the Bible story picture. Show children today’s teaching picture. Ask preschoolers to use a marker or crayon to connect the dots to complete their pictures. Suggest they color their pictures.
Link to the Bible Story: Express to children that in our story today Jesus healed a man who could not walk. Talk about things you could not do if you were unable to walk. Express to children that four friends helped the man get to Jesus. They tore a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus was staying. Jesus helped the man walk.

Puzzle Center
Work Puzzles
Supplies:
• Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for children to work.
What to Do: Invite preschoolers to work puzzles. Encourage children to finish a puzzle before leaving the center. Give guidance rather than doing the puzzle for the child.
Link to Bible Story: As children work, look for opportunities in conversation to say the Bible phrase or briefly tell the Bible story.
Clean-up Time
Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.

Bible Story

Introduction
• Show the God’s Unfolding Story Cube. Point to each symbol and tell God’s Unfolding Story. (Refer to page 1.) Encourage children to say the story with you.
• Comment to boys and girls today’s segment of God’s Unfolding Story today is from God sent Jesus to help us. (Point to that symbol on the cube.)
• Review last week’s Bible story. “In our story last week, Jesus showed God’s power by healing a young boy. Jesus did not use medicine or see the boy; He just spoke the words, and he was healed. This was called a miracle. A miracle is an event that only God can cause to happen.”
• Comment, “We will hear about another miracle in our story today. Listen to hear about a man who could not walk and how Jesus helped him.”

Bible Story
Jesus Healed a Man Who Could Not Walk
(Mark 2:1-12)

One day, Jesus was teaching in His home at Capernaum. As He spoke, people began to gather around to listen. More and more people tried to squeeze into the house just to hear Jesus teach. In fact, so many people were in the house no one else could get through the door!

There was a crippled man who lived in the city. The man could not do anything for himself. He could not fix his food or visit a friend without someone helping him. Most of his days were spent lying or sitting on a cot or mat. Four of his friends wanted to help the man. They knew if they brought him to Jesus, he would be healed. So each friend took a corner of the cot and walked to the house where Jesus was speaking.

When they got to the house, they could not get in because there were so many people. So they had an idea! They climbed up on the flat roof and took some tiles off to make a hole. They lowered their friend through the hole until he was suspended directly in front of Jesus!

Jesus may have been surprised when dirt from the roof started to fall and a cot began to lower down in front of Him. However, Jesus realized what was happening when He saw the man. Jesus told the crippled man, “Get up, pick up your bed and walk.”

The man did just as Jesus said. He got up, picked up his bed and walked out in front of all the people. Everyone was amazed at what Jesus had done. The people gave glory to God.

Talk Time
1. Show the teaching picture for today’s Bible story. Ask the following: “What was Jesus doing in our story? What was wrong with the man on the cot? How did his friends get him to Jesus? What did Jesus tell the man to do?”

2. Read the Bible phrase on the teaching picture. Say the phrase together. Comment that Jesus healed people to show God’s power. Explain to children God often uses doctors and nurses to help people get well; sometimes God heals someone miraculously.

3. Close the Bible Story Time by inviting children to join you in prayer. Perhaps someone has a friend or family member who is ill. Allow any interested preschooler to pray. Conclude prayer time by thanking Jesus for the miracle of healing.

**Snack Time**

Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack. When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

**Game Time/Dismissal**

**Cotton Ball Relay**

**Supplies:**
- Two paper bowls, cotton balls,
- Two plastic spoons

**What to Do:**
Ask children to stand in a line or stand against a wall. Place a bowl of cotton balls in front of the children on the floor. Then place an empty bowl about six or seven feet in front of the first bowl. Give the first child in line a spoon. Explain to children the object of the game is to get as many of the cotton balls from one bowl to another with the spoon. Tell children each child will have an opportunity to get a cotton ball with the spoon to carry to the other bowl. Play the game as long as children are interested. Remind children that in today's Bible story, four friends carried their friend who could not walk to Jesus. Jesus helped the man to walk. Dismiss children as parents arrive. Be sure to follow the security procedures of your church.

**Craft Time**

Make a Bible Phrase Door Hanger

**Supplies:**
- Copies of Bible Phrase Door Hanger (Reproducible/cardstock)
- Foam-shaped adhesive-backed stickers
- Crayons and washable markers

**What to Do:**
Prior to the activity, cut out the Bible Phrase Door Hangers. Invite children to color their hangers and decorate with foam-shaped stickers.

**Link to Bible Story:**
Say the verse with the children. Remind children Jesus performed a miracle to heal the man in our story today. The miracle helped people to know that Jesus was God's Son and to give glory to God.
New Testament Unit 2: Jesus Healed
Lesson 2: Jesus Healed a Man Who Could Not Walk

Resources and Supplies

**Standard Art Supplies**
(Supplies that are generally in the room)
- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Child scissors
- Playdough and accessories
- Drawing paper
- Easel (optional)
- Glue/glue sticks
- Tempera paint, 4 colors
- Tape/masking tape
- Pencils/colored pencils
- Hole punch
- Teacher scissors
- Stapler/staples
- Permanent markers
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Yarn

**Standard Equipment**
(Equipment that is generally in the room)
- Small beanbag for Bible Story Time
- Assorted wooden/cardboard puzzles
- Set of wooden blocks
- Small cars and trucks
- Doll bed
- Baby doll (soft plastic)
- Stove/sink unit
- Play dishes/pots and pans
- Small table and chairs
- Small carpet for block area
- Play food items
- Storage shelf for blocks
- Tables and chairs for art, puzzles, and Bible Learning Center
- CD player/Children’s Worship CDs

**Reproducibles**
(Included with the lesson plan downloads)
- Activity Page “Jesus Healed a Man Who Could Not Walk,” 1 copy per child
- “Bible Phrase Door Hanger,” 1 copy per 2 children
- Teaching Picture “Jesus Healed a Man Who Could Not Walk,” 1 copy per class
- God’s Unfolding Story Cube (Cardstock) 1 copy per class
- Parent Page, 1 copy per child

**Additional Art Materials**
- White paper, 1 per child
- Foam shaped adhesive backed stickers

**Additional Block Materials**
- Cardstock paper – Several sheets

**Additional Home Living Materials**
- Toy doctor or nurse kit
- Adhesive bandages, cotton balls, craft sticks, gauze

**Additional Game Materials**
- Paper bowls – 2
- Cotton balls – 10 or 12
- Plastic spoons - 2