



Jesus Forgives Sin

Matthew 9:2–8



LESSON GOAL

The student will understand that he or she must turn to Jesus for forgiveness of sin.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- Describe how the paralytic was brought to Jesus.
- Explain why the scribes accused Jesus of blasphemy.
- Analyze how Jesus' healing proved His authority to forgive.
- Tell why the people glorified God after seeing the miracle.

KEY VERSE

“‘But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’ —then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’”

—Matthew 9:6

APPLICATION

- Trust in Jesus to forgive your sins.
- Take off the sin which God forgave you of and put on righteousness.
- Glorify God who gave Jesus the authority to forgive.
- Rejoice that when you are forgiven God has chosen to never bring up that sin again.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus Has Power over Disease and Death

Matthew 9:18–26

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

Between Matthew 8 and 9, Matthew records ten miracles to demonstrate Jesus’ authority as the Messiah, the Son of God. Instead of organizing these miracles chronologically, Matthew records them topically. A comparison of Matthew’s telling of Jesus’ miracles with those in Mark and Luke reveals that Jesus’ calming of the storm and casting out of the demons into the swine (Matt. 8:23–34) occurs after Jesus’ healing of the paralytic (Matt. 9:2–8) but before His raising of Jairus’ daughter from the dead (Matt. 9:18–26). By placing many miracles in quick succession, Matthew emphasizes the extent of Jesus’ authority. Not only does Jesus have the power to heal from a distance (Matt. 8:5–13), to stop a storm (Matt. 8:23–27) and to cast out demons (Matt. 8:23–34), but the Son of Man also has the authority to forgive sins.

Jesus’ Authority Exercised (Matt. 9:2)

After recording Jesus’ return to Capernaum from the opposite shore of the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 9:1), Matthew quickly begins to tell another of Jesus’ miracles. Matthew simply says, “Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed.” Because he is eager to proclaim another aspect of Jesus’ authority, Matthew leaves out many of the fascinating details included by Mark (2:1–12) and Luke (5:16–26). Jesus was preaching inside a house, surrounded by Pharisees and teachers of the law (or scribes) who had “come out of every town of Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem” to hear Jesus (Luke 5:17). The religious leaders were only part of the massive crowd which made it impossible for anyone else to enter through the door (Mark 2:2). Because of the crowd, four men could not carry their paralyzed friend before Jesus to be healed by Him (Mark 2:3; Luke 5:18). Confident that Jesus could heal the man, the men carried their friend to the rooftop (where people commonly relaxed in the evening), removed tiles from the roof, and lowered the paralyzed man upon his bed into the house where Jesus was teaching (Mark 2:4; Luke 5:19).

The dramatic effort upon the part of the men revealed their faith. Matthew writes that “when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you’” (Matt. 9:2). Jesus’ response to the men’s faith is surprising. While neither Matthew, Mark or Luke mention the men asking anything from Jesus, the men had obviously come for the paralyzed man to be healed. But Jesus knew the man had a more pressing need. He knew the bed-ridden man was afraid to be in the Messiah’s presence. He knew that the man was conscious of his wickedness. He knew the man had responded not only to Jesus’ ability to heal but also to His preaching of repentance. Aware of the man’s fear and concern, Jesus first comforted the man by calling him son (the term actually referring to a child

of any sex or age) and then telling him not to be afraid. Then Jesus pronounced the sweetest, most precious words: “Yours sins are forgiven.” The Messiah had come to “save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21) and now the Son of God had actually declared someone forgiven. Jesus had exercised His authority to forgive a man.

Jesus’ Authority Challenged (Matt. 9:3)

Both scribes and Pharisees were appalled at what they had just heard (Matt. 9:3; Luke 5:21). Scripture clearly teaches that only God can forgive a man’s sin. In Isaiah 43:25, God says, “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.” Micah 7:18 asks, “Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?” The scribes and Pharisees reasoned to themselves that Jesus had blasphemed since no one can forgive sins but God alone (Matt. 9:3; Mark 2:6–7). The logic of the scribes was right to an extent: only God can forgive sins. But their conclusion was wrong. Jesus was not guilty of blasphemy because He is God and does have the authority to forgive. Instead of correctly evaluating that Jesus must be God, they shamefully criticized the Messiah of blasphemy.

Jesus’ Authority Demonstrated (Matt. 9:4–8)

Although the scribes kept their criticisms to themselves, Jesus knew how wicked their thoughts were (Matt. 9:4). The scribes were the ones with the blasphemous thoughts. Jesus confronted the perverse scribes by challenging their reasoning. He asked, “For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say ‘Arise and walk?’” (Matt. 9:5). The scribes had most likely seen Jesus do healing miracles and accepted His power to heal. In the past, God had healed through other prophets like Elijah and Elisha. But Jesus’ claim to forgive sins made him unique. While other prophets had pronounced God’s willingness to forgive or announced that God had forgiven, none had ever himself forgiven sins committed against God. Jesus was the first and only. The scribes understood that forgiving sins was obviously impossible for man, but that God had given some prophets the ability to heal. They would have answered Jesus’ rhetorical question by claiming it was easier to say, “Arise and walk.”

Jesus then proceeded to demolish their wicked thoughts by also doing the easier thing. Before healing the man, Jesus told them the purpose of what he was about to do: “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” (Matt. 9:6). Jesus then commanded the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” The paralyzed man did exactly as Jesus said: “He arose and departed to his house” (Matt. 9:7). (Luke also describes that the man picked up his mat and went away glorifying God (Luke 6:25).) After seeing the miracle, the scribes were left without a defense. Jesus claimed that by healing the man the scribes would know that Jesus, the Son of Man, had the power to forgive. When Jesus did the easier of the two things, He proved He could also do the more difficult. No one could both claim God’s power to forgive and exercise God’s power to heal unless that person’s claim was truth. Jesus’ authority to forgive was authenticated by His authority to heal. The scribes had already determined that only God could forgive. They were now faced with whether they would accept that Jesus was God.

Although the scribes and Pharisees’ response to this miracle is not recorded, the Gospels show how they tried to get around Jesus’ perfect reasoning. Since Jesus’ miracles authenticated His claims to deity, the religious leaders attempted to discredit His miracles. Their attempts included foolishly attacking Jesus’ Sabbath healings by claiming He broke the Law, criticizing that Jesus cast out demons

through Satan's empowerment, or trying to discredit the testimony of those who had been healed. The leaders could not deny that Jesus was doing miracles and thus desperately tried to discredit those miracles. No wonder Jesus prophesied that their judgment would be worse for having seen so many miracles while continuing in their rejection of Him as their King (Matt. 11:20–24).

When those gathered around Jesus saw what had happened, "they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men" (Matt. 9:8). Luke 5:26 adds that the crowds "were filled with fear, saying, 'We have seen strange things today!'" The crowd was shocked. Not only could Jesus heal the body, but He could also forgive sins. They stood in awe of Jesus and were afraid to be in His presence. Their reaction was much like the disciples on the boat after Jesus calmed the storm (Matt. 8:27). Like the disciples, the crowds were shocked at this Man who was unlike anyone they had ever seen or known. The people glorified God, recognizing that God had not only given the Son of Man the authority to heal but also the authority to forgive.

Conclusion

Although the people were in awe of what they had seen and heard, it is unlikely they had yet come to the scribes' conclusion that Jesus' forgiving the man was a claim to deity. Even the disciples were still growing in their knowledge of Jesus as both the Son of Man and the Son of God. Because He is God, Jesus has the authority to forgive. No one will be forgiven who does not come to Jesus as He commanded. Anyone who is horrified by the knowledge that they have rebelled against their Creator and who is willing to repent and love God more than themselves can turn to Jesus for forgiveness. They can rejoice that Jesus will forgive all who come to Him because He was crucified and rose again. Those who have already turned to Christ for forgiveness must continue to turn to Him for forgiveness of those sins committed after salvation. They also must be humble enough to accept the forgiveness that Christ promises to those who repent.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth."
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Why did the disciples become afraid when sailing across the lake?

The Bible says that a great storm caused the waves to sweep over the boat.

What did the disciples find Jesus doing during the storm?

The disciples found Jesus sleeping on the boat.

Why did the disciples awake Jesus?

The disciples awoke Jesus because they knew He had the power to save them. Because they were afraid of dying in the great storm they asked Jesus for help.

What did Jesus do next?

He commanded the storm to be calm.

Who did Jesus see on the other side of the lake?

Jesus met two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs.

What did the demons ask Jesus?

The demons begged Jesus to cast them into a herd of pigs and they went off a cliff into the water.



Jesus Is God

Use this object lesson to show the students that Jesus' ability to heal proved that He is God and is also able to forgive sin. Ask some of the students to name their favorite animal. After picking two or three animals, ask the students to explain how they know which animal is which. It is at this point that you can explain how animals are authenticated by what they do. A rabbit not an alligator because it hops and does not swim, just as one knows a shark from an eagle. We can tell whether or not an eagle is an eagle by whether or not it has wings, flies, etc. In the same way, Jesus' identity as God was authenticated (proven) by what He did in today's lesson. Jesus' healing the paralyzed man was proof that He was God. Because He is God, He also has the power to forgive sin.



Which Is Easier?

Ask the children a series of questions about which is easier to do. For instance, jumping on two feet or hopping on one foot; coloring with crayons or painting with paint and brush; say simple sentence or tongue-twister. Teacher may ask for volunteers to try each thing. Finally, ask children which is easier, to heal a paralyzed man or forgive his sins? (Both are impossible for us, but just pretend.) That's what we'll talk about in today's lessons.



God vs. the Prophets

In today's lesson what do we find Jesus doing that man cannot do? Jesus displays the power to be able to heal the lame and forgive sins. Jesus' ability to do both of these things gives evidence to the fact that the Messiah is more than just another prophet. We do not find one prophet in the Old Testament that had the full authority and power that Jesus possessed. Whether they were Elijah, Elisha, or Samuel, none of these men had the power to forgive sins. The prophets differed from the Savior in that they were but humble men whom God had chosen to use in history for His glory. Jesus, on the other hand, was no ordinary man. Although he was man, Jesus was also God himself in the human form. Because of this, Jesus had the same authority and power to forgive sin and heal the sick as God did.



Don't Move a Muscle!

Have the students lay on the floor, pretending to be paralyzed. This is a good time to explain the condition of paralysis to the children. Once all are in place ask them to think about what it would be like not to be able to move. Give some different situations that the students often take their ability to move for granted. Explain that in today's story we will be learning about what the friends of one paralyzed man did to get him to Jesus.



Blasphemy

To blaspheme means to speak against, to speak irreverently or disrespectfully about God. The Jews accused Jesus of this because He was claiming to forgive sins, something which only God had the right to do.



Forgiveness

Forgiveness is an important element of the gospel. Ask the children if they have ever asked for forgiveness or had to forgive someone else. To forgive someone means that you choose not to hold someone's offense against them. When do we need forgiveness? When we have offended another person. Who can forgive us? Only the person whom we have offended. Help the children understand that we cannot give or be given forgiveness on behalf of somebody else. When we sin, who have we offended? Therefore, since we have sinned against God, only God can forgive us. If only God can forgive sins, do you think Jesus can forgive sins? Today's lesson will provide us with a sure answer.



Authority

Authority is a delegated right. To have authority is to have permission to act in a certain way and to issue certain instructions. The ultimate authority in the universe is God and certain privileges are reserved only for Him, while others He has delegated to specific people. Most children understand that God has given their parents authority over them. That means that their parents can tell them what to do and require them to obey. They cannot, however, tell their parents what to do and require them to obey since they have no authority over their parents. What are some rights and privileges which are reserved for God alone? In today's lesson we will discover one such right.



1

You Can See but Do You Know?

Jesus saw the faith of those who brought the paralytic to Jesus and He knew what the Pharisees were thinking. While the faith of the paralytic may have been evident to all, the thoughts of the Pharisees were certainly not. Play a game of "I spy" and have the children try and guess what you have seen. Then have them try to guess what you are thinking about. Can anybody know what we are thinking about all the time? In today's lesson we will learn about someone who knows all our thoughts.



Believe It or Not

A miracle may be simply understood as something which only God can do. Miracles therefore demonstrate God's power and so usually point to the word of God or the messenger of God. In today's lesson Jesus performs a miracle specifically to prove that He has the authority to forgive sins. In doing this, Jesus connects His words to His works. Either both are true or both are false. To help the children understand this you could invite a policeman, doctor, karate black-belt, etc. to class dressed in plain clothes. Have them tell the children what they do and ask the children to vote on whether they think the person is genuine or not. Then let the policeman produce his badge. That should be sufficient to convince most of them that the man is telling the truth. In today's story Jesus produces a "badge" of His own to prove to the people that He was God.



Knowing Our Thoughts

Here is a very simple game which can be used to emphasize the uniqueness of Christ. Present the children with a few small prizes they will be excited about and

eager to win. Tell the children that all they need to do to win the prize is guess what you are thinking. Have the children wait as you think of a number one through ten. After you pick out the number, have the children guess until one of them guesses correctly and wins a prize. Play the game the second time by picking a letter of the alphabet. When you play the third time, have the children simply try to guess what you are thinking. Of course, the children will not be able to. When the children finally give up (or you run out of time!), tell the children how people can guess what someone is thinking but only God knows what someone is thinking all the time. Tell the children that in today's lesson they are going to learn about how Jesus knew what people were thinking even when they didn't say anything. (Give the one prize left to the student who was following the rules well.)



Which Is Easier?

To help the children understand Jesus' rebuke of the scribes, have the children answer which is the easier of two options. Ask them if it would be easier for you to lift a rock or a boulder, to walk a mile or a hundred miles, to swim across a river or across an ocean. The answers should be simple. Now ask the children what would be easier for God to do: to make one man or a million men, to make a planet or a universe, to heal somebody or forgive somebody. It should be obvious to the children that since God can do anything, nothing is "easier" for God than anything else. God can do everything He wants to do. Explain that in today's story some people wrongly thought that Jesus had the power to heal but not the power to forgive. Tell the children to listen carefully to how Jesus explains that it is easy for Him to forgive sins as it is to heal limbs.



Paralytic Relay

Divide the class into two teams. Put the class into two single file lines, and set a number of obstacles in front of them (i.e., chairs, other students, or even a maze set up outside. Depending on the number of students on each team, designate several to be paralyzed. The object of the race is to see what team can bring all their paralyzed teammates across the finish line the fastest. If they drop their teammate they have to start all over. After the game, explain to the class why the paralytic's friends had to lower him through a roof in order to see Jesus. The crowds that had gathered around Jesus were so large that they could not get their friend into the room where Jesus was.



Only God Arrows

Materials: photocopy of an arrow for each student on cardstock, craft sticks (or tongue depressors), scissor, and glue

Directions: Prior to the lesson, pass out a craft stick, scissors, glue, and a photocopy of an arrow to each student. Instruct students to cut out the arrows and glue them on the top half of the craft sticks. The stick will serve as a handle. Explain that during the lesson students are to hold up their arrows when they hear the teacher talk about something only God can say or do. As students hold up their arrows, use it as an opportunity to explain why something in the lesson reflects a quality or ability of God alone. Appropriate places for students to hold up their arrows include verse 2b "your sins are forgiven you," verse 4 "knowing their thoughts," verse 6a "Son of Man," and verse 6b "arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” —Psalm 78:4

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Passage Outline

Jesus’ Authority Exercised (Matt. 9:2)

Jesus’ Authority Challenged (Matt. 9:3)

Jesus’ Authority Demonstrated (Matt. 9:4–8)

Introduction

Can you think of some different people who have authority? Maybe you thought of your teacher, policeman, or even your parents? All of these people have authority to do different things. A policeman has the power to protect our city, a teacher to teach us in school, and our parents to instruct us how to live. Each of these people has a title that gives them their authority. Well today we learn of one who has the power to forgive a person of their sin. His title as God’s Son gives Him the authority to do what only God can do, forgive. Let us now look into the book of Matthew and see this incredible power of Jesus the Messiah.



Lead-off Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What do we find Jesus doing at the beginning of today’s lesson?

Answer: Jesus and his disciples had gotten into a boat and began to sail across the Sea of Galilee. The Bible says that Jesus was traveling back to his own town, Capernaum.

LOQ: What happened to Jesus after He had reached the other side of the sea?

Answer: Matthew records that a group of men came carrying one of their friends to Him. The Bible says that the man was paralyzed and that his friends carried him on a mat because he could not walk on his own.

LOQ: What did Jesus immediately know about these men?

Answer: Jesus saw that the men had great faith. That they would carry their friend all the way to Jesus revealed that they believed that Jesus had the power to heal.

LOQ: What did Jesus do after seeing the faith of these men?

Answer: Matthew records that Jesus encouraged the paralyzed man not to be afraid, for his sins had been forgiven. Because of His faith in Jesus, the paralyzed man’s sins had been forgiven. The Messiah had come to save His people from their sins. This is the first time that we see Jesus exercising His authority to

forgive man. Many people (like Elijah, and Moses) God had given the power to do miracles, but none had shown the power to forgive sin.

LOQ: Why would the paralyzed man have been afraid of Jesus?

Answer: The man would have been afraid of Jesus because he was aware of his sin before the Lord. The paralyzed man not only knew of his need to be healed, but also of his need to be forgiven. He had responded to Jesus' message for the people to repent. Because he was a sinful person, he was afraid to be in the presence of the holy Messiah.

LOQ: What people were around when the men brought the paralyzed man to Jesus?

Answer: In Matthew we see that many people were around Jesus at this time. A crowd had gathered around Jesus after he had gotten out of his boat. Some of the people in this crowd were people from around the area; others were teachers of the law (or Pharisees).

LOQ: How did the teachers of the Law respond to Jesus forgiving the paralyzed man of his sin?

Answer: The teachers of the Law thought that Jesus was blaspheming God. Blaspheming would have been the same thing as cursing God. They knew that only God had the power to forgive sin. Because Jesus had told the man that his sins were forgiven, Jesus was claiming to be God. The teachers of the Law did not understand that Jesus was God. Because they only saw him as a man, they were upset that He would claim to do what only God can do.

LOQ: As the teachers of the Law were thinking to themselves, what do we find Jesus doing?

Answer: Matthew says that Jesus knew their thoughts. He knew that they were upset at Him forgiving the man of His sins. Jesus responds to them by asking them why they would think such evil thoughts. Then He asks them what would be easier, to heal a man or forgive his sin?

LOQ: What does Jesus then do after addressing the teachers of the Law?

Answer: Jesus then turns to the paralyzed man and tells him to pick up his mat and go home. This was amazing since the man had been unable to walk. Jesus had performed another miracle. He healed the paralyzed man and he was now able to stand up and walk home.

LOQ: Why does Jesus choose to heal the paralyzed man?

Answer: Before healing the paralyzed man, Jesus said that he would perform this miracle so that the crowd around Him would know that He had the power to forgive sin. His healing the man would prove that He had the power to forgive. If He were not telling the truth about being able to forgive, he would not have been able to do what only a perfectly holy God can do. Yet his being able to heal the paralyzed man did prove that he was telling the truth. Jesus did have the authority to forgive sin. Thus the man walks away being both healed and forgiven.

LOQ: What was the crowd's response to this miracle?

Answer: The Bible says that the crowd was amazed at Jesus' power to heal and forgive. They even walked away praising God because of what they had seen.

They were amazed that God would give such incredible authority to a man. Despite being amazed, the crowd still saw Jesus as only being a man. They had not yet realized that Jesus was God walking among them.

Summary

Out of the ten miracles recorded in Matthew 8–9, this one is the most amazing. Up until now, Jesus has shown the power to be able to control nature and heal the physically sick. All of these miracles were performed to prove that He was indeed the Messiah. Now Jesus shows that He can heal man spiritually as well. The paralyzed man had a far greater need than not being able to walk. His sin had kept Him separated from God. Jesus meets this man's need by exercising his power as God's Son and forgives the man of his sin. All of Jesus' teaching and preaching for the people to repent was a preparation for this very moment. Jesus, the Messiah, had come into the world to "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21) and now the Son of God had actually declared someone forgiven. Because the paralyzed man had faith in the Christ his sins were forgiven. In this first act of forgiveness, the teachers of the Law accuse Jesus of blaspheming (or cursing) God. The teachers of the Law knew that only God had the power to forgive sin. For Him to claim the ability to forgive was to claim to be God. They had not realized who Jesus was. They only saw Him as a man with the power to perform miracles and thus failed to see Him as being God himself. Because Jesus is God, Jesus did have the power to forgive. This was the very thing that He was sent to do. To prove His authority to be able to forgive, Jesus heals the man of His paralysis right there before the whole crowd. Amazed at what they had seen, the crowd went away praising God that day.

Application

Because Jesus is God, He has the authority to forgive. Anyone who understands that they have sinned against God and desires to repent and love God more than themselves can turn to Jesus for forgiveness. We too can rejoice that Jesus will forgive all who come to Him in faith. If we repent of our sin and have faith that He died and rose again, Jesus is faithful to forgive us of our sins.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.

Stand Up

When you read Matthew 9:7 about the man rising and walking home, instruct the children to stand up and stay standing for the rest of the story.



3

Certificate of Proof

Bring a birth certificate or another official document to class and explain to the students how this document verifies your citizenship, right to drive, date of birth, etc. Explain to the students the rights or privileges this document allows you. In the same way, Jesus' miracles proved his power and authority.



The Faith of His Friends

To begin the lesson time, give the students a taste of what the day that Jesus healed the paralytic might have been like. Begin a skit by bringing in a man on a cot and setting him down on the floor. The men that bring him in could be demonstrating their faith by their urgency to get him to Jesus. They could discuss the scene and the different ways of getting him into the house. The scene could end by the men coming to the conclusion that they will lower him through the roof and finally taking him off stage.



Who Has Authority?

As the lesson is taught, help the students understand how someone's ability to do something is a proof of their authority. Describe an activity that requires authority and then have the children try to guess which type of person has that authority. For example, describe someone who comes into a room with a pair of handcuffs and arrests a person. (You can also act it out as a scene.) Ask the children who has that ability. The children will know the answer is a police officer because of his authority to arrest people. A doctor is known by his authority to prescribe medication, a teacher by his authority to assign homework, a parent by his authority to make his child eat his vegetables and a judge by his authority to sentence people to a punishment. Pick authority figures you think your age group will be aware of. End by asking who has the ability to command a paralyzed man to walk. Only Jesus has that authority! In today's lesson, the children will be taught that Jesus has not only the authority to heal the paralyzed but also to forgive sinners.

Praise and Worship

All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

He Is Lord

King of Kings

Lord, I Lift Your Name On High

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"Jesus' Miracles Prove His Words"

Materials: copies of "Jesus' Miracles Prove His Words" craft pages, scissors, one brad per student, glue, crayons

Directions: Cut out the shape on the first page of the craft along the dark lines. Fold the page in half on the dotted line, so the words are on the front. Once this is finished, you should have three flaps that can be lifted up. Cut out the pictures and verses from the second craft page and glue them under the appropriate flap. Optional: Instead of gluing on the paralyzed man, attach him with a brad so he can either be laying down or standing. Explain to the students how Jesus's miracles were evidence that He was truly God.



“Arise and Walk”

Materials: blank piece of white cardstock, 2 brads per student, scissors, crayons, paralytic and mat on cardstock

Directions: Give each child a piece of cardstock. Students should color this as a background like they would imagine how it would look in the story. The students can then cut out the paralytic and his mat. One brad should be inserted into the man and the background (at his feet) so that he can lay down and stand up. The second brad should go by his shoulder and should also go through the mat but not the background. This will make the mat appear to be put under his arm when he stands up.



“Jesus’ Miracle Marathon”

Materials: Copy of game board photocopied on cardstock for each team, scissors, masking tape

Advance preparation: Cut out each of the squares from the game board individually. Place each team’s set of squares on the floor in the same order as originally printed on the game board. Measure 15 feet from the game pieces, and mark a line on the floor with masking tape for each team’s starting line.

Directions: Divide the class into equal teams. Instruct students to line up behind the masking tape. Explain the following rules of the game:

Rules: The first student from each team will run to the game pieces, read the miracle descriptions, turn over the miracles that were NOT recorded in the Bible (leaving the miracles he or she believes Christ really did perform face up), and run back to the team starting line. Teacher’s assistants check the answers while the student runs back to his/her team. If the student got all answers correct, that team wins. If not all pieces are correct, the next student in line must run up and change some answers by turning pieces face-down or face-up. Play continues in this manner until one team gets all of the answers correct.

Correct answers are: Cleanses a leper, Heals a paralytic & forgives his sins, Heals a man’s withered hand on the Sabbath, Heals the Centurion’s servant by just speaking a word, Walks on Water, Heals Peter’s Mother-in Law, Stops blood flow in a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years, Restores sight to the blind, Calms a Storm on the Sea of Galilee, and Casts demons into swine. Please note: Some of the incorrect answers are similar to miracles Christ performed, but the facts describing them are incorrect (i.e. “Allows Peter to catch a fish with a ‘pearl’ in its mouth” should instead state “coin”). Use this game as an opportunity to review Christ’s miracles recorded in Matthew, and discuss why the answers are incorrect.



House of Forgiveness and Healing

Materials: Square Kleenex boxes (any size or shape will work as a substitute), 3 craft sticks per student, 2 wooden clothespins with round tops, string, scissors, coloring utensils, hot glue gun & hot glue, scraps of fabric, preprinted verse.

Advanced Preparation: Ask students and teachers to begin saving Kleenex boxes about a month prior to the lesson so you will have enough for the entire class. Or send home a note a few weeks before the lesson and ask each student to bring his/her own empty box to class the following week.

Directions: Pass out boxes and scissors to each student. Instruct students to cut out a window in one side of the box. Students that do not have Kleenex boxes should also cut a small rectangle in the top of the box to resemble the tiles pulled off the ceiling by the friends of the paralytic. Instruct students to draw a multitude of faces

on the three walls inside of the box to resemble the large crowd inside the house. While the class is coloring the walls, send a few students at a time to the hot glue station to assemble the paralytic's bed under adult supervision. Pass out three craft sticks to each student, and glue the sticks together side-by-side, lengthwise. Instruct students to cut 4 equal pieces of string, the same height as the Kleenex box. Use hot glue to attach each string to the four corners of the bed. Using the sharp point of the scissors, poke 4 holes in the top of the box the same distance apart as the corners of the bed. Poke each string through one of the four holes to suspend the bed inside the box. Tie a knot at the end of each string, outside the box, so that the bed can be raised and lowered without falling to the bottom of the box. Pass out 2 clothespins to each student (1 represents the paralytic man and the other Jesus). Allow the students to select scraps of fabric, and cut them to wrap around each clothespin as clothing. Use hot glue to attach the clothing to the clothespins. Hot glue one clothespin on the bed (paralytic), and the other clothespin (Jesus) to the bottom of the box, standing beside the paralytic's bed. Have the students glue the preprinted key verse (Matt. 9:6) to the outside of the Kleenex box.



"Jesus forgives sin"

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The worksheet is located at the back of the lesson.

Coloring Pages

Give each student a copy of the coloring pages at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



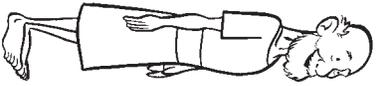
MEMORY VERSE

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins'—then He said to the paralytic, 'Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.'"
—*Matthew 9:6*

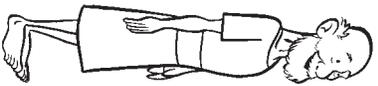
Jesus' Miracles Prove His Words

<p>Jesus' Miracles</p>	<p>Prove</p>	<p>His Words</p>
-------------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------

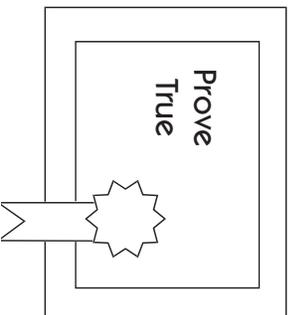
Jesus' Miracles Prove His Words



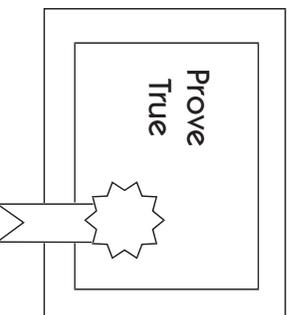
Jesus said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed and go to your house." — Matthew 9:6b



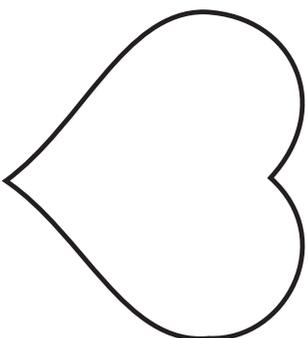
Jesus said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed and go to your house." — Matthew 9:6b



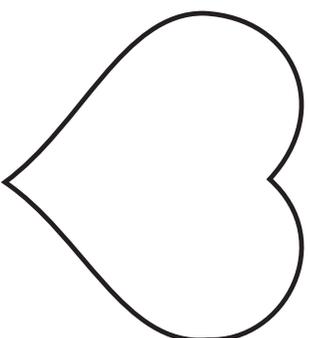
"...that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." — Matthew 9:6a



"...that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." — Matthew 9:6a



Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven you." — Matthew 9:2b

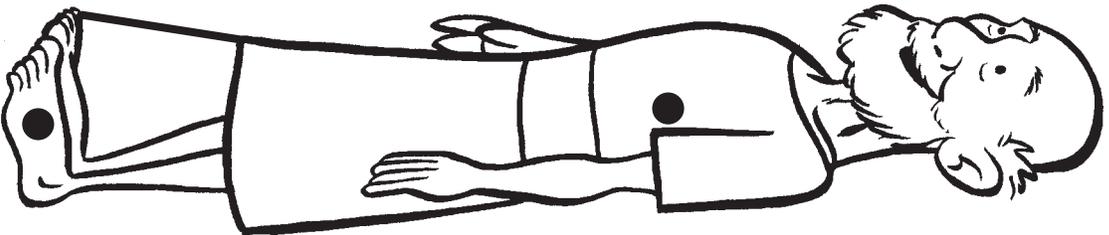
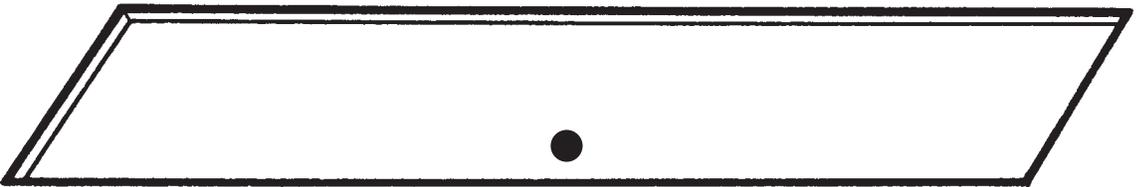
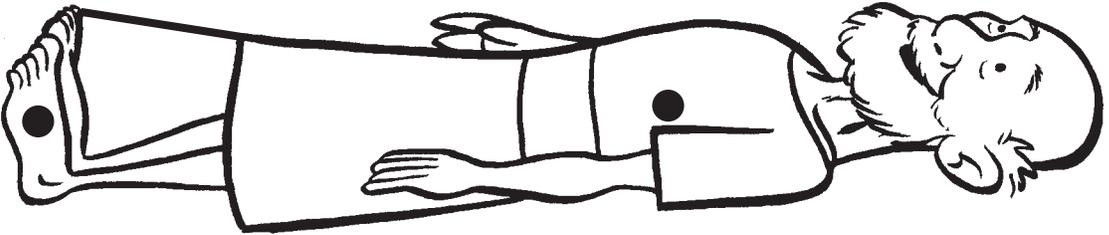
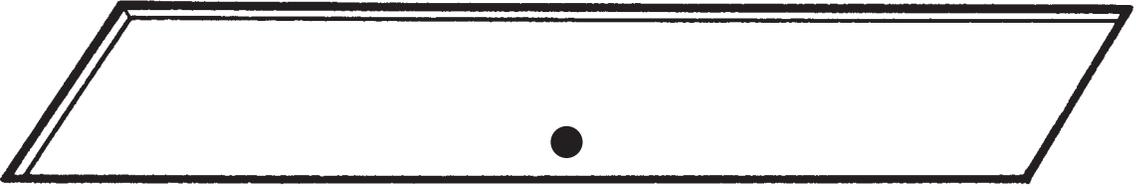


Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven you." — Matthew 9:2b

Arise and Walk



Arise and Walk



Jesus' Miracle Marathon

Cleanses a leper	Heals a paralytic and forgives his sins	Calls fire down from heaven on a group of Pharisees	Heals a man's withered hand on the Sabbath
Jumps off a cliff, but does not fall to the ground	Feeds 300 people with five loaves of bread and two fish	Heals the centurion's servant by just speaking a word	Allows Peter to catch a fish with a pearl in its mouth
Turns vinegar into butter at a feast	Heals 10 sheep that had a bad disease	Raises John the Baptist from the dead	Walks on water
Heals Peter's mother-in-law	Heals a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years	Stops a volcano from erupting	Restores sight to the blind
Walks on hot coals without burning His feet	Calms a storm on the Sea of Galilee	Heals a girl with a broken leg	Casts demons into swine

Jesus *forgives* sin



Matthew 9:2–8

Name _____

1. Why did the paralyzed man's friends bring him to Jesus? _____

2. Jesus _____ the paralyzed man's sins.

3. In their thoughts, the scribes accused Jesus of _____.

4. Did Jesus know the scribes' thoughts? _____

5. Fill in the blanks from Matthew 9:6.

“But that you may know that the Son of _____ has _____
on earth to _____ sins’—then He said to the paralytic
‘_____, take up your bed, and go to your _____.’”

6. When the people saw the miracle, they marveled and _____ God.

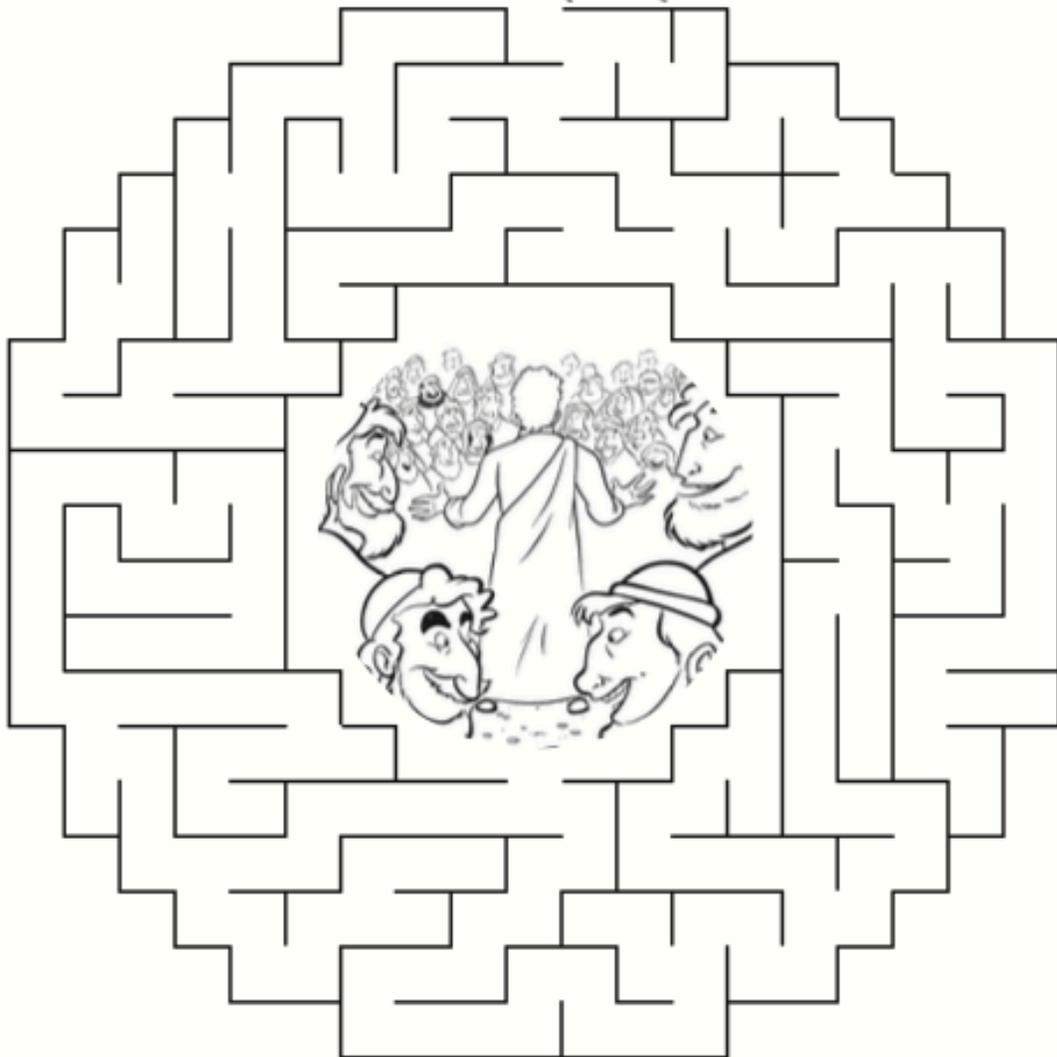
Jesus forgives sin • Luke 5:17-26



Maze

Several men hauled their paralyzed friend up to the roof and got busy removing the tiles and digging through the clay and branches. Help them get to Jesus through the maze below.

Jesus forgave the sins
of the paralytic man,
and then He proved His
authority to forgive by
healing the man





“Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed....”
—Matthew 9:2a



**“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’
—then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’”
—Matthew 9:6**