

Stowmarket Baptist Church

THURSDAY BIBLE CLUB

14 MAY 2020

We hope that you enjoy this week's Bible story.

We are praying that you are all kept safe that that we can all meet up again on a Thursday soon.

HELLO...

How are you all? All the leaders are well and safe and we pray that you are too. We pray that you will enjoy reading today's story and learn more about Jesus.

Love Liz

Today's story can be found in the Bible in Mark chapter 2 verses 1-12:

¹ A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ 'Why does this

fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up, take your mat and walk"? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the man, ¹¹ 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

Today's story is about a man who was very ill. He was so ill that he couldn't move his arms or his legs. He couldn't move anywhere by himself! How would you feel if you were that ill?

The Bible doesn't tell us his name or how long he'd been ill but it does tell us that he had 4 really good friends.

We all like to have good friends, but what makes a person into a friend? Maybe they

are:

kind

thoughtful

trustworthy

honest

helpful

Maybe they are good at:

listening

playing

sharing

I hope you have some good friends and that you are a true friend, too.

Jesus came to Capernaum, that was the town where this ill man lived. Jesus was in a house and He was telling people all about His Father in Heaven, God. Lots of people from the town wanted to hear everything Jesus said, and they went to the house.

Today we can hear the words of Jesus when we read the Bible, or someone tells you a Bible story. It's really important to listen to Jesus and to learn what He is telling you.

The friends knew that Jesus could make the man better. They knew that if Jesus could see the ill man, He would help him.

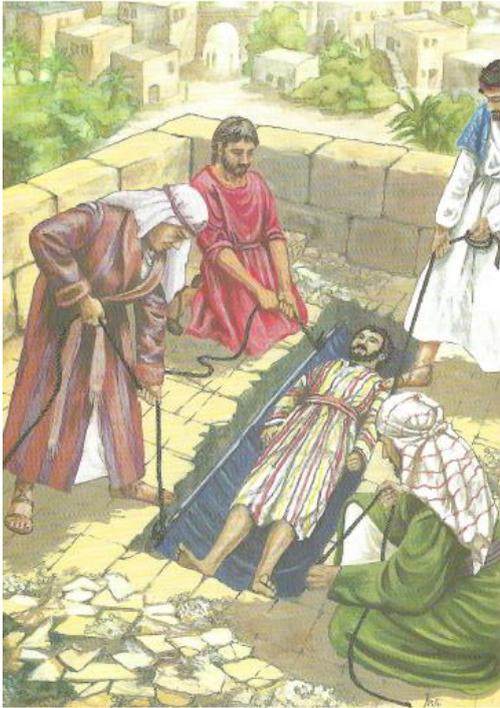
So, the 4 friends carried the sick man to the house. They hurried through the streets and when they turned the corner and saw the house they stopped!

The house was not a big house and lots of people had pushed and squeezed themselves inside. The house was packed with people. All the windows were open and some listened there. Around the front door there was a crowd, probably they couldn't see Jesus, but they could hear Him as everyone was so quiet.

Oh no! What could they do? Possibly the sick man felt sad. Jesus was in the house, Jesus could make him better, but they couldn't get to Jesus. I think the man must have felt very sad and thought all he could do was to go home. he tried to smile to make his friends feel better, but they were busy talking together and seemed very excited!!

The houses in Jesus' time were built different to our houses. They had stairs on the outside and a flat roof. The friends picked up the mat and carried the man up the stairs and onto the roof. That was a difficult job. Now, the friends got down on their hands and knees and started to take off the roof tiles. They worked on and on until they had made a big hole.

The crowd in the house must have wondered what was happening! First some dust



came down on everyone and then there was a chink of light. The light got brighter as the hole got bigger and then... What was that? It was the sick man's bed being lowered down through the roof. The bed came down just where Jesus was standing.

Jesus wasn't cross or angry that His talk had been disturbed. He looked kindly at the sick man and said "Son your sins are forgiven you." What did that mean?

Jesus knew that the man was ill in his body and couldn't move, but more importantly He knew that the man had sin in his heart. We are all like the sick man, as we all have sin in our hearts.

It is most important for all of us to have our sins forgiven and Jesus is the only one who can forgive us, as He is the Son of God. Remember to ask Him to forgive you and then say "Thank you".

In the crowd were those who were enemies of Jesus and they muttered and grumbled about Jesus. Do you remember that Jesus knows everything? Jesus knew what these enemies were thinking and said to the sick man "Arise, take up your bed and go to your house."

Immediately the man stood up, how strong his legs felt. He bent down and rolled up his mat it was good to use his arms and hands. Then he praised God for making him better, but even more amazing he said "Thank you" for having his sins forgiven.

Remember: Jesus still has the power to forgive sins and to save each one of us.

Jesus did this miracle to remind us all of who He really is!

Dear Jesus

Thank you for making this man well and for forgiving all his sin.

Thank you that you are the Son of God and you can forgive my sin today. Please help me to ask you to and to say thank you for all your kindness to me.

Amen.