

## Ages 3-6

## The Paralyzed Man: Act It Out!

### Materials Needed

*Healing the Paralyzed Man*  
Script from Mark 2:1-12 p. 2,  
space for acting, bath towel,  
4 pieces of thick yarn or rope  
approx. 1yd (1m) in length,  
large doll, four chairs  
*optional: simple costumes*

### Prepare in Advance

Set up an area of the room as a house using the backs of the four chairs to create a corner “wall”. Tie a piece of yarn or rope to each corner of the towel and place the doll on a towel, ready to be carried.

Four men carried a paralyzed man to the Lord so he could be healed. Finding the house crowded, they took him up on the roof, broke through, and lowered him to the Lord. Seeing their faith, the Lord healed the man, who took up his bed and walked home. Help children put themselves into the scene by acting out the story.



1. Prepare children to act out the story. Ask for volunteers for Jesus, the paralyzed man, and four friends. For a small group, the children can act more than one part. Explain that for the first part of the story, a doll will be used for the paralyzed man so that he can be easily carried.
2. If using costumes, get dressed for acting out.
3. Assign a place for the four friends who will carry the paralyzed man to wait. Everyone else will get ready to enter the “house” and sit down.
4. Read the script, pausing to help children act out the story as you go.
5. If there is interest, repeat the story with different actors.
6. Discuss the activity:
  - Did the friends let the crowd stop them from getting to the Lord?
  - How do you think the man’s friends felt when he was healed?
  - How do you feel when good things happen to people you love?
  - How did the man feel when he could get up and walk? What were all the people in the house thinking about Jesus?

### New Church Concept Take Up Your Bed

The Lord saying to the sick, “Arise, take up your bed and walk,” signifies doctrine, and life according to it; “bed” signifies doctrine, and “to walk” life. “The sick” means those who have transgressed and sinned. See *Apocalypse Explained* 163:7

### New Church Concept: The Roof

Since “the roof” means what is heavenly, which is what is inmost, it also means what is good, for in all places goodness is inmost. See *Secrets of Heaven* 10184:1,2

# Healing the Paralyzed Man Script from Mark 2:1-12

Characters: Jesus, paralyzed man, four friends, crowd of people

Directions	Reading
Townspople and Jesus crowd into the house. Jesus sits in the corner, near the chairs. Leave a space for the paralyzed man to be lowered in front of him.	When He entered Capernaum people heard Jesus was in the house. Immediately many gathered to see Him until there was no room in the house, not even near the door.
Jesus spreads His hands, teaching.	And He preached the Word to them.
Four children carry the doll on the towel towards the house.	Then four men carried a paralyzed man to Jesus.
Have children go to the door, and then move up on to the "roof" (chairs), behind Jesus.	And when they could not get close to Jesus because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was.
Let the doll down on the towel in front of Jesus. Once the doll reaches the ground, replace the doll with a child.	When they had broken through the roof, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.
Jesus talks to the paralyzed man.	When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."
All looking at Jesus.	Some people thought, "Only God can forgive sins."
Jesus puts hands up in questioning manner.	Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?'"
Jesus points to the paralytic.	And He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."
The "paralyzed man" picks up the towel and leaves.	Immediately he got up, picked up his bed, and went out.
All look at each other in amazement.	All were amazed and praised God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"