

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 24
Lowering the Man to Jesus (Mark 2:4-12)

Theme: The Lord Does a Miracle

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Taking the man to the housetop to reach the Lord shows the earnestness of desire to be helped by the Lord.
- B. A house spiritually represents the state of mind that we are habitually in. The rooftops represent the state of inmost affection, and this is why they could reach the Lord in no other way.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. The Lord came to a town called Capernaum, which was to be His new home. The people there were very eager to see Him and to learn from Him, and they crowded all around Him to hear Him speak.
- 2. The Lord was in a house and everyone wanted to be around Him. The house was so crowded people couldn't get in it. They were sitting around the house and on the porch, listening to Him talk.
- 3. A man who could not walk wanted to be healed by the Lord, but he could not get into the house. He was on a mat, like a stretcher, and his four friends were carrying him.
- 4. How do you think they will be able to see the Lord? How will the man be able to be healed by the Lord? That is what we will read about today.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Mark 2:4-12

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Where was the Lord teaching in this story? (In a house)
- 2. Why was it too hard for the sick man to go into the house? (because it was so crowded)
- 3. What was wrong with the man who wanted to be healed? (He couldn't walk)
- 4. How was the man being carried? (By four friends, on a stretcher)
- 5. How did the man get to Jesus? (His friends carried him to the roof, and then took the roof off, and lowered the man down to Jesus)
- 6. What was the first thing the Lord said to the sick man? ("Your sins are forgiven")
- 7. There were some mean men there who didn't like the Lord. Did they know that Jesus was the Lord? (No)

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8. Did they think the Lord could forgive the man's sins? (No)
9. Did they think that the Lord would be able to heal the lame man? (No) But could the Lord heal the man? (Yes!)

D. Further Ideas

1. The sick man and his friends believed that the Lord could do miracles. They had to work hard to get their friend down to Jesus but they really wanted to be near the Lord.
2. When we are trying very hard to be good, we are working hard to be near the Lord, just as the sick man and his friends were.
3. When we do bad things that hurt us and hurt other people, sometimes these are called sins. The Lord forgives us for doing these things, because He knows we are trying to be good. That is why He said to the sick man "Your sins are forgiven."

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. *Lori's Songs*: "On the Sabbath," (tape 3, side A, song 7)
2. *First Songs for Little Children*: "See The Savior"

B. Activities

1. Using your finished projects let each child tell the story (see project below).

C. Project

1. Make a scene of the story
 - a. Materials needed:
 - Salt ceramic
 - Empty tissue boxes (1 per child)
 - Fabric
 - Sticks or twigs or popsicle sticks
 - Fabric
 - Glue or pins or tape
 - String
 - Paint or crayons or markers
 - b. Before class:
 - Prepare salt ceramic or substitute (see recipe below)
 - Cut sticks about 5 or 6 inches long (2 per child)
 - Cut fabric about 4 inch square (1 per child)
 - Cut string length about 10 inches (4 per child)
 - For small children you may need to prepare the "stretchers" ahead of time, or part of it.

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- c. In class the children can make two figures out of the salt ceramic, one to be the Lord, the other to be the paralytic. (The figures will be unrecognizable, but that is fine.)
- d. The children can make a house from an empty tissue box (one with the opening at the top may work best) by painting or coloring a window or a door on their box.
- e. To make the stretchers - fold the material edges around the sticks and attach them with tape, pins or glue. Tie string to each end of each stick.
- f. Put the Lord figure in the house. Lay the paralytic on the stretcher and let the children's fingers represent the four men who lowered him down to the Lord inside.
- g. Text slip - "When Jesus saw their faith. He said to the palsied man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.... Arise, take up your bed, and go your way.'"

Salt Ceramic

1 c. flour
1/2 c. water
1/4 c. salt

1. Blend the salt and the flour thoroughly and then add the water and knead well.
2. Keep in plastic bag until ready to use.
3. If you want to harden what the children have created with the salt ceramic, bake at 200° F for half an hour.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Sample projects
- B. Felt board figures if available

V. Further Reading for the Teacher