

Life of Christ

4 friends help

Matthew 9:1-8

Younger Memory Verse

The Lord is near to all who call on Him. Psalm 145:18

Older Memory Verse

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. Psalm 145:18

Welcome Time

Who is your best friend in the whole world? (Wait for answers) Have you ever helped your friend when they needed it? Today's story is about 4 friends that helped in an amazing way. Listen and see...

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Teachers:
Mark 2 and
Luke 5
mention
that the
four friends
lowered
their friend
through the
roof.

One day Jesus was teaching inside a house. People came from all around to listen to Jesus and see the miracles He performed. In fact, so many people came that the house was full! Four friends heard about what Jesus was doing and carried a friend who was paralyzed to the house where Jesus was. (Paralyzed means that a person cannot move an arm or leg.) When they got to the house, there were so many people that they could not find a way to get to Jesus!

One of the men had an idea. Some houses had stairs on the outside. They climbed up the stairs (with their friend) to the flat roof. The roof was made of tree branches and straw. The men pulled the straw and branches apart to make a hole in the roof right above where Jesus was teaching. (Can you imagine what the people inside must have thought--the ceiling is falling!)

They lowered the man down, right in front of Jesus. What a surprise! Jesus saw that the men believed in Him and loved their friend. However, He said something that shocked the people. Instead of healing the man, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." (Remind the kids what sin is)

Some of the teachers heard what Jesus said and they were upset. They knew that only God could forgive sin. They didn't understand how Jesus could say this. They did not know that Jesus was God's Son.

Lesson Goals

To understand how to be a good friend
Share how Jesus can forgive our sins
To think of people that we can be friends with

Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, “Why are you thinking evil thoughts? Is it easier to heal a man or forgive his sins?” To make His point clear, Jesus looked at the paralyzed man and said, “Get up, take your mat, and go home.”

Immediately the man stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on, and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They thought that they had seen one miracle that day, but they had really seen two! The man was healed physically and the man was forgiven from his sins.

Those 4 friends loved their friend. They wanted to help their friend get to Jesus. Just like the friends thought of a way to get their friend to Jesus, we can think of ways to help our friends meet Jesus too.

Do you remember what Jesus said that confused the people? (Your sins are forgiven) They did not understand how Jesus could forgive their sins. Jesus did something for us to forgive and clean us from our sins. He died in our place for ALL the wrong things we have done. He died for us. The best part is that He came back to life 3 days later. Because Jesus lives, we can be in Heaven with God if we trust Jesus and ask Him into our lives. Talk to me about this at snack time if you want to know more.

Choose hands-on activities that will help your kids understand and apply the lesson to their lives.

Learning Activities

Practice signing the verse in sign language. Talk about how the four friends asked Jesus to help and He helped their friend.

Memory Verse Activities

Instead of facing inward, have the kids face outward as you pray. Explain that we can go out and invite our friends to come to church like the 4 friends helped their friend come to Jesus.

Prayer Time

Share snacks with friends and remember to clean up!

Snack Time/CleanUp

Planning for May 4th
Matthew follows Jesus
Matthew 9:9-13

Preschool Lesson
For
4 Friends that Helped

One day Jesus was teaching inside a house. (Let everyone make a house over their head with their arms) People came from all around to listen to Jesus and see the miracles He did. In fact, so many people came that the house was full!

(Count to 4) Four friends heard about what Jesus was doing and carried a friend who could not walk to the house where Jesus was. When they got to the house, there were so many people that they could not find a way to get to Jesus!

One of the men had an idea. Some houses had stairs on the outside. They climbed up the stairs (with their friend) to the flat roof (Make climbing motions with your feet). The roof was made of tree branches and straw. The men pulled the straw and branches apart to make a hole in the roof right above where Jesus was teaching. (Can you imagine what the people inside must have thought--the ceiling is falling!)

They lowered the man down, right in front of Jesus. What a surprise! Jesus saw that the men believed in Him and loved their friend. However, He said something that shocked the people. Instead of making the man well, He said, "Friend, the wrong things you have done are forgiven."

Some of the teachers heard what Jesus said and they were upset. They didn't understand how Jesus could say this. They did not know that Jesus was God's Son.

Jesus knew what they were thinking. Jesus looked at the man who couldn't walk and said, "Get up, take your mat, and go home."

Immediately the man stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on, and went home thanking God. Everyone was amazed and thanked God. They knew that they had seen a miracle that day.

Those 4 friends loved their friend. We can help our friends know about Jesus too! Let's invite our friends to church!

Sing a song to the tune of "Where is thumbkin."

Where are the four friends, where are the four friends,
Do you know? Do you know?

They went to Jesus with their good friend, to help him, to help him.
The house was full, the house was full, so they climbed, up the roof
The made a hole in the roof, and got their friend to Jesus
He healed him. He healed him.

Hands-On Activities
For
4 Friends that Helped

Make an edible story. Frost graham crackers with frosting, marshmallow cream or peanut butter. Arrange small nuts, pretzels, or marshmallows to form the body of the person on the mat. Munch on the treats and ask the kids to tell what happens when the man meets Jesus.

Make a house out of a shoebox. Cut a hole in the top and “lower” the man through the roof. Let the kids take turns telling the story.

As you tell the story, cut the “Snip and Tell” story out of the paper to keep the kids attention (it’s in the packet).

Bring a “mat” (Sleeping bag) and act out the story. Pretend to lower the man through the roof to Jesus. Assign someone to be Jesus and say His words. Be sure the man picks up his mat and walks!

Make mats out of paper or sacks. Print the verse on the mat.

Make figures out of clay or play dough. Act out the story.

Make a list of friends that the children can invite to church. Make invitations for them to come next week.
