LESSON 7: FOUR KIND FRIENDS

AIM: To show how four men helped their sick friend by bringing him to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: And He healed those who were sick (Luke 9:11)

Suggested Presentation:
Give each child a piece of paper folded in half.
Put the child’s hand on the paper with their thumb along the fold. Draw around the hand.
Children then cut out the hand shape and open the paper. They can write “My hands can help” on one side and the memory verse on the other.

STORY: Mark 2:1-12

In the town of Capernaum lived a man who was always unhappy. He had done a lot of wrong things in his life and he always felt very guilty. The more he worried the more sickly he became until he couldn’t stand up by himself anymore. His friends began to worry about him. They knew if something wasn’t done to help then their friend would surely die.

When Jesus visited Capernaum, all the town was buzzing with the news of how he had healed people wherever He went. So the sick man’s four friends decided to take the paralyzed man to see Jesus. They were sure Jesus would help.

Each one took a corner of the sick man’s sleeping mat and carried him out into the street. But when they came near to the house where Jesus was, they couldn’t get past all the people to reach the house. Jesus was talking to the people inside, and so many people had come to see Him that some of them were jammed in the doorway, and some were even standing on the road.
The sick man must have thought that there was no hope of him ever seeing Jesus with so many people around. But his friends would not give up that easily. The house where Jesus was had a flat roof. It had stairs outside, leading up to the flat roof. “We are going to take you up that way,” the friends said.

Carefully they carried their sick friend up the outside stairs. Then they laid him down on the flat roof. Two of them started to work to pull the roof away. It was probably made of dried mud. Soon they made quite a big hole in the roof. The other two friends had been busy tying strong cords to the corners of the mat bed. Now all four friends took hold of a cord each and began to lift the sick man and let him gently down through the hole into the room beneath.

Imagine the surprise of the people inside the room with Jesus! Jesus looked up and saw the four kind friends peeping down through the hole in the roof. Then He spoke to the sick man who, by this time, had been let down onto the ground in front of Him. Jesus could see at once that the man wasn’t only sick but he was a worried man, too. He was worried with guilt over the wrong things he had done. Jesus went immediately to the cause of his sickness and said, “My son, your wrongdoing is forgiven.”

The sick man felt better as soon as Jesus told him his wrongdoing was forgiven. Some people wondered how Jesus could possibly know so much about the man. But Jesus showed what wonderful power He had. “Stand up!” He said to the sick man. “Roll up your mat bed and take it home.” At once the man got up, rolled his mat into a bundle and put it on his shoulder as he walked out of the house.

Everyone was amazed and praised God—most of all, the sick man and his four kind friends.
Prepare the following questions beforehand, and put into a container. Divide the group into two teams. Each correct answer wins one hundred points. Keep a record of the score on the blackboard so the children can see their progress.

1. Where did the sick man live? (Capernaum)
2. Why was he unhappy? (Because of guilt through sin)
3. How many friends did the sick man have? (Four)
4. What type of sickness did the man have? (He was paralyzed)
5. How did the friends get the man to the house? (Carried him on his mat-bed)
6. Why couldn’t the friends get into the house through the door? (Because the crowd was too big)
7. What did the friends do to get the man to Jesus? (Made a hole in the roof and lowered him to the floor).
8. What did Jesus say to the man? (“Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk.”)
9. Spell “Capernaum”.
TEACHER’S NOTE:
It is important to explain to the children that not all sickness is caused by worry or wrongdoing. A lot of sickness is caused by virus, bacteria and disease being present in the atmosphere. Other sickness is caused by birth defects or problems handed down through heredity; other sickness can be caused by wrong living, poor diet, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, cigarettes, sleeping disorder. Some sicknesses are caused by injury through accidents and others may be caused by worry, anger, bitterness, hatred or guilt through continual wrongdoing.

This important point needs to be clarified so that children do not immediately think that when they get a cold, for instance, that it is a result of sin.

ACTIVITY: What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man?
Starting at the arrow, write every second letter on the line below to find the answer.

Mark 2:1-12
News of Jesus’ teachings spread throughout the land, and wherever He went He was followed by large crowds. One day Jesus was preaching in a house so full of people that there was hardly room to breathe. Four men arrived at the house carrying a stretcher on which lay a man who had been completely paralyzed.

Realizing they had no hope of entering by the door, they went up onto the roof. There they made an opening wide enough for them to lower their sick friend on the mat in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw the faith of the paralyzed man, He said, ‘My son, your sins are forgiven.’

But the Pharisees and Jewish leaders sitting nearby overheard the words of Jesus, and became angry. They thought Jesus was insulting God. He had no right to take it upon himself to forgive sins, only God could do that.

Jesus knew what was on their minds and said, ‘Why are you thinking these things? Don’t you think I have the power to forgive sins? Which is easier, to forgive this man’s sins or to make him walk? Well, just so that it’s clear, I’m the Son of Man and have authority to do both.’ Pausing, He turned to the paralyzed man and said, ‘Get up. Take your bed and go home.’ And the man did.

Everyone was amazed and pleased that God had given Jesus authority to work among them this way.

Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:3-12, Luke 5:18-26
Join up the dots. What happened to the ill man who is lowered down to Jesus from a hole in the r____?

Four men brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus to be healed. They couldn’t get near Jesus because there were so many people at the house where he was preaching. They took the paralyzed man up to the roof, made an opening in it, and lowered him down to Jesus. Jesus forgave the man’s sins and healed him.

Circle the things that are different in the second picture.
Finish the story....

News spread across the land that Jesus could cure people who were sick and diseased. Soon crowds came from far and wide just to be touched by Him.

One day ______________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

When Jesus saw what the men had done, he was moved by their faith. How caring they were to do so much for their friend. Jesus turned to the man on the mat and said,

“_____________________________________

______________________________________”

Matthew 9:1-8
Mark 2:1-12
Luke 5: 17-26