

Up on the Roof

Mark 2:1-12

EXPLORE

As a family, read *The Action Bible* story on pages 560–562 or the Action Bible New Testament on pages 50–52. Read this true Bible story found in Mark 2:1–12.

Here is what the story is about:

Jesus and His disciples travelled from Nazareth to Capernaum. Large crowds followed Jesus because they heard how He healed the sick and performed miracles. They also wanted to hear Him teach about God. One day, Jesus was teaching in a house filled with people. A paralyzed man who could not walk was brought to Jesus by his four friends. They were unable to get into the house because it was so full of people. They climbed onto the roof, made a hole, and lowered their friend through it on a mat. Jesus saw their faith. He told the man that his sins were forgiven. The religious leaders were upset when they heard this. They did not believe that Jesus could forgive sins. They did not believe that Jesus is God. Jesus then told the man to pick up his mat and go home. The man was healed! He stood up, picked up his mat, and walked out of the crowded house! Everyone was amazed! Jesus continued teaching and travelling with His disciples throughout Capernaum.

REMEMBER

Answer each question with information you learned from the story:

- › **Why did large crowds follow Jesus?** They heard about the miracles He performed and wanted to listen to Him teach.
- › **Why did the friends climb the roof of the house?** They could not get into the house because of the large crowds.
- › **Why did Jesus heal the paralyzed man?** Jesus saw the faith of his friends and wanted to show them that He had authority to forgive sins.

DISCUSS

The four friends knew that Jesus was the only hope for their friend to be healed. They sacrificed their time, energy, and strength to bring their friend to Jesus. When they realized the house was too crowded, they did not give up. They persevered and found a way to bring their friend before Jesus.

› **Have you ever had a friend help you with something? Have you ever helped your friends?**

When Jesus saw the paralyzed man, He noticed the faith of the friends. Jesus knew what the man needed. So, Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven.

› **Why do you think Jesus forgave the man's sins before healing him?**

Jesus knew that the most important healing for the paralyzed man was forgiveness of his sins. Living for eternity with Jesus is better than being able to walk. So, Jesus healed the man's heart before He healed his physical body. Sometimes, what we think is most important is different from what God knows to be true. We can trust Him to do what is best for us, because He loves us and cares for us always.

PRAY

Read the prayer below aloud or pray your own prayer based on Psalm 32:1.

Dear God, thank You for the gift of forgiveness and for healing our hearts and bodies. Thank You for covering our sins with Your grace. Help us have faith like the friends of the paralyzed man. Amen.

ACT

Jesus saw the faith of the friends and healed the paralyzed man. How can you show your faith to others? As a family, create a faith chain. On strips of paper, write down ways you can show your faith in God or ways you can help someone in need. Link the strips together with tape or glue. Add strips to the faith chain when you think of new ideas.

