

**Today's Reading: Mark 2:1-12**

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

**Simple Summary (for Parents):**

Today we find Jesus "preaching the word," and a crowd was packed in the house to hear Him. A few men were so eager to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus that they tore through the roof to get to him—quite an act of faith! When these men lowered their friend to Jesus, He saw their faith and forgave the man's sins. This was a jaw-dropping pronouncement, because, as the scribes in today's story knew well, only God can forgive sins. But what these scribes didn't realize was that God (in the flesh) was standing right in front of them! For those who doubted that Jesus had the authority to forgive the man's sins (an invisible reality), Jesus demonstrated His authority in a visible way by healing the paralytic instantly. No one could deny that a formerly paralyzed man had just stood up and walked. No wonder the people exclaimed, "We never saw anything like this!"

**Discuss:****1. Why would the men in today's story tear through the roof of a house?**

(Use this question to help your children get a feel for this scene. Explain what a paralytic is and point out that the men were desperate to get to Jesus in the midst of a crowd.)

**2. Why was it so shocking when Jesus forgave the sins of the man who was lowered down on a bed? What does this teach us about Jesus?**

(The people knew that only God had the authority to forgive sins. This story teaches us that Jesus is the Son of God and therefore He has all the power and authority of God).

**3. What miracle did Jesus perform in order to help people see His power and authority with their eyes?**

(Everyone could see that the paralytic rose up and walked. This miracle should have helped the people see that Jesus's authority was unique and that His claim to be able to forgive sins was true.)

**4. If the paralytic needed Jesus to heal his body, then why did Jesus forgive His sins?**

(Use this question as an opportunity to teach your children that all people have sinned against God and therefore need His forgiveness. Our sicknesses and physical weaknesses point to a much deeper problem. Those who aren't forgiven of their sins are separated from God and will face His judgment forever. But the good news is that those who believe in Jesus will be forgiven of their sins and will one day be given new, resurrected bodies when Jesus returns.)

**5. What did Jesus do so that we could be forgiven of our sins?**

(Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sin that we deserve. We will read about Jesus's death on the cross later in the Gospel of Mark.)

**Pray:**

Thank God for the forgiveness that He has provided by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for sinners like us.

**Sing:**

["Jesus, Strong and Kind"](#) (See Week 1 Song Sheet for lyrics)