

WE NEED JESUS

We need to be forgiven

MATTHEW 9:1-8

faith  **kids**

We need Jesus – We need to be forgiven

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Big Idea:

Jesus has the power to forgive sins. He came to fix my biggest problem



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who celebrate that Jesus came to forgive not condemn



Where are we going?

Matthew has been building a picture for us of who Jesus is, having God's own authority over sickness, nature and evil spirits. Now he takes us to the next level – authority to forgive sin. Jesus lovingly dealt with the man's biggest problem first – his sin. That makes us think! Our sin against God is more paralyzing than spending life flat on our backs. The religious leaders

see blasphemy – only God can forgive sin as all sin is against him. Knowing their thoughts, Jesus healed the man's legs to prove that he had done the invisible miracle of forgiving the heart. The rest of the crowd are just awestruck, praising God that he could give his own power to a human. Is our response the same?



Obstacle course for a toy

Give the children a play figure and a tea towel. Set up a simple course, e.g. over a chair, under a table, round a box. They have to work together to carry their friend (play figure) who can't walk to Jesus.

Or just ask the question: What do you think you need the most right now?

➔ **Link:** In today's story some men brought their friend, who couldn't walk, to Jesus. What do you think they were expecting Jesus to do for him?



**Click here
to watch**

or scan the code





Teaching Time

Younger children

Have ready a child's duvet and a favourite worship song to sing along to.

Imagine not being able to walk. Lie a child on the duvet. Never able to get up. Never able to walk or run. What do you love doing that needs you to use your legs?

One day, some men brought their friend who couldn't walk to Jesus. They carried him on a mat. Move the child around the room, as the child lies still on the duvet. They placed their friend in front of Jesus.

Jesus was kind and loving, so he wanted to help the man with what he needed most. Pause Jesus said to the man, "Don't be worried. I can help. Your sins are forgiven."

Jesus washed away every wrong thing the man had ever done. Some important men were there, and they were cross. They knew that only God can forgive sin.

They couldn't believe that Jesus dared to say he could do it, too.

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so to show them that he could forgive sin, he said to the man, "So that you know that I really am the Son of God...." Say to the child, "Get up, take up your mat and go home." Help the child up.

What would you do if you were walking for the first time in your life? If you could jump, hop and run for the first time, what would you do first?

Everyone there was amazed! They couldn't believe that an ordinary looking man could forgive sin and heal the man's legs. They praised God. Let's praise God like they did with a song! Sing together.

Jesus is the only one who can forgive our sins. And he does, when we ask him to. He is the one we need.

Older children

Have ready a dozen toy people and a favourite worship song ready to sing along to.

Open the Bible passage (Matthew 9:1-8). Read it one verse at a time. As a family, move play figures representing Jesus, the paralysed man, his friends and the teachers of the law to trace the action of the story.

- v2** What is the surprise? Why did Jesus say that?
- v3** They said it was "Blasphemy" because Jesus was saying he could do something that only God can do. What was that?
- v5** Which do you think is easier to SAY?
- v6-7** What was Jesus proving?
- v8** Praise God as you sing a worship song together, just as the crowd praised God. Jesus rocks!



Hearts and Hands

Younger children

Craft time

Decorate a heart shape. Write on it "Jesus forgives". Make it beautiful!

As you work through these questions draw a pair of legs and a large heart on a piece of paper to talk through the two problems Jesus fixed that day for the man.

Did you spot it?

- What did the man's friends hope Jesus would do for the man?
- What did Jesus fix first?
- What else did Jesus fix?

Work it out

- Why were some people in the crowd cross about what Jesus said?
- Why did Jesus fix the man's sin problem first?

So what?

- What is the most exciting part of the story?
- How does knowing that Jesus can fix your sin problem, too, make you feel?

Pray

Dear Father, thank you that Jesus can fix us, cleaning away all our sin. We need him to forgive us. Amen.

Older children

Make time

Dress up one of your family as the healed paralysed man. Put him on a chair to interview him. All help the paralysed man answer the questions below.

Did you spot it?

- On that day, when you met Jesus, what were you hoping for?
- What did Jesus do for you?
- How did the crowd react when Jesus forgave your sins? Why?

Work it out

- How could Jesus have the right to forgive your sins?
- Do you agree with Jesus, that being forgiven is what you need more than anything else?

So what?

Encourage everyone to share their personal answers to these questions, as well as thinking about what the paralysed man might have said.

- What do you think of Jesus?
- What are you most thankful for?

Extra Stretch

- How many ways could you answer the question, "What do you need more than anything else?"
- How can today's story help you with your worries?

Pray

The crowd were filled with awe and praised God. Can you imagine their prayers? Pray those prayers with the crowd.