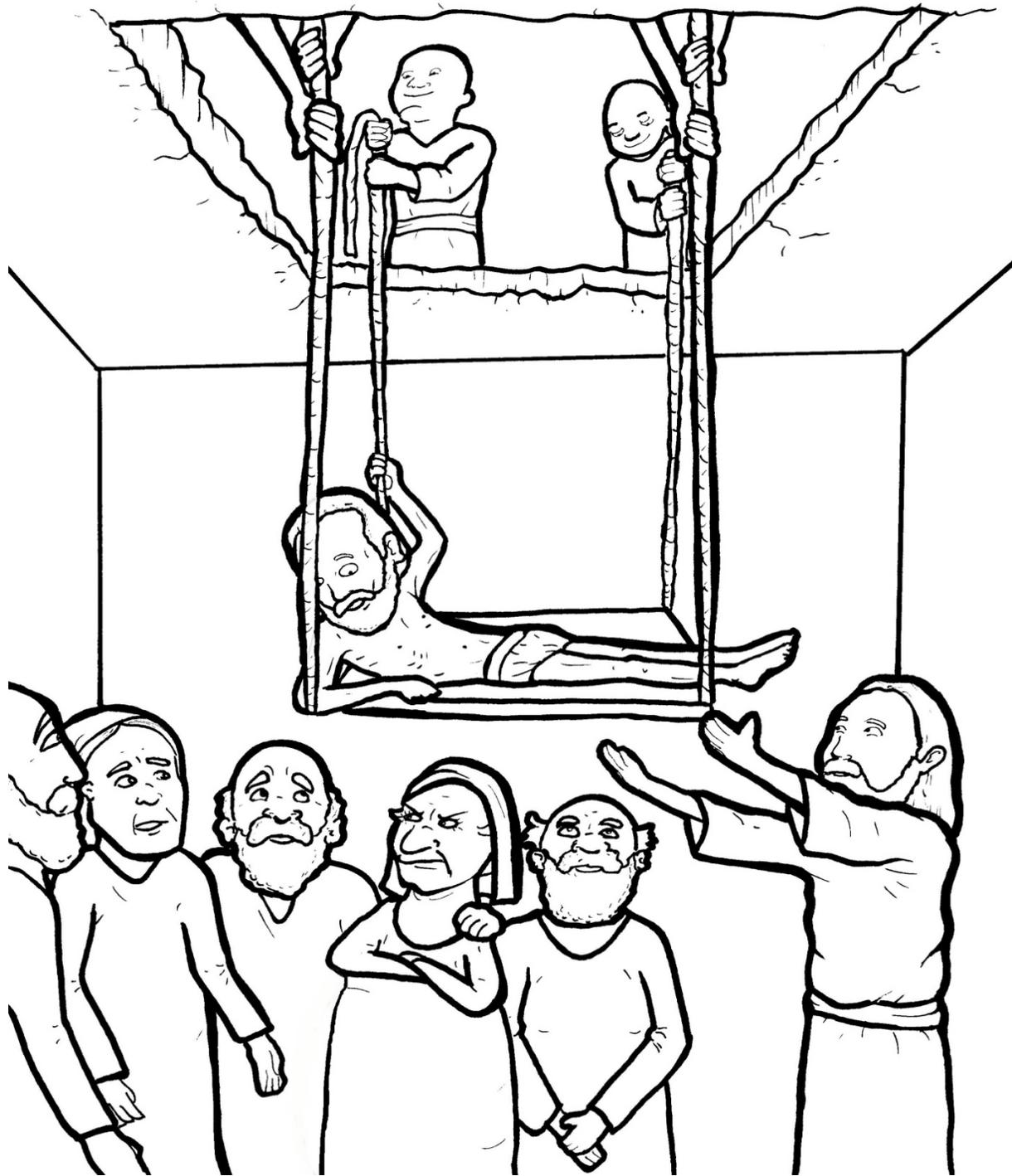


Bible Lesson

29. Friends Bring a Crippled Man to Jesus

Matthew 9; Mark 2; Luke 5



“Get up, take your mat, and go home.”

Luke 5:24

Friends Bring a Crippled Man to Jesus

Jesus was teaching in a home. Many people came to hear him. They jammed inside.

Four men carried a crippled friend on a mat. He could not walk. They wanted to see Jesus, but there was no room.

The friends carried the crippled man to the top of the roof. The men dug and dug. They made a hole in the roof. With great care, they lowered their friend down the hole. Right in front of Jesus. Jesus saw their faith. He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Some teachers of the law got mad. In their minds they said, "Who does Jesus think he is? Only God can forgive sins."

Jesus knew what was in their hearts. He said, "Why are you thinking these things? I want you to know that I can forgive sins."

So, he said to the man, "Get up, take your mat, and go home."

The crippled man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and ran home. He praised God with all his heart.

Everyone was amazed. They shouted, "We have never seen anything like this!" They praised God.

Questions

1. What did the four men do for their crippled friend?
2. What did Jesus do for the crippled man?
3. Why do you think the men brought their friend to Jesus?
4. Who can you bring to Jesus? How?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

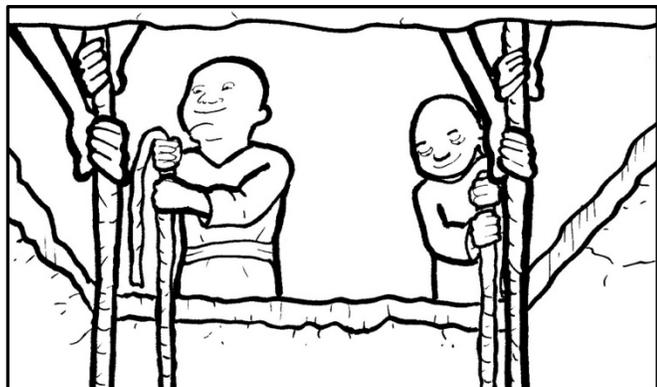
Thank you for being so amazing. Thank you for being a healer. I want to bring my friends to you too. Please show me how. Help me bring these friends to you:

1. _____

2. _____

Amen

Finish the drawing. Draw a mat and write a short prayer on the mat for the friends you want to bring to Jesus.



Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing 29. Friends Bring a Crippled Man to Jesus

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

a) Do you know anyone who has to use a wheelchair? Walker?
How is life difficult for them?

b) How does having healthy, strong legs make your life great?

c) How do you think the men brought a crippled man to Jesus?

After you read:

Blanket Relay

Get an old, sturdy blanket. Have one child lie on it while begging others to bring him or her to Jesus. The others will ignore the child. Finally, four friends will drag the “crippled” child to Jesus by carefully dragging the blanket with the child on it. Let someone else play Jesus who heals. Change places and keep playing until each child has had a chance to get “healed.” Talk about how hard it would be to not have your mobility and the kindness of Jesus in healing the lame.

Get Moving and Get Others Moving

We may not be able to heal others but we can change lives for crippled people who are stuck in the back rooms in poor countries. Educate yourself about the worldwide need for wheelchairs. Your class can raise funds for a wheelchair for a crippled child for only \$80 or so. See this 4-minute video:

<https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/pages/2-about-us/our-story>

Jump Up Prayer

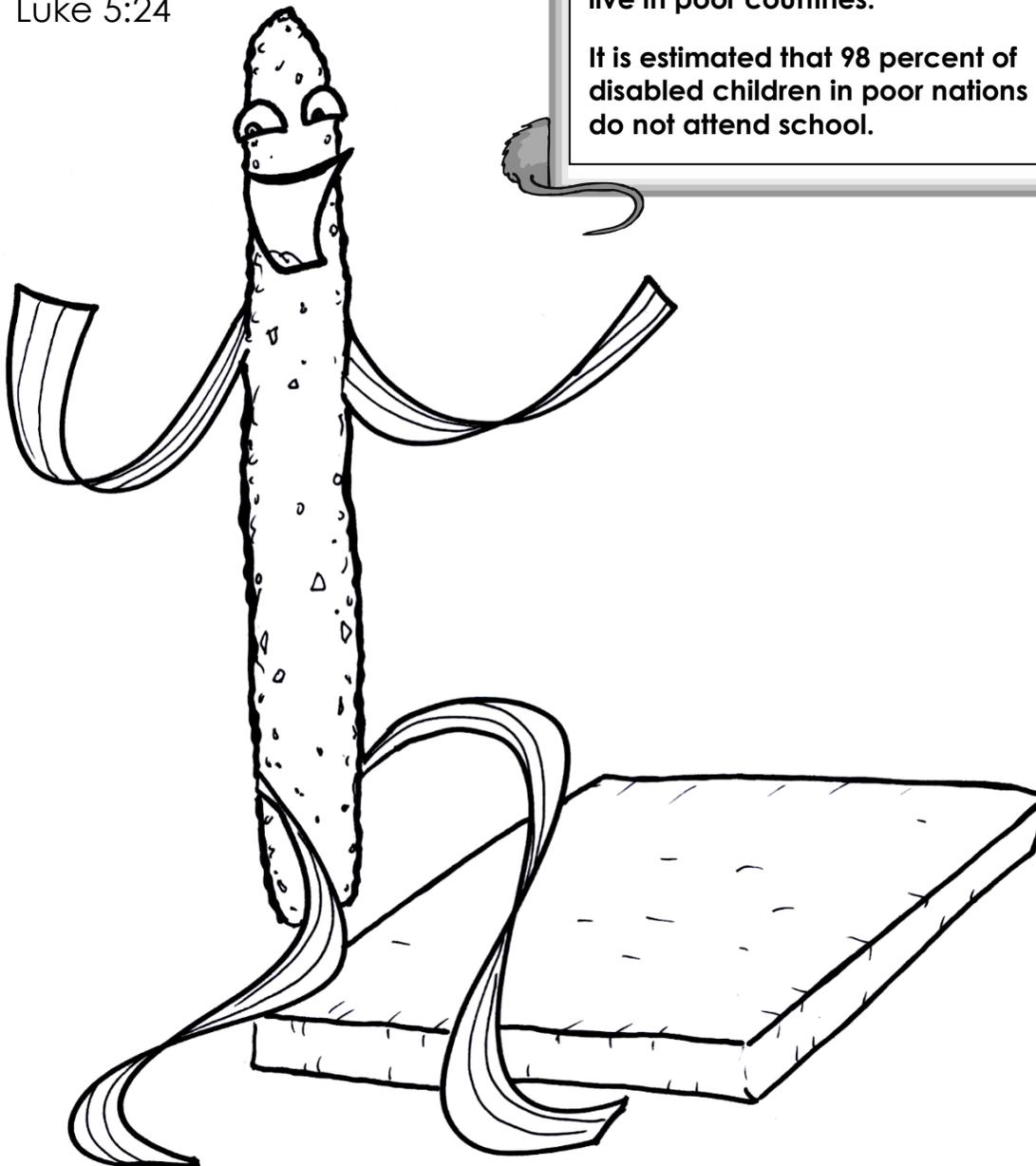
Let the kids take a minute to think about their blessed mobility. Pray aloud while moving: Dear God, thank you for my strong, healthy legs which can hop Dear God, thank you for my strong, healthy legs which can spin... bend, kick, climb up stairs, run, etc. Please help us to get a wheelchair so that a poor child can go to school and other places and get a whole new life. Thank you, Jesus, for caring about the sick, the crippled, the lonely and the forgotten people. Amen

Edible Bible Story

Have each child make a crippled man and retell the Bible story. Each student needs a long, fat pretzel stick and a fruit-roll up package and a paper towel. If kids want to make the legs strong, they can wrap the legs around smaller pretzel sticks. They can color the drawing, post, and pray for those children around the world whose legs don't work.

I can help!

Jesus said: "Get up, take your mat, and go home."
Luke 5:24



About 100 million people in developing nations need wheelchairs but can't afford one.

Of all the people with disabilities worldwide, 80 percent of them live in poor countries.

It is estimated that 98 percent of disabled children in poor nations do not attend school.



Act it Out

Make this simple craft and act out the Bible story as someone reads it aloud. Each student needs these materials: 1 large, wide popsicle craft stick, 2 pipe cleaners, a pen or thin-tipped permanent marker, 1 paper towel, and 2 pieces of thick, brown yarn about 4 feet long. On the craft stick, draw a sad face on one side and a happy face on the other side. Wrap the pipe cleaners around the craft stick to form arms and legs. The yarn can be placed under the paper towel (the mat) Lay the crippled man on the mat and have four kids carry him across the room to Jesus (below). You can even make a relay race from this. They can retell the Bible story while acting it out with their props. What might this mean: Jesus healed on the outside to show who he is on the inside? Option: You can use cloth ribbon for legs before he is healed and the pipe cleaners after to show leg strength.

