

The Paralyzed Man/ Feast of the Cross

Bible Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Aim: Jesus forgives sins!

Objectives:

- ❖ God alone can forgive sins
- ❖ Forgiving sins is a greater power than physical healing
- ❖ We **glorify** God when we see a miracle
- ❖ We honor the Cross because it is an object of joy for the Father
- ❖ The Cross bears our sins

Memory Verse:

By love, serve one another' Galatians 5:13

Servant's Spiritual Message:

Note that one purpose for Christ's coming into the world is to forgive sins, freeing humanity from bondage. Forgiving sins is a greater power than physical healing, for, as the scribes note, God alone can forgive sins. Thus, the easier task is to grant physical healing. Though Christ is fully God and holds the authority to forgive, He condescends to those gathered and heals this man in order to draw people to God, whom they **glorify (This is the word for the lesson)**.

Each time we look at the cross, we remember the perfection of obedience, and the perfection of subjection, in order to imitate the Lord Christ in his obedience, to the point of death. In ancient times, the cross was the sign of malediction and death because of sin. But on the Cross, the Lord bore all our maledictions, in order to grant us the benediction of the reconciliation with God (Rom. 5:10), and the benediction of the new life. Therefore all the gracious things of the New Testament come from the Cross. Therefore the clergymen use this cross in the giving of benediction, as an indication that the benediction is not issued from them personally, but from the cross of the Lord who has entrusted them to use it for granting benediction, and because they take their ministry from the ministry of Him who was crucified. All the blessings of the New

Testament follow the cross of the Lord and its effect.

The Cross in the Sacraments:

Without the cross, we could not deserve to come near to God as sons in Baptism; and we could not deserve the communion of his body and blood in the mystery of Eucharist (1 Cor. 11:26),

and we could not enjoy the blessings of any mystery from the mysteries of the Church (Pope Shenouda III, *The Feast of the Cross*).

Servant Preparation:

During the lesson:

Have ready a doll and a blanket to reenact the story of the paralyzed man.

What you need for the activity:

- ❖ Paddle pop sticks
- ❖ String
- ❖ Coloring in markers

The Story:

And again he entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where he was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"- He said to the paralytic "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were

amazed and **glorified** God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Conclusion:

Christ forgave the paralyzed man’s sins. God forgives us our sins. We need to glorify God when we see His amazing works.

Application:

- ❖ Be compassionate to others, knowing that Christ is compassionate towards us.
- ❖ Even though we do wrong, God will forgive us if we come to Him. Like the paralyzed man did, even though it was not as simple as walking through the front door to be healed.
- ❖ Our sins are like the paralysis. They make us unable to move. But they do not stop us from coming ever close to God.
- ❖ Love each other as the friends loved to paralyzed man and carried Him to see Jesus.
- ❖ Make sure you have friends who will lead you in God’s path (*please stress this*)
- ❖ Wear a Cross to remember that Christ is your savior and that your sins are carried on this cross
- ❖ Time permitting you may also briefly describe the story of St Helena and how she found the Cross.

Activity:

Make Crosses from the paddle pop sticks and strings. Decorate them.

Song:

Salibi ya Salibi

Bible Study: The Paralyzed Man

Memory Verse

By love, serve one another Galatians 5:13

Bible reading: Mark 2:1-12

1. Circle the correct answer:

A) Jesus was in _____ when he healed the paralyzed man.

Bethsaida *Bethlahem* *Capernaum*

B) The paralyzed man was carried by _____ men.

Five *Seven* *Four*

2. Unjumble these words to find out what the people in the house felt:

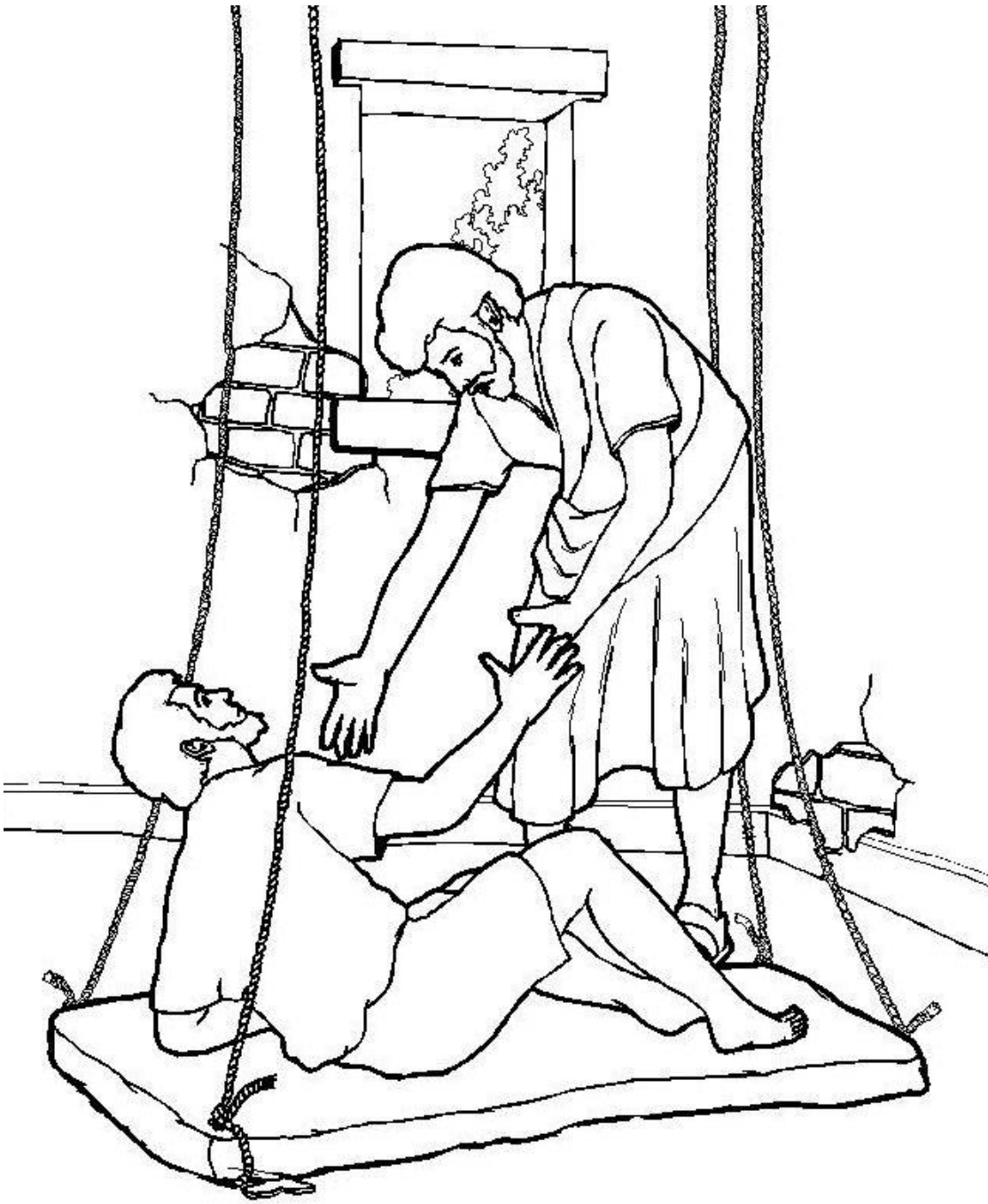
were *all glorified* *and* *God* *amazed*

_____.

3. Write the memory verse here (Galatians 5:13):

_____.

4. Draw a picture of a cross and colour it in. Use craft materials to decorate it.



By _____, serve one another.

By love, serve one _____

By love, _____ one another.