

City SG - November 17-18, 2018

Bible Story: Stand by You (Jesus Heals the Paralytic / Four Friends) • *Luke 5:17-26*

Bottom Line: Work together to help someone in need.

Memory Verse: “Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.”
Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)

1. A Friend Indeed

What You Need: Bible marked at Luke 5, ball pit ball (1 per group), sheets of cardstock (12 per group-recycled ok). Plastic Cup (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Luke 5 and encourage kids to remember as much of the Bible story as possible. Ask prompting questions as necessary to help them recall the following points:
 - People were crowding around the house where Jesus was. They were hoping to hear from Him and see him do miracles.
 - Four men came carrying a man who couldn't walk. He was lying on a mat.
 - The men believed that Jesus could heal their friend. They tried to take him into the house, but they couldn't because of the crowd.
 - They carried him up onto the roof.
 - They lowered him, on his mat, through the roof tiles until he was right in front of Jesus.
 - Jesus said: “*Friend, your sins are forgiven.*” He told the man, “*Get up. Take your mat and go home*” (*Luke 5:20, 24 NirV*).
 - The man stood up and went home, praising God.
- Help kids get into a line around your rug/area.
 - NOTE: If your particular space/service doesn't allow for this, have the children remain seated in a circle around your rug.
- Place the plastic cup at the opposite end of the line, or middle of your rug. This will represent the house where Jesus was.
- Give each child a sheet of paper.
- At your signal, the group will work together to get their “friend” (the ball pit ball) to “Jesus” (in the cup).
- The catch? Once the group starts, they may only touch their paper. They cannot touch the ball!
- When the ball reaches the house/fully around the circle, they gently lower their friend inside.
- Praise kids for working together.
- Play a couple rounds with following variations:
 - One foot
 - One handed
 - Back to back
 - Fastest Time

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job cooperating to work your way through the obstacle course! What were some obstacles that the four friends had to overcome in order to get their friend to Jesus? (*They had to carry their friend up to the roof, make a hole in the roof, and lower their friend down.*) Why do you think they were willing to go through all that trouble to get their friend to Jesus? (*They loved him. They knew that Jesus could heal him.*) When the four friends took their paralyzed friend to see Jesus, they weren't doing it for themselves, were they? No, they were doing it to help someone in need—someone they loved. They cared for their friend SO much that they were willing to do whatever it took to get him to Jesus. What a great reason to cooperate!”

2. Chain of Needs

What You Need: Cardstock/construction paper strips (1 per kid), markers, pens, tape (one roll per group)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a paper strip and a marker.
- Encourage the kids to think of something they could do to help someone else.
- Instruct them to write it down (or draw a picture of it) on the paper strip.
- When finished, let the kids share their answers as **you** tape the strips together to create a paper chain.

What You Say:

“Wow! These are some GREAT ways to help others. You came up with some things I hadn’t even thought of. **[Transition]** Today in our Bible story, we heard about how God made us to help others. And I’m pretty sure it requires cooperation! Great job everyone!”

NOTE: Hold onto your “Needs Chain.” You’ll need it for the Prayer activity at the end.

3. Memory Verse Review

What You Need: Playground ball (one per group)

What You Do:

- Look up and review this month’s memory verse: Ecclesiastes 4:9.
- Instruct the kids to repeat the verse aloud together several times.
- Then encourage the kids to form a line around your rug/area.
- Explain that you will start the ball on one end and they will pass it down the line as they say the words of the verse—one word per kid.
- BUT there’s a twist!
 - The first kid in line will say the first word, pass the ball, and then jump up and head to the end of the line.
 - The second kid will say the second word, pass the ball and then jump up and head to the end of the line.
 - Repeat until you finish the verse.
- If time allows, line kids up again to see if they can speed up their time as they say the verse and pass the ball down the line.

What You Say:

“This verse reminds us that two are better than what? *(Pause.)* Yes, one! You can do WAY more together than you could ever do all on your own. I know it can be hard sometimes to cooperate, and you might be tempted to say, ‘I’ll just do it myself!’ But I promise you can do WAY more than you ever could alone, especially when it comes to meeting the needs of people around you. That’s why we need to **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone in need.**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: “Needs Chain” from Activity 2

What You Do:

- Allow each kid to pull off one of the paper strips on the needs chain.
- Challenge them to meet the need listed on their paper strip THIS week.
- Remind them that they need to cooperate with someone else to help meet that need.
- **[Make It Personal]** Tell the kids about a time you worked with others to help someone in need. **What was the need, and how did you cooperate to meet that need? Did you collect items with others in your small group to provide Christmas gifts for a family in need? Or did you raise money for a clean water campaign along with your coworkers?**

- Pray that the kids in your group would show cooperation as they work to meet needs of others this week.

What You Say:

“Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and for giving us each other. We know that we can do SO much more when we choose to cooperate. Help us to see the needs around us and to **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone in need** this week. We know that you want us to cooperate so we can help others. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” SHEETS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!