

Bible background

Mark 2:1-12

Aim of lesson

- (a) To see Jesus' power to heal.
- (b) To learn about being a good friend.

Preparation required

During the class make a large wall picture of the story.

Prepare beforehand a large sheet of coloured paper with a box, which has one side cut off, fixed to the lower edge of the paper. The box forms the cut away house (see the diagram on the activity sheet). The box can have doors and windows cut in it. Have the figure from your own activity sheet coloured and cut out. They can be pasted on or fixed with a small amount of 'blu-tac' behind the head. (The characters can then be moved as you tell the story.) You will need string and a simple paper 'stretcher' to lower the man on.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Tell the story of Jesus going to a house. Explain, with your box, what houses were (and are) like in hot countries where there is little rain, and how people could get onto the flat roof by the stairs that went up the outside wall. Illustrate the story as you go along by putting your figures on to the picture. Break a gap in the cardboard roof and lower the stretcher down at the appropriate point in the story.

If you have young infants you may wish to say that the teachers of the law were cross because they were jealous of Jesus' popularity.

If you use the dialogue about the forgiveness of sins, show the children that Jesus was using this opportunity to tell the people that God, his Father, had given him the right to forgive people for the wrong things they have done, and that the miracle was the proof that he was working and speaking for God.
2. Have the class colour and cut out their characters and act out the story with them. Your figures can then form part of the crowd.
3. Ask who had been a good friend to the man. How had they been good friends? How had Jesus also been a good friend to him?
4. Teach the song 'Can you be a good friend?'

Alternative activities

1. If you didn't use this activity idea for lesson 77, let the children draw pictures of their friends. They can decorate cardboard frames to stick round their pictures.
2. Build a house out of Lego, Plasticine, blocks or, if you have room, cardboard boxes or tables with a blanket or large piece of cardboard for a roof which can be removed as part of your role play.
3. Make a bedmat out of material or card, cut out the figure of the man from the worksheet and mount on cardboard. Let the children colour the figure and attach him to his bed with blue tac.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children how they can be a good friend. Bring in: not fighting, sharing, not telling tales or lies, not making fun of one another.

Prayer

Imagine that you were one of the friends of the sick man who had been healed. What might you have prayed when you got home?

Verse

'You are my friends if you do what I command.' John 15:14.

Song

Can you be a good friend? (Tune: Charlie is my darling)

Chorus

The musical notation is written on four staves in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Cm, Cm, Fm, Cm, Cm, Fm, G, Cm, G, Cm, Cm, Fm, Cm, G. The word 'Fine' is written at the end of the second staff.

Chorus: Can you be a good friend
a good friend
a good friend
Can you be a good friend
To everyone you meet?

v.1 A good friend always helps you out
A good friend always cares
A good friend's always kind to you
A good friend always shares ... so