

'Freedom from Sin' – Young Church

Sunday 12th July 2020



1) Introduction:

Hello to everyone at St Mary's and Christ Church young and youth church, we hope you are all safe and well. As the summer holiday's approaches, we hope and pray you are safe, well and happy during this unprecedented time. You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you find some joy in these weekly online sessions.

Today's 'social distance' young church is about ... 'freedom from sin'.

We will read one of Jesus' miracles where He makes and proves an important claim about himself – that, in common with God, He has the authority to forgive sins. This miracle shows that Jesus is God. It also shows that, to Jesus, our spiritual state is more important than our physical state. The man is presented to Jesus on a stretcher, and yet Jesus tends first of all to the sinner, then to his outward appearance.

Please watch the videos, read the Bible passages, and focus on the role of the friends in this miracle. It was the friends who took the paralysed man to Jesus. It is no mean feat, to carry a full-grown man on a stretcher across town (probably) and then up the stairs on the outside of a house – imagine even trying to do that! It takes a strong determination to rip apart a roof of a building you do not own in order to lower your friend to the very feet of Jesus. These men wanted Jesus to heal their friend.

Just like the friends in this miracle, you too can also bring your friends to Jesus, and that Jesus will be willing to heal them. You can pray for your friends when you are with them, and also pray for them independently when you are alone.

2) Warm up game 'carry these'.

Equipment: Potatoes and a bucket.

Put some potatoes into a bucket and see if you can carry it.

Continue to add more potatoes and make the distance which the bucket needs to be carried longer – see who is willing to carry the heaviest bucket for longest.

How long would you be prepared to carry it for? All the way home, or just out to the car?

In today's story, four friends carried a large weight a long way!

The Point: Just for fun.

3) Digging in: 'breaking bricks'.

Equipment needed:

-Access to the Internet to play the videos. Bible.

1) Introduction to the story.

Jesus was teaching inside a house. It was very full – the Pharisees were there because they wanted to see Jesus make a mistake and the common people were there because they loved to listen to Jesus' stories and the disciples were there because they wanted to learn about God.

Outside the house people crowded round, listening through the open door and the windows.

In the town lived a man who was paralysed – he could not move his legs at all. His four friends knew that Jesus could heal him, so they decided to take him to Jesus. Carefully they placed him on a stretcher and they carried him all the way to the house where Jesus was teaching. And then they had a problem!

The men were determined. They had carried their friend all this way – they were not going to be turned back. If they couldn't get in through the door, they would get in through the roof.

So carefully, they carried their friend up the stairs and on to the flat roof.

Then they started banging and digging until they had made a hole in the roof big enough to lower their friend through.

They put ropes under the stretcher and carefully, carefully lowered him down to the ground.

Jesus stopped teaching and everybody looked on in horror as the man was lowered to the ground. Jesus looked up at the four friends who were peeping down through the hole they had made. He smiled at them. Then he looked at the paralysed man and said, **“Your sins are forgiven.”**

The Pharisees were annoyed. “Only God can forgive sins – who does this man think he is?” they grumbled. Jesus smiled. **“I have the power to forgive sins – look, I’ll prove it: Get up and walk!”**. The man got up and walked! He walked through the crowd and out of the door – completely well.

Say that Jesus can heal us from the bad things we do inside as well as heal our bodies. He cares about all of us – our minds and spirits as well as our bodies.

The Point: to tell the story and to see that Jesus cares about the whole person, mind, body and spirit; to realise that the friends played a vital role.

2) Watch the two video clips that link to Mark 2: 1-12 to delve deeper into the story and to help your visualisation and understanding.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxkJAvm5UKs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqItYSQkXdg> (shorter version)

Think about and discuss with an adult:

At the end of the story/video, ask:

- Why were so many people coming to the house?
- Was everyone there because they wanted to hear what Jesus said?
- Why did the friends break the roof?
- What did they want Jesus to do for their friend?
- How did people react when Jesus said that he forgave the man’s sins?
- How did the man feel when he was healed?
- How did the friends feel?
- If it wasn’t for his friends, would the man have been healed?
- How can we bring our friends to Jesus today, if they are sick or sad?

4) Take away: 'house with a door'

Equipment:

Small square boxes (individual cereal packets, oxo boxes etc). White paper, glue and pens/pencils.

First, cover the box with white paper and glue. It is easiest to cover the four sides in one go and then add a separate piece of paper to cover the roof.

When the paper is on the box, draw on doors and windows. Draw a line of steps up one wall for roof access.

5) Close prayer and St Mary's key reflection questions:

- 1) What does this teach us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
- 2) What do we need to do (this week)?



Prayer 'heal my friend':

Equipment

A person shape drawn on paper, plasters and pens/pencils.

The reason the man in today's story was healed was because the friends took him to Jesus. We can take our friends to Jesus by praying for them.

Draw a person shape on the lining paper. Say that we all know someone who has something wrong with them. Write your friend's name on a plaster and stick it on the person shape. Now pray that God will heal all the people whose names are on the person.

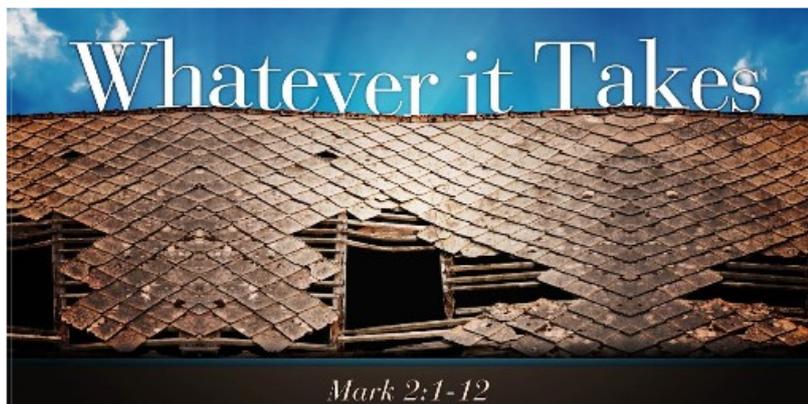
The Point: To bring our friends to Jesus.

Worship song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbw8OYxwWuE>

Memory verse -

Everyone praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Mark 2:12



HE GOT UP, TOOK HIS MAT AND WALKED
OUT IN FULL VIEW OF THEM ALL. THIS
AMAZED EVERYONE AND THEY PRAISED
GOD, SAYING, “WE HAVE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE THIS!”
MARK 2:12

Visit this website for more ideas on how to pray with young children throughout the day

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/tcahprayersthroughtheday>

Links to other ways to worship:



Diddy Disciples 'church at home' is a creative and playful worship and Bible storytelling on line resource for babies, toddlers and young children. This is a great resource for all our Young Church children, so we thought we would share.

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome>