

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Do Something Jesus Heals a Man Who Could Not Walk / Four Friends Luke 5:17-26

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work together to help someone in need.

HOST SUPPLIES

- Singer(s) to perform the song from the game (optional)
- Fill-in lyric sheet for the song you chose (see "What You Do")
- Clipboard
- Pen

STORY SUPPLIES

- Table
- Jesus action figure or doll such as the "My Friend Jesus" doll
- Various other action figures, ideally smaller than the Jesus action figure (eight to ten)
- Cardboard box that's open on one side to use as the house
- Flashlight or other light source, to light up the interior of the box
- Small cardboard rectangle (to be the "mat")
- Box cutter or drywall hand saw
- Prop box to contain the action figures

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP



SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction Early Arriver Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- HAPPY MARCH

- COOPERATION Challenge
 - All month long, it would be amazing to see our groups or kids and leaders work together
 - COOPERATION: Working together to do more than you can do alone
 - Challenge kids to look for ways to do this at home, in school, in their neighborhood, etc.
- 3rd graders Preteen Camp
 - Sign up SOON... you'll get a flier when you leave today

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker

Week 2 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & Graves Into

Gardens

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & The Blessing

SMALL GROUP





TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Do Something Jesus Heals a Man Who Could Not Walk / Four Friends Luke 5:17-26

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work together to help someone in need.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIrV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Cooperation—Working together to do more than you can do alone

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

LARGE GROUP

25 MINUTES

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER. SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: The Best Is Yet To Come

AUDIO: Graves Into Gardens

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION) OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, hey, everybody! I think that's one of my favorite songs. I mean, it's a JAM! If you want to make a great song like that, you've got to be really good at cooperation. But we don't just need cooperation when we're playing music. We need to cooperate in lots of different situations in life.

"What IS cooperation?

SLIDE: LIFE APP OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.

SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"God MADE us to cooperate. With God's help, we can see what people need around us, then we can work together to make things better for them.



"Before we get to today's game, it's time to pick our song of the day. We've done this the past couple of weeks. We choose our favorite song out of three—just voting by applause. Today, we'll play the song you choose at the end as we go to Small Group. What's it going to be?

AUDIO: SONG CLIP #1 (CUED TO THE CHORUS) AUDIO: SONG CLIP #2 (CUED TO THE CHORUS) AUDIO: SONG CLIP #3 (CUED TO THE CHORUS)

Play clips of three different songs, then have the kids vote by applause to choose the song that will play during dismissal. Save the one you think the kids will pick for the last choice.

"Great choice, everyone! We'll play that song later on.

"Now for our fun game. I've got a great way that we can cooperate . . . writing a song together! Sound like fun? I think so, too! (*Pause*.) Okay, technically we're taking a song that's ALREADY great, and we're giving it our own [your environment's name] spin. That's right—we're adding new lyrics to [song's name]. Are you with me? (*Pause for response*.)

Pick up your fill-in lyric sheet (on a clipboard) and pen.

Note: We're unable to provide this sheet for copyright reasons, but please see the "Getting Ready" section below for instructions on how to make one. The idea is that you'll take a well-known song and remove certain nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. from the lyrics, then ask the kids to fill in their own words instead. Then you perform the song with the new lyrics!

"We've got to find different words to use in the song we're working on. First, we need a noun. So, shout out a person, place, or thing! (*Pause for responses.*)

Choose one of the words and write it on your sheet where you need a noun.

Continue this same way, going through the different words you need. You may need to explain what you mean by noun (person, place, or thing), verb (action word; something you do), or adjective (word that describes something or says what something is like).

"Okay—I think we've got our new lyrics for our version of [song's name]. Are you ready to hear it? (*Pause for response.*) Okay, here we go!

AUDIO: INSTRUMENTAL VERSION OF THE SONG YOU'RE USING

Sing the song with the "new lyrics." (Or you can have someone else sing it, like the Worship Leaders.) Take a bow at the end.

"Thank you! Thank you! Really, no need for applause. Really, stop. (Motion for the audience to keep cheering.)



25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! We've been talking about how important it is for us to cooperate and work together. There are some incredible examples of cooperation that we can read about in the Bible (*hold up Bible*), and I've got one to share with you today.

"This story took place in the town of Capernaum. It happened during the time Jesus lived on Earth.

Take the Jesus action figure out of the prop box and hold it up.

"Jesus was teaching amazing things that no one had ever heard before. Not only that, He was healing people who were sick!"

FULL HOUSE

STORYTELLER: "When Jesus came to Capernaum, He was teaching people, including Pharisees and teachers of the law. As you can imagine, EVERYONE wanted to see Jesus. They wanted to hear what He had to say . . . and find out what He would do next.

"One day, Jesus was teaching in someone's house.

Set the Jesus action figure inside the cardboard box "house," with the open side of the box facing the kids. Lean the Jesus figure against the box so that He stands.

Turn on the flashlight or other light source so the inside of the box is visible.

"There were so many people who came to listen that the house was completely full!

(Look in the prop box.) "Let's see . . . here they are . . . all listening to Jesus.

Pull out the various other action figures and set them inside the house. Lay them down or have them "sit" so that Jesus is still visible.

"Then, some men came. They were carrying a man who couldn't walk."

Set up the four action figures with the cardboard "mat" off to the side from the box. Lay the "man who couldn't walk" action figure on top of the mat.

Note: It's okay if they don't stand up or if this doesn't work perfectly; just have fun with it!

THE "SUNROOF"

STORYTELLER: "The friends couldn't take the man into the house because they couldn't make it through the crowd. But they REALLY wanted to get him to Jesus. So, they did something VERY interesting!



"They went onto the roof of the house . . . and they found a way to get THROUGH it.

Move the five figures to the top of the box. With the box cutter or drywall hand saw, cut a hole in the top of the box.

"As we read in the book of Luke . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 5:19 (NIrV) and read.

"They lowered the man on his mat through the opening in the roof tiles. They lowered him into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus."

Put the action figure of the man through the hole in the roof. Then lay him on the cardboard "mat" on the base of the box. Move the other action figures to either side so that the man is visible in front of Jesus.

MIRACLE WORKER

STORYTELLER: "Then, Jesus did something incredible.

Pick up the Jesus action figure and the man action figure. Step in front of the table, and hold them up as you explain what happened next.

"Jesus said to the man, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.' (Luke 5:20, NIrV)

"You see, Jesus knew that this man needed to be forgiven for the wrong choices he had made—just like all of us do.

Go back behind the table. Set down the Jesus action figure and the man action figure as they were before. Pick up a couple of other action figures from the house, to represent the Pharisees.

"The Pharisees, however, were not very happy about this. They asked, 'Who can forgive sins but God alone?' (Luke 5:21, NIrV) See, the religious leaders didn't like Jesus because they didn't believe that He was the Son of God.

Set down the Pharisee action figures. Pick up the Jesus and man action figures again.

"So, Jesus decided to do something that everyone COULD see. Then they would know that He DID have the power to forgive sins.

"Jesus told the man . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 5:24 (NIrV) and read.

"Get up. Take your mat and go home.

"The man was HEALED! He could walk!



25 MINUTES

Set down the Jesus action figure. Pick up the cardboard "mat" and hold it up with the man action figure.

"He picked up the mat he had been carried on and went home."

Set down the man action figure and walk in front of the table.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Through the power of God and the help of a few friends, this man who couldn't walk before was now on his own two feet! His life was changed FOREVER!

Point to the "four friends" action figures on the top of the box.

"Think about what these men did for their friend. They knew that he needed to get to Jesus. So, they did everything they possibly could to make it happen! They saw someone in need, and they worked together to do something to help.

"As followers of Jesus, that's what we should do, too.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"We should work together to help someone in need.

"Let's pray."

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for this amazing example of cooperation! These men loved their friend so much that they did whatever it took to get him to Jesus. They knew that Jesus had the power to heal. Please help us work together like they did. Show us how we can share Your love by helping people in need. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "The man who couldn't walk needed help to get to Jesus. So what did his friends do? They went above and beyond to make it happen. I mean, they actually went ABOVE—on the roof of the house—then they lowered their friend down to Jesus! Wouldn't that be an amazing sight to see?

"Of course, Jesus saw that the man also had a different kind of need. The man needed to be healed, but more than that, he needed to be forgiven of his sins. Because of his friends, the man got the miraculous healing he was looking for—AND Jesus forgave his sins, which turned out to be his greatest need of all! We can experience that same forgiveness because of what Jesus did when He died for us on the cross.

"The men in the story saw that their friend had a need, and worked together to do something about it. Let's remember to cooperate like they did.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Let's work together to help someone in need.

"If we want to do that, where do we begin? First, we have to SEE what people need. We can ask God to help us see the needs of the people around us—whether we're at home, school, or in our neighborhood. Then we can work together to do something to help.

"I know it always feels good when someone helps me. Like if I need someone to talk to, it's great to have a friend who's there to listen. If I need help when I'm working on something tough, it's always better when someone helps me understand it. We should **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated** by being willing to stop and lend a hand.

"Let's head to Small Group now and talk about that some more. Remember, we've got our fun exit song that you picked earlier. Let's hear it!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: SONG #1, #2, OR #3 (THE ONE THE KIDS VOTED FOR) SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP