

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### JESUS IS MADE ACCESSIBLE

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**📖 Mark 2:1-12 Jesus heals a paralysed man**

**🎯 Aim: To become a better friend**

Today we meet an amazing group of friends who were determined to make sure their friend with a physical disability met Jesus. When they couldn't get past the crowds they found a creative way to get close to Jesus. In what ways can we solve problems and make church more accessible for those with physical disabilities?

Each child will need:

→ A box and a range of craft and junk material plus glue, scissors, tape ... – see Action It section

You will need:

→ World map or globe

## Start It

**💬 Say:** Later in the session we will be praying for children with disabilities from across the world. To get you thinking about which countries you could choose, have a go at this world map quiz together.

*The world map quiz game by Beano.com*

**[www.beano.com/posts/the-world-map-quiz-game](http://www.beano.com/posts/the-world-map-quiz-game)**

## Sing It

**Ask:** How are you getting on learning this month's memory verse? Let's share it together.

### Memory verse

**'I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.**

**What you have done is wonderful.**

**I know this very well.'**

— (Psalm 139:14 *ICB*)

**💬 Say:** Today we are going to sing a song that reminds us that we are wonderfully made.

*'Wonderful' Psalm 139:14 by Seeds Family Worship (2:51)*

**[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-pi\\_MV7ASQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-pi_MV7ASQ)**

## Tell It

**💬 Say:** In our story today a group of friends go out of their way to make sure someone special met Jesus. They did everything they could to bring their friend to Jesus.

### Video

*'Jesus heals the paralytic' by Max7.org uploaded by RodTheNey(2:42)*

**[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LqHYkGU4Zg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LqHYkGU4Zg)**

**Say:** This amazing story shows us how important it is to make Jesus accessible to everyone, regardless of their physical disability. The man in the story is paralysed, he cannot move or walk.

**Read:**

**'A few days later, Jesus came back to Capernaum. The news spread that he was home. So many people gathered to hear him preach that the house was full. There was no place to stand, not even outside the door. Jesus was teaching them. Some people came, bringing a paralysed man to Jesus. Four of them were carrying the paralysed man. But they could not get to Jesus because of the crowd. So they went to the roof above Jesus and made a hole in the roof. Then they lowered the mat with the paralysed man on it.'**

— (Mark 2:1-4 ICB)

**Ask:**

- How do you think the friends felt when they couldn't get the paralysed man close to Jesus?
- In what ways do people with disabilities experience this kind of thing today?
- What kinds of situations at church do you think it might be difficult for people with physical disabilities to access?

**Say:** Often it can be very frustrating for carers when they cannot get the support they need for the people they love. Just like the friends in today's story, they keep trying to find ways for people with disabilities to be near to Jesus.

**Read:**

**'Jesus saw that these men had great faith. So he said to the paralysed man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."**

**'Some of the teachers of the law were sitting there. They saw what Jesus did, and they said to themselves, "Why does this man say things like that? He is saying things that are against God. Only God can forgive sins."**

**'At once Jesus knew what these teachers of the law were thinking. So he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to tell this paralysed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to tell him, 'Stand up. Take your mat and walk'? But I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.'"**

— (Mark 2:8-10a ICB)

**Say:** In this story Jesus is not saying the man is paralysed because of the mistakes he has made or because he has a sinful life. We all make mistakes and let God down, and it is these sins that Jesus is forgiving. He wants the man to be healed inside and out.

**Ask:** Why do you think the teachers of the law were annoyed that Jesus was saying that he could forgive sins?

**Read:**

**'So Jesus said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, stand up. Take your mat and go home." Immediately the paralysed man stood up. He took his mat and walked out while everyone was watching him.**

**'The people were amazed and praised God. They said, "We have never seen anything like this!"'**

— (Mark 2:10b-12 ICB)

**Say:** The people were amazed when they saw Jesus heal the paralysed man, but none of it would have been possible without the amazing love shown by the man's friends.

## Action It

### Craft activity

The children will need junk craft materials, so that they can get creative. Depending on the size of your group the children can work together or divide into smaller teams. Each team will need a box and craft material.

The aim is for the children to recreate the story of the paralysed man using the box and the materials. They will need to create the different characters in the story and find an accessible way for the paralysed man to be lowered down to meet Jesus. Use this activity to prompt a discussion about how we can work together to problem solve and make church more accessible for people with disabilities.

## Pray It

**Say:** Children across the world face challenges due to their physical and learning disabilities.

Place a world map in front of the children. Watch the prayer clip *A prayer for children with disabilities* together. We suggest that you turn the sound off the clip and read the words to the group – select cc to reveal the subtitles / closed captions on the video. The clip can be stopped at 2:44.

### Video

*A prayer for children with disabilities* by Reconciled World (3:22)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cmcqjSTEx4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cmcqjSTEx4)

Encourage the children to choose a place on the world map and say a short prayer for children with disabilities in that country. Bring the time of sharing to a close with a final prayer.

## Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

JULY  
SESSION 03

### JESUS IS MADE ACCESSIBLE

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## FOR ME



### Create

Read Mark 2:1-12 and create your own version of the story. You could use Lego to create a stop-motion animation, build a model of the house with a missing roof, or draw your own comic strip. Get creative and bring the story to life.

## TOGETHER



### Pray

Using a map of the world or globe, choose a different country each day. Ask the people at home to pray with you as you remember children with disabilities across the world.



### Song for the week

'Wonderful' Psalm 139:14 by Seeds  
Family Worship

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-pi\\_MV7ASQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-pi_MV7ASQ)



### Memory verse

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— (Psalm 139:14 ICB)

### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

**Kids Alive!** The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

