

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



JESUS CONFUSES RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:21-24 Jesus heals a paralysed man

Aim: To see that Jesus was not popular with everyone

In today's story a group of friends do everything they can to bring a paralysed man to meet Jesus. They desperately want their friend to walk again. Jesus healed the man, and the crowd were amazed – but not everyone was impressed with Jesus that day. In today's session we'll discover why the religious leaders were angered by the actions of Jesus.

Each child will need:

- Card, hole puncher, string, scissors, two pipe cleaners, sticky tape or a tape easy to remove like washi or masking tape, pens/pencils
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- To watch ***Messy Church March 2021 – Craft 4 Paralysed Man*** by Finaghy Methodist (4:09)
- Prayer handout

Start It

Say: This year The Salvation Army's International Development Week is 14-20 October, to celebrate its work across the globe.

Every answer in our starter quiz today is a place where The Salvation Army is currently at work, helping people to have a better standard of living.

Depending on your group you could give the children a multi-choice option for each question.

Quiz: What country am I?

Adapted from www.kidzworld.com/quiz/5545-quiz-what-country-am-i/

1. It is the home of Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and Edinburgh Castle. **United Kingdom / Great Britain**
2. In this country people eat about 500g of rice a day and often greet each other by asking, 'Have you eaten?' **China**
3. It is shaped like a boot, and the capital city, which wasn't built in a day, is nicknamed Eternal City or the city of seven hills. **Italy**
4. The name of this country, whose national animal is the beaver, comes from a First Nations' word that means 'big village'. **Canada**
5. Peeps from this land down-under like to greet each other by saying, 'G'day mate!' **Australia**
6. This mountainous country is home to Machu Picchu, which is known as 'The Lost City of the Incas', and Paddington Bear. **Peru**
7. For 28 years a wall divided a city in this country into east and west, but it was torn down in 1989, and it is famous for Bratwurst sausages and Black Forest Gateau. **Germany**
8. This country is sometimes called the 'Giant of Africa' as it has Africa's largest population with at least 250 different languages, is rich in oil, and many people love eating spicy food including jollof rice. **Nigeria**

9. This is the largest country in the world, has deserts and frozen landscapes, Siberian tigers and wooden dolls that can be put inside each other. **Russia**
10. In this country most people are vegetarian, cows are treated respectfully and it has a Hollywood – except it's called Bollywood! **India**

Ask the children to recap all the countries mentioned in the quiz.

Say: Across the globe, in these countries and in many others, people in The Salvation Army are working hard to love God and love others.

Sing It

Say: Our memory verse for this month reminds us that God loves everyone. Let's share it together.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

— (John 3:16 *NIV*)

Say: Our song for today encourages us to be like Jesus and show the love of God to everyone we meet.

'L-O-V-E' by Compass Bible Church (2:24)

Tell It

Say: In today's story Jesus miraculously heals a paralysed man. Loads of people in the crowd were amazed, which was brilliant, but they're not the ones we're going to focus on today. Let's watch the clip and find out who were unimpressed by the miracles of Jesus.

Video

God's Story: Jesus Heals a Man by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:39)

Watch: 0:00 to 1:20. (Let's call this guy Matt, even though the Bible doesn't tell us his real name.)

Discuss:

- What is a miracle?
- What other miracles did Jesus perform?
- Why do you think people were so desperate to spend time with Jesus?
- We have just been introduced to a man being carried by four of his friends on a mat. Do you know what happens next in the story? Share it with the rest of the group.

Watch: 1:21 to 3:07 (And that's the story of Jesus healing a guy.)

Say: The man's amazing friends lowered him down through the roof so that he could meet Jesus. His sins were forgiven, and he was healed.

Ask: Who wasn't happy about what had happened?

Say: In the book of Luke chapter five we can read more about the religious leaders and what they thought of Jesus.

Read:

'The Jewish teachers of the law and the Pharisees [scholars and community leaders] thought to themselves, "Who is this man? He is saying things that are against God! Only God can forgive sins."

'But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, "Why do you have thoughts like that in your hearts? Which is easier: to tell this paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to tell him, "Stand up and walk"? But I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.'" So Jesus said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, stand up! Take your mat and go home."

— (Luke 5:21-24 *ICB*)

Ask: Why were the religious leaders so frustrated with Jesus?

Say: The religious leaders had never heard anyone talking like this before. In their eyes no one could forgive sins but God, and they didn't believe Jesus was God. To prove that he was the Son of God, Jesus healed the man. The people were amazed, but the religious leaders only became even more angry with him.

Say: Let's recap the story.

Watch: 3:08 to end.

Action It

Explain to the children how to make a model of the paralysed man on a colourful stretcher based on the video: [Messy Church March 2021 – Craft 4 Paralyzed Man](#) (4:09)

You may wish to have the holes in the card already done and adapt the resources to include removable tape so children can show the man picking up his mat and walking.

Once the children have completed the craft activity, encourage them to retell the story to someone else in the group.

Pray It

Say: The Salvation Army's International Development Week runs from 14 to 20 October. Many children in the world desperately need a safe place to live, support with their health and to learn more about Jesus. Today we have an opportunity to pray for children in each of the countries where The Salvation Army worships and works.

Display the following prayer for the children to use as a prompt. Encourage each child to think of a country to pray for and ask them to take turns reading out their prayer.

'Be with the children of (insert name of country).

We know you have the whole world in your hands.'

Say: As part of our prayer time, we are going to sing a song that reminds us that God has each and every one of us in his hands.

Video

['He's got the Whole World in his Hands' – Maker Fun Factor Music Videos](#) by Lifetree Kids (stop clip at 2:00)

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.

OCTOBER
SESSION 02

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FOR ME



Discover

The Salvation Army's International Development Week is on 14-20 October. Try and discover as much as you can about the way that The Salvation Army helps children across the world. Share what you have discovered with the rest of your Explore It group.

TOGETHER



Watch

Using the craft activity you made in this week's Explore It session, share the story of the paralysed man with the people at home.

Watch the clip together and discuss what you have discovered about Jesus and his power to heal people. How was the reaction of the religious leaders to Jesus different from that of the crowd?

Jesus Heals the Paralytic by Mx7.org uploaded by RodtheNey



Song for the week

'L-O-V-E' by Compass Bible Church



Memory verse

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

— (John 3:16 NIV)

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!

