

**ONE OF THE MULTITUDE  
A PARALYTIC COMES THROUGH THE ROOF**



**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES**



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**CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES**



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### BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES

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**Christ to the World Ministries** is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel of Christ with the world through radio dramas and printed and oral studies based on Scripture. The printed lessons can be studied by one person or by a group.

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*Dear Friend,*

*I am glad that you are interested in studying the Bible. It is God's Word to us and in it, we find the way of salvation and guidance for daily living. The main theme of the Bible is God's love for us and how he expressed that love by Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus arose from the grave and today He will save every person who puts his or her faith and trust in Him.*

*This study guide will help you gain a better understanding of the Bible. Open your heart to what God has for you through the study. I have prayed that your study will be life changing.*

*May God bless you richly,*

*Larry Alston  
Christ to the World Ministries*



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## INTRODUCTION

**W**elcome to a study about a paralyzed man who was healed and whose sins were forgiven by Jesus.

Four men brought their friend to Jesus with great persistence. They refused to be turned away by the crowd.

This Bible study will help you understand that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is all powerful. He can heal the sin-sick and heart-sick person today. The story reveals the importance of compassion for others and reminds us of our responsibility to them.

This study guide asks you to write in it. Don't keep it clean and unmarked! When the guide asks you to make a response, don't simply think of your response. Take time to write it down. Doing so helps internalize and reinforce your learning. Write from your heart. Only you will see what you write. As writer, I will work along with you as you complete your study. I will share with you my own responses to most of the questions and activities. This does not mean that my responses are any more correct than yours; it simply means that you will have the benefit of a fellow traveler walking beside you as you move through the study.

Keep your Bible before you as you complete the study. When you are asked to read a Scripture reference, take time to read it.

Ready? Then let's get started.

**Begin your study with prayer. Make the following prayer your very own.**

*Dear God, please open your Word to me as I study. Speak to my heart. Help me obey your will for my life. Help me do what you want me to do. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen*

## THE SCRIPTURE

*17 One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village in Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.* **Luke 5:17-26, NIV**

*18 Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.*

*20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

*21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

*22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."*

*25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."*

## THE BACKGROUND AND SETTING

Early in his ministry Jesus experienced great popularity. With headquarters in Capernaum, he taught the people, and they expressed amazement at his message (Luke 4:32). During a synagogue service, he delivered and cleansed a man possessed by a demon. This added to their astonishment. "News about him spread throughout the surrounding area" (Luke 4:37). Many other people received healing from his touch (Luke 4:40).

Jesus! Master of sickness and sin! At the peak of his popularity he and his disciples left Capernaum and traveled to many other villages in the area. *“So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons”* (Mark 1:38). In one of the towns a man with leprosy came to him and received healing (Luke 5:12-14). Jesus ordered the man not to tell anyone of his cleansing, but the man told everyone he met (Mark 1:45). *“Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses”* (Luke 5:15). Mark records, *“As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere”* (Mark 1:45).

Jesus returned to Capernaum. Once again great crowds came to hear him preach and observe the healing of the sick. Some who came to hear him came for the wrong reasons. Pharisees and teachers of the law from throughout the country came to listen and observe. Their purpose in coming was to find fault and criticize.

One man could not come to Jesus for healing. No doubt he wanted to, but his body would not let him. He was paralyzed. He could not stand or walk. The story of the healing of the paralytic is also recorded in Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:1-12.

## THE PARALYZED MAN AND HIS FRIENDS

Poor man! Poor man! His days were spent flat on his back. He moved only with the help of others. There were no wheelchairs and no equipment for self-help. Most likely, he had heard of Jesus and his healing ministry. But he could not get to him.

There were four people who cared. We learn about them from Mark 2:3. They, too, knew about the healing ministry of Jesus. They believed that if they could get their friend into the presence of Jesus, he could be made whole. So they went to work.



**Read Luke 5:18-19. Answer the following questions.**

1. How did the four men carry the paralyzed man?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think the men believed Jesus could heal their friend?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why could the men not get their friend into the house at first?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did the men finally get their friend into the house into the presence of Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_

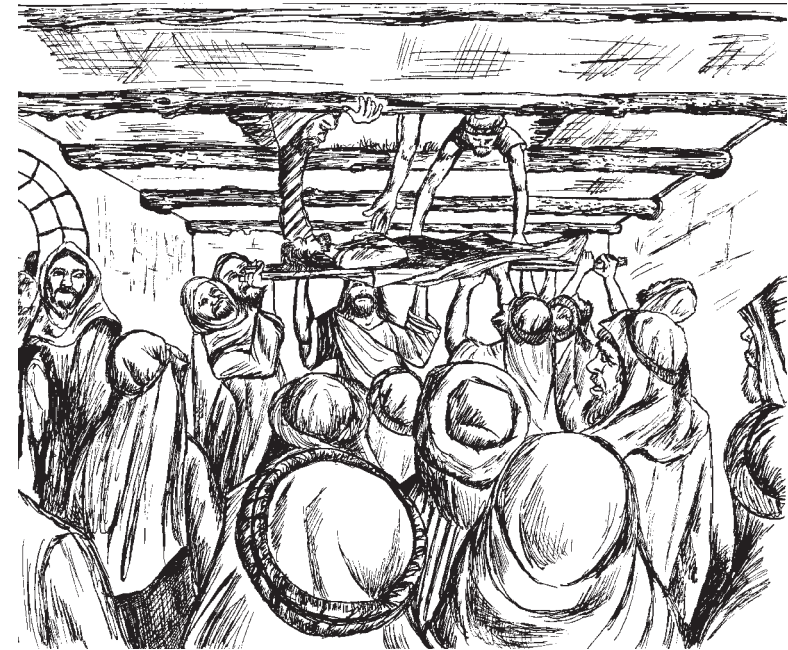


The four men carried the paralyzed man on a little mat. They knew Jesus could help. They may have seen Jesus heal other persons. They no doubt had heard stories of persons who had been healed. But when they got to the house, they could not get inside because of the crowd of people. The place teemed with people, inside and out. No one in the crowd stepped back to let the paralyzed man through.



The friends did not give up. They promptly carried their friend up on the roof of the house. Houses were small with outside stairs to the roof. The roof was slightly tilted to let rain run off. Beams spanned the rooftop and tiles covered the beams. Mark 2:4 indicates that branches and grass held together by mud supported an outer covering of clay tiles.

The men knew it would not be hard to remove the tiles. They did so and carefully lowered the mat with their friend down into the room. The crowd stepped aside and the mat came to rest on the floor right in front of Jesus.



Read Luke 5:20. Supply the missing words in the verse.

## JESUS AND THE PARALYZED MAN

“When Jesus saw their \_\_\_\_\_, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are \_\_\_\_\_.’”

Notice that Jesus saw their faith, the faith of the four men, and likely the paralytic who let them bring him to Jesus. Also notice that Jesus forgave the man’s sins before he healed him. Why?

The people of Palestine believed that a person suffered because of his sins. So Jesus told this man first that his sins were forgiven since he might not believe he was healed.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law listened and observed, and they did not like what they heard.



**Read Luke 5:21 and supply the missing words in the verse.**

“Who is this \_\_\_\_\_ who speaks \_\_\_\_\_? Who can forgive \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ alone?”

The Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy against God. Jews considered blasphemy as an attitude of disrespect that found expression in some act directed against the character of God. This was a capital crime with the penalty of death by stoning. They believed only God could forgive sins. They did not believe that Jesus was God’s Son.

Jesus knew their thoughts, and asked them a question.

**Read Luke 5:23 and supply the missing words.**

“Which is easier: to say, ‘Your \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_,’ or to say ‘Get up and \_\_\_\_\_’?”

Healing was perhaps Jesus’ greatest weapon against unbelief. If this paralyzed man was able to walk, the Pharisees should also believe that Jesus could forgive sin!

**Read Luke 5:24-26. Answer the following questions.**

1. How did Jesus demonstrate his authority to forgive sins?

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2. What did the paralyzed man do when Jesus spoke to him?

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3. What was the response of the people to what they saw?

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Jesus has power to forgive sins. He demonstrated his authority to do so by healing the paralyzed man. He told the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home” (Luke 5:24). Immediately the man felt strength surging through his body. Limbs that would not move came to life. The man immediately stood up. He picked up his mat and went home, praising God as he went. The people who witnessed the miracle praised God in wonder and awe.



## APPLICATION

Study the five drawings in this lesson.

Write beside each picture a sentence to describe what was happening in the story.

Four men brought the paralyzed man to Jesus.

Place a check by the feelings you think the men may have had as they carried their friend along.

compassion     love     anger     irritation  
 hope     faith     fear     pity

The men no doubt loved their paralyzed friend. They showed him pity and compassion. They had hope and faith that Jesus could help their friend.

What emotions do you feel when you see a person who needs help?

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What actions do you take?

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The men were determined to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. They carried the man up on the roof and then removed tile from the roof.

Picture yourself as the paralyzed man. Put yourself in his place. What would you be thinking when the men tell you they plan to let you down through the roof?

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What do you think the crowd might be thinking as they saw the paralyzed man being let down through the roof? Place a check beside their possible thoughts.

"Don't drop him!"     "This is disrupting."  
 "Stupid man."     "They must really care."  
 "What will Jesus do?"     "I'm leaving."

What do you think the owner of the house might be thinking as he saw what was taking place? Place a check beside his possible thoughts.

"This is going to cost me."     "This is going to cost them."  
 "What if it rains?"     "I'll make them pay."  
 "It's okay with me."     "I'm glad Jesus is here."

Jesus healed the paralyzed man. The man was healed immediately, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God.

Ask yourself, "Am I paralyzed in some way? Am I paralyzed emotionally? Am I paralyzed spiritually? Am I paralyzed physically? Write the ways you may be experiencing paralysis in your life."

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What kind of "paralysis" do you think is most dangerous? Why?

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Physical and emotional sickness may be healed. Spiritual "paralysis" is eternal if one is not healed through forgiveness of sin by faith in Jesus.

**Read Romans 5:8. Supply the missing words in the verse.**

*“But God demonstrates his own \_\_\_\_\_ for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us.”*

The healed, forgiven man in this story praised God for his goodness and love.

**Think of some ways you can praise God. Write them here.**

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**Write the name of a handicapped person you know.**

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**Think of one thing you can do to make this person smile.**

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**Do you know someone who needs the powerful touch of Jesus to heal a broken heart? Plan to talk to the person. Write what you could say to the person.**

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This story says: *“When Jesus saw their (the four men’s) faith . . .”* Some come to meet Jesus by the faith of those who love them. Prayers reach out and grab hold of the unsaved person and refuse to let go until that person trusts Jesus. You can have such “faith power” through deep love and prayer for someone.

**Write the name of someone you will pray for each day.**

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**Memorize this Bible verse:**

*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life”* (John 3:36a)

Summarize in a sentence or two the main thing God has taught you in your study.

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You can lead your family or a group of friends and neighbors or perhaps a church group in this study of Jesus healing the paralyzed man. Doing so will strengthen your own life, and God will use you to be a blessing to others. The following suggestions will help you lead a small group study.

## **GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY**

Each person in the group has contributions to make. Each person should take part in the discussion. No one should dominate the time together.

**Begin the study with prayer.**

**Read the story of the healing of the paralytic in Luke 5:17-26.**

**Tell the story of what happened in your own words, using the five drawings as visual aids. Take your time and show the drawings to the group as you tell the story. Answer any questions group members may ask.**

**Use with the group the questions and activities under “Application.” Lead each group member to respond.**

**Lead the group in memorizing John 3:36a. Ask volunteers to explain the verse in their own words.**

**Read the section “Responding to God” to the group. Pray the prayer for yourself and help each person to pray it for himself or herself.**



## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

Now that you have studied God's Word, he wants you to respond.

The Bible teaches that you are a sinner. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Rom. 3:23). *"There is no one righteous, not even one"* (Rom. 3:10).

**But God loves you and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sin.** *"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). *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8).

**You receive Christ as your Savior by turning from your sin and placing your faith and trust in him.** *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out"* (Acts 3:19). *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* (Rom. 5:8).

### **Pray this prayer to God:**

*"Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."*

## **Welcome into God's family!**

Share with others that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism by immersion in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.

NOTES: