

Helping Hands  
Children's Lesson  
Greenfield Church of Christ

Today's Bible Lesson comes from "Hands-On Bible Lessons". Mark 2: 1 - 12

This story is about helping people. Many times we use our hands to help people. One day, Jesus went to a town called Capernaum. The people were so excited that they all helped tell everyone the news. They said, "Have you heard? Jesus the teacher has come home to Capernaum." People were packed in a house to listen to Jesus. Houses in Bible times were small, so imagine how crowded it must have been in that house!

There were four men who wanted to help their friend get inside the house to see Jesus. Only Jesus could help this man because this man was paralyzed—he couldn't move his legs at all. The man had to lie on a mat and be carried everywhere he went. He couldn't go anywhere by himself without help. The four friends tried to carry the man inside the door, but there were too many people—they couldn't fit. They looked at the house and wondered how they were going to help their friend get inside. Then they had a great idea. They decided to cut a hole in the roof and let their friend down through the hole. They all helped carry their friend up to the roof. Then they dug and chopped until there was a hole in the roof.

Houses in Bible times were made differently than our houses today. At least two different types of roofs were placed on houses in Capernaum in Jesus' time. One was built by placing something like rafters across the top of the walls and then attaching cross pieces of wood between them. Then tree branches were laid across the cross pieces and covered with dirt and mud. Once baked in the sun, this became a hard, solid roof. The other type of roof consisted of tiles laid across the rafters. Whichever roof was on this house, an opening could not have been made without everyone noticing that something was going on.

What do you think the people inside thought as the four men made a hole in the roof? (I think they were surprised to hear noises coming from the roof; they wondered what all the noise was; I bet they thought the people were rude.)

What do you think Jesus thought? (I think he was surprised; I think he was glad that someone was helping the man.)

How do you think the paralyzed man felt? (He felt good that people were helping him; happy; excited; nervous.)

When the hole was big enough, the four men picked up their friend and carefully lowered him down inside the house. Jesus looked at the paralyzed man. Then he looked up and saw the four friends. Jesus saw that all of them believed that he could help and could heal the paralyzed man. Jesus said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven." Some teachers were angry when Jesus said that. They didn't understand that Jesus is God. They thought that Jesus was pretending to be God. Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked, "Is it easier to forgive sins or to make a paralyzed person walk?" Then Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat, and go home." Immediately the paralyzed man's legs grew strong. He stood up, picked up his mat, and walked out the door. Everyone was amazed at how Jesus had helped

the paralyzed man. They praised God and said, "We have never seen anything like this." The four men knew that their friend needed help, and they did everything they could to make sure he got help.

This week, I want you to think about how you can help others. How can you make others feel loved? Something special happened this week that made me feel loved. My niece and nephew brought flowers over to my house, just to make me smile. My daughter drew beautiful pictures with sidewalk chalk on our driveway so that we had something nice to look at when we were outside, and I had three students send me emails saying hello! What might you do to help someone?

You are loved,  
Ms. Shantelle

### **Baking Fun:**

Work together to help each other bake these cookies. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Blend 1 cup of softened margarine with 1 cup of sugar. Beat in 2¼ cups of flour until a stiff dough forms. Divide the dough into several bowls and add a different color of food coloring to each bowl. Roll out the dough to ¼-inch thickness. Trace around each other's hands with a butter knife. Carefully cut out the hands and put them on an ungreased baking sheet. Use a fork to prick several holes in the cookies. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Pour each other glasses of milk and enjoy the cookies together.

Be sure to help clean up the kitchen when you are done!

### **Art:**



Trace your hand on some colored paper. Cut out your hand and write ways you can help others on your hand. Decorate a door or a window with your helping hands!

**Craft:**

With your parent's permission, go outside and gather some flat, smooth rocks. Paint the rocks with colorful pictures and words. When no one is looking, leave a colored rock on a neighbor's step to help brighten their day and make them feel loved.



**DIY PAINTED ROCKS**

