

Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

The healing power of Jesus

"It's no use, just take me back home," I said to my four friends. The line of people waiting outside the house wound all of the way to the street.

"He's right," a stranger who overheard me agreed. "There's not even room for a fly in there. You won't see the Master today."

Eli, Samuel, Benjamin and Joel sighed wearily. They had carried me on a stretcher all the way from my house.

We had all been eager to meet Jesus, who was known as a miracle worker. Jesus had healed many people and my friends hoped he would help me walk again.

"I wish I were dead," I said forgetting how lucky I was to have good friends. It was hard depending on everyone for things that people with two strong legs take for granted. And I had foolish dreams, too. Every morning I looked from my window and imagined myself leaping and dancing across the fields.

"Wait a minute," Samuel said, stopping the others. "Let's get Nathan up on the roof so we can lower him down into the room where Jesus is teaching."

Getting up on the roof was easy compared to digging through the hard, mud-packed thatch to make a hole large enough to fit me through.

"Hey, what's going on up there?" grumbled people as bits of the roof filtered down on them. When I was

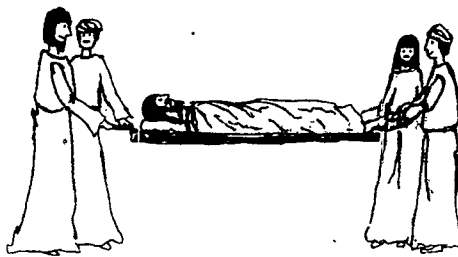
finally lowered through the hole, the complaints were even angrier.

"Who do you think you are, interrupting the Teacher?" someone called out.

My face reddened and I kept my eyes lowered until I landed with a thud. When I looked up, I knew at once that the man smiling at me was Jesus.

"Such faith," Jesus chuckled, glancing up at my companions peering in from the roof. Then he said gently, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

I heard muttering coming from the corner of the room. Jesus changed his tone when he addressed these people. "I know what you are thinking," he said pointedly.



"You've committed blasphemy," his critics charged. "Only God can forgive sins!"

"Which is easier to say," Jesus asked them, "Your sins are forgiven, or 'Get up and walk?' The Son of Man has the authority to do both things."

When they refused to answer him, Jesus turned his attention back to me. "Get up, and go back home."

I felt as shaky as a young colt trying out its legs when I first rose. But soon I was leaping and dancing with the freedom I had always imagined!

As I ran outside to join my friends, I heard everyone praising God for this great miracle.

Read More About It: Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26.

Q & A

1. Would Nathan have met Jesus if it hadn't been for his friends?

2. How can you help others know about Jesus?



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

King Solomon's Wisdom



"Some friendships do not last, but some friends are closer than brothers."
Proverbs 18:24.

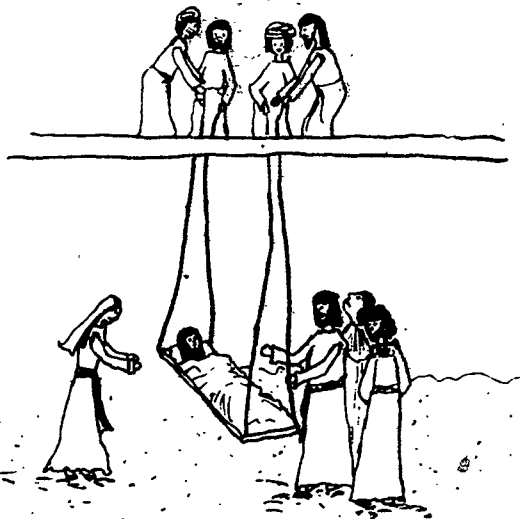
Talking to God

Dear Jesus,
Help me to be a good friend to others. Thank you for being my friend. There is nothing in my life that can't be shared with you.
"O Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. You turned my crying into dancing!"
Psalm 30:2, 11.

Jesus: the miracle worker

Jesus performed miracles to show God's love and as a sign that he was the Messiah. His greatest miracle was his rising from the dead. Match the people from Column 1 with the sickness healed by Jesus in Column 2. The Scriptures listed are where you can look up the stories in the Bible.

Answer key on page 20.



Column 1

- 2 men from Gadarene
- Peter's mother-in-law
- Jairus' daughter
- 10 men from Samaria
- 2 men from Jericho
- Man from Decapolis

Column 2

- fever (Mark 1:29-31)
- leprosy (Luke 17:11-19)
- blindness (Matthew 20:29-34)
- demon possession (Matthew 8:28-34)
- deafness & muteness (Mark 7:31-37)
- death (Mark 5:35-43)



Bible Trivia

Whose ear was healed by Jesus after Peter cut it off?

Send answers to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name and address with your entry.

All entries must be received by April 9, 1992. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and will receive a gift courtesy of The Olive Branch, 6 N. Main St., Fairport, N.Y.

Last month's winner was **Stacey Britt** who correctly answered **Dinah** as the one daughter of Jacob.

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