

Jesus shows he can forgive sins

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Jesus had been traveling and preaching around the country. Within a few days after he had returned to Capernaum, word quickly spread that he was there. Many people came to hear Jesus preach, others came to be healed.

Four men who had come were carrying a paralyzed man, hoping Jesus would heal their friend. They could not even get close to Jesus, because there were too many people in the way. But these men were determined to see Jesus. They pushed their way through the crowd around to the back of the house. Two of them climbed up on the roof and pulled back the roofing material. Then they pulled their friend up onto the roof. They lowered him down into the house by ropes tied to the mat he was on, and they showed him to Jesus.

Jesus was impressed by the faith and determination of the men. He looked at the paralyzed man and said, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

There were scribes listening who did not like some of the things Jesus had been saying or doing. They said to each other, "Why does this man speak this way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

While the scribes were saying these things to themselves, Jesus knew what was in their hearts. So he asked them, "Why are you thinking such things? Which is easier to say to the paralytic, 'Your



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'" Jesus looked directly at the scribes and he pointed at them with his finger. "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" Jesus paused and held out an open hand toward the paralyzed man. "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home."

The man immediately stood up, completely healed. He obeyed Jesus by picking up his mat and walked through the crowd toward his home. The man and his friends thanked Jesus for his kindness. Many of the people who had seen the man rise up were amazed, and they glorified God.

Someone said, "We have never seen anything like this."

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Mark 2

1. Why did the men climb on the roof?
2. What did the scribes think about what Jesus had done?

Kids' Chronicle

Bible Accent

Iraq has been in world news recently. In Biblical times, that area was Mesopotamia, "the land between two rivers." The rivers are the Tigris and the Euphrates. The earliest civilization discovered by archaeologists was in Iraq. Some historians believe the garden of Eden may have been in the southern part of the country.

One of the world's first collection of laws was written when Babylonians ruled the region. It is believed that the first written language was developed here.

Because Iraq is primarily a desert country, it has to trade with other countries for wood, stone and metal ores. It is, however, situated on one of the richest supplies of oil in the world.

St. Blaise

St. Blaise was a bishop in Armenia. During a time of persecution of Christians, he had to hide in a cave in a remote part of the mountains. There were a number of wild animals there. When any of them were injured, Blaise prayed for their healing.

When hunters discovered Blaise among the animals, they brought him to a nearby city. When a woman brought him her son who was choking on a fishbone, Blaise prayed and the boy was healed. The governor, however, did not like what Blaise was doing, so he ordered him thrown into prison where he eventually died. Throats are blessed in church in the name of St. Blaise, and we honor him on Feb. 3.

Kids' Club



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **How can we show people we care about them even when they hurt us?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is Feb. 20. The winner will be notified by phone. The winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Matt Howie, a sixth-grader at Mother of Sorrows School in Greece. In response to **What do you plan to do in 2003 that will help you improve as a Christian?** he wrote, "In 2003 I plan to do many things that will help me improve as a Christian. I will be preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation. This will help me grow in my faith and be united with the Holy Spirit. I will be more active in the youth group. I plan to do good deeds and act nice to everyone. I will continue to be an active Boy Scout in Mother of Sorrows Troop 130. Altar serving is also what I'll keep on doing. I will also follow the Ten Commandments and the works of mercy."

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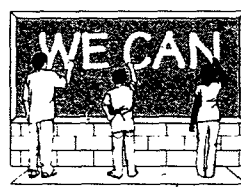
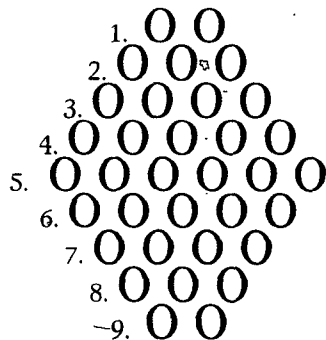
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Puzzle

Fill in the circles with the correct letters to complete the diagram. *Answers on page 4.*

1. " _ _ the beginning."
2. Not a Gentile.
3. _ _ _ _ the Baptist.
4. Holy Scriptures.
5. A crib for Jesus.
6. The "rock" disciple of Jesus.
7. He built a big boat.
8. Adam's wife.
9. "I _ _ the light."



HOPE HALL

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- Is your child experiencing failure and frustration in school?
- Does your child learn at a slower rate than other children and find it hard to keep up with fast paced, large group instruction?
- Does your child lack organizational skills and study skills?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, consider an alternative school that works.

HOPE HALL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday February 9, 2003

1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Presentation from 1:45 P.M. to 2:15 P.M.

Tours before and after the Presentation