

Paralyzed man

[from Luke 5:17-26]

*Note to leader: In this story, the word **disobedience** has been used instead of **sin** because in many languages, there is not a translation for the word **sin**. Also, this is an accurate re-telling of the story, like the missionaries use, but not a direct reading from the Bible.*

One day, Jesus was teaching a large crowd of people and He was teaching them from inside a house. As He was teaching, a group of men came up to the house, and these men were (*pause*) carrying their friend between them on a mat because their friend couldn't walk. They were trying to bring their friend to Jesus, but (*pause*) they couldn't reach Jesus because the crowd was so large.

So instead, they crawled onto the roof of the house. They took some tiles off of the roof and they (*pause*) lowered their friend through the roof until He was right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw the belief that these men had, He turned to the man who couldn't walk and He said, (*pause*) "Friend, your disobedience is forgiven."

When the religious leaders heard what Jesus said, they were shocked and they thought to themselves, (*pause*) *How could Jesus say this? Only God has the authority to forgive disobedience.*

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He turned to them and He asked them a question. He asked, (*pause*) "Which is easier to say, 'Your disobedience is forgiven,' or 'get up and walk'? I'm going to prove to you that I have the authority to forgive disobedience."

So He turned to the man who couldn't walk and He said, (*pause*) "Get up, pick up your mat, and go home." So the man (*pause*) jumped up, picked up his mat and He walked home, praising and thanking God. And everyone (*pause*) was amazed.

