

Whether called the story of  
*A Paralyzed Man Cured*, or  
*A Paralytic at Capernaum*, the meaning is  
the same in three of the Gospels. Below,  
please read the story from the  
Book of Mark.

“When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ‘Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, ‘Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to say, “Stand up and take your mat and walk”? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the paralytic— ‘I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.’ And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this!’”

(Mk 2:1-12, NRSV)

Other versions can be found in the Books of:  
Matthew 9: 1-8 and Luke 5: 17-26



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# Miracles on the Run

For You and Your Child

By Beth Belcher

## A Paralytic at Capernaum



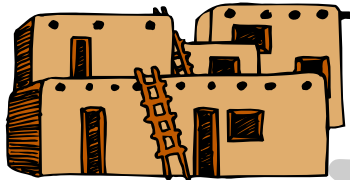
Can you remember a time when you were paralyzed with fear? Or a time when you thought that you were in a hopeless situation? Did you ever wonder if God could really do the impossible? In this Miracle story, Jesus shows us that no matter how many people there are in the world, each person is important to him. Jesus shows us that He has power over illness and that the faithfulness of others is just as important as our faithfulness. Sometimes our friends and families can bring us to Christ even when we don't have the capacity. Inside please find some ideas of how you can help your child to know that he is just as important to God as the holiest person in the world. And you can let your child know that she is just as important in your life as her other brothers and sisters.

# A Paralytic at Capernaum

Once there was a man who was paralyzed. His life was very hard because there was nothing for him to do but beg, or depend upon social services to help him. He had good friends who tried to help him, but no doctor could heal him and no friend could take away the man's problem, no matter how much they wanted to.

One day, the town heard that Jesus was coming to visit. The paralyzed man knew that this was his one chance to be healed, since the miracles of Jesus were known throughout the area. The man's four friends agreed that Jesus could make a difference.

So, they brought the man to the house where Jesus was staying, but when they got there, there was no room for them to get in. People were everywhere! They thought that they would not be able to get their friend inside and then they had a thought! Let's lower our paralyzed friend through the roof—right in front of Jesus!



And that is what they did.

As soon as Jesus saw the faith of the man and his friends, he told the man his sins were forgiven; but the scribes who were wondering what authority Jesus had that made him able to say that. Little did they know that Jesus had power over sickness; both of body and soul. So Jesus said aloud that he had the authority to heal and told everyone in the room, including the scribes, "Which is easier, to forgive sins or to say to the paralyzed man, 'Pick up your mat and walk?' When the man heard Jesus tell him to stand—he did!

He picked up his mat and went home and he and his friends rejoiced, and all in the house said, "We have never seen anything like this!"

## What Does This Story Mean?

\*The paralyzed man represents all of us at different times in our lives, when we are incapacitated either physically or spiritually

\*The friends who lower the man in front of Jesus are like our friends who love us and help us by praying for us or by bringing us to Christ through celebrating Mass with us, or by simply being there for us



\*Jesus has authority over sickness of the soul, or sin. When we come in front of Him in the Reconciliation Room, we are



lowered or humbled in His presence. We are able to present ourselves to Him in our entirety; the good and the bad, searching for forgiveness and greater union with the Father.

It is only when we are supported in our need to be healed that we can become truly the people God is calling us to be.

\*Parents do their children a great favor when they take them to the sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis. Parents become more forgiving of their children's mistakes when they are used to being forgiven of their own.

