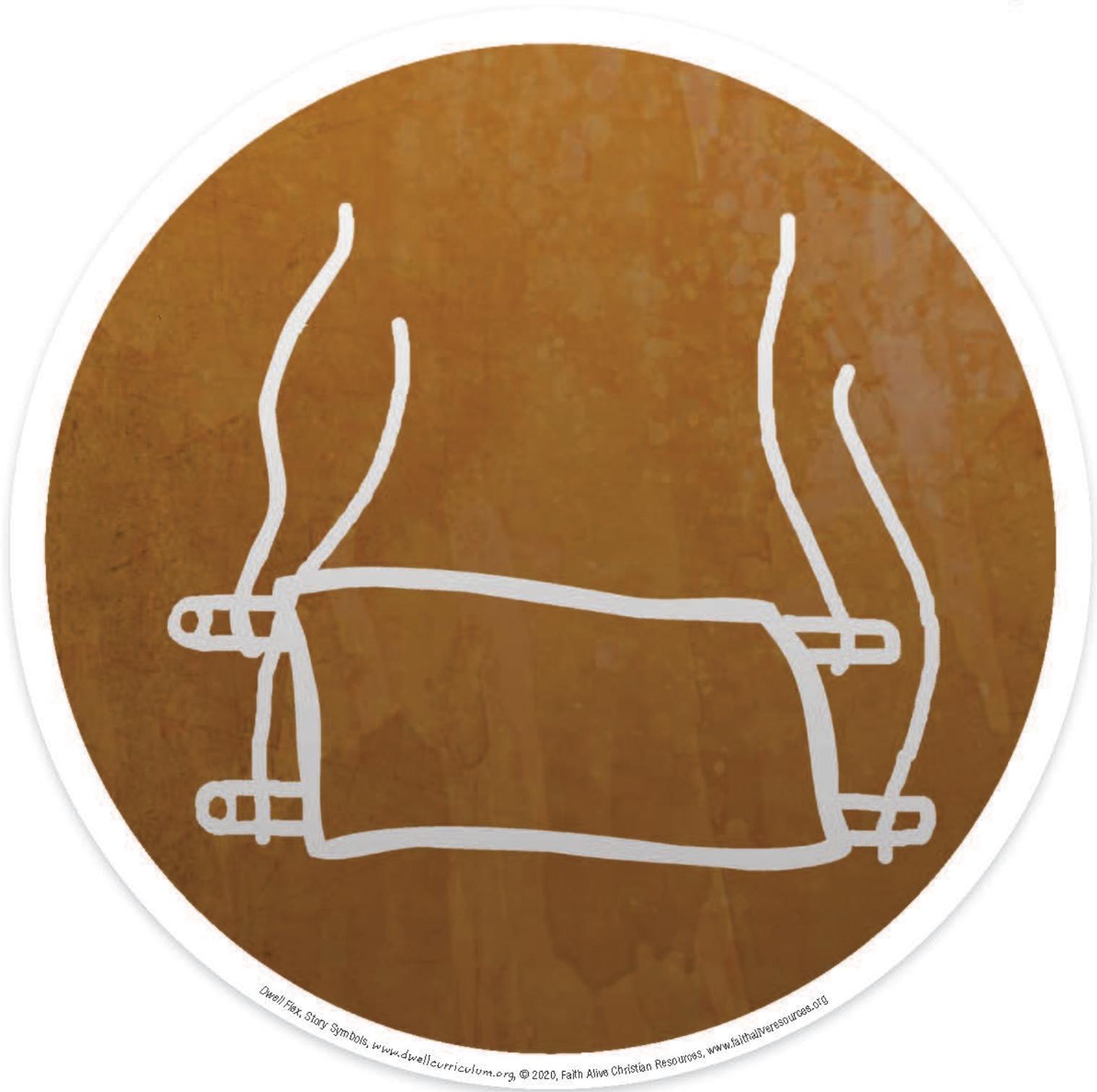


14. Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't Walk



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Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't Walk

Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. (*Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.*)

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? (*Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.*)

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't Walk" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NirV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Close with this responsive prayer:

Dear Jesus, you have amazing power.

We trust you, Jesus!

You have the power to heal us when we're sick.

We trust you, Jesus!

You have the power to heal us when we're sad.

We trust you, Jesus!

You have the power to heal our hearts when we do wrong.

We trust you, Jesus!

You care for us and provide for all our needs!

We trust you, Jesus! Amen.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #95 or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

**God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.*

Easy Extra

Have children color in [these story pictures](#) to make their own booklet of today's story. Older children may like to write a caption on each image to help retell the story.

Story: Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't Walk [Luke 5:17-26](#)

It was a busy day in the town of Capernaum. So many people had come to hear Jesus teach. They'd come from villages all over. What's more, they were not on the hillside somewhere where there would be lots of room. They were crammed into a house! That's right—all those people were trying to get into ONE house to listen to Jesus.

People stood in the doorways. They stood outside the open windows trying to hear what Jesus said. They stood on tiptoes to see him. Some even hung around the outside, hoping just to see Jesus. **Have you ever been in a crowd like that. How does it feel?** *(Pause for responses.)*

While everyone was squishing their bodies into the house to hear Jesus, four friends were lifting their buddy up off the ground. He couldn't walk. After hearing about all the wonderful things Jesus said and did, the friends decided to carry him to the house where Jesus was teaching. They thought they could walk right in. Sounds simple, right?

But when they got to the house, they could barely get near it. So they laid the stretcher down on the ground and looked around until they thought of another plan. They spied the stairs that went up to the flat roof of the house. They figured they could carry their buddy up to the roof and then pull the mud and twigs off of the roof to make a big hole. Then they could carefully dangle him down through the roof! **I wonder why the**

man and his friends didn't just give up and go home when they saw the crowds around Jesus? *(Pause for responses.)*

The friends carried the man up the stairs and set him down to dig into the roof with their hands. They tore out clods of mud and sticks and piled them up until there was enough room to send their buddy down.

I wonder what the people in the house thought when they heard people walking around on the roof. *(Pause for responses.)*

I wonder what they thought when they saw a stretcher being lowered through the roof. *(Pause for responses.)*

After the huge commotion settled down, Jesus and the man on the mat looked at each other.

I wonder what the man on the mat was thinking about then. *(Pause for responses.)*

Jesus looked at the man. But he also looked at the friends still up on the roof with their heads peering over the hole to see and hear what would happen. Jesus saw their great faith—faith to believe Jesus could help their friend. So Jesus looked back at the man and said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” **Wait a minute—what did Jesus say?** *(Pause for responses.)* **Tell me—what did the four men want Jesus to do for their friend?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Hmm. The four men brought their friend so Jesus would heal his body, but Jesus healed his heart—he made it clean—and forgave his sins.

I wonder if the man and his four friends were disappointed. *(Pause for responses.)*

The Bible doesn't tell us what the man and his friends thought. But it does tell us what the Pharisees and temple leaders thought about it. They were surprised. Shocked! Furious! But they didn't say a word. Their faces were covered with deep frowns. That's because they were all thinking that Jesus was in deep trouble for forgiving sins. They believed only God could do that.

Jesus knew exactly what the Pharisees were thinking. So he said to them, “Why are you thinking these thoughts? Which do you think is easier? To forgive this man's sins or to tell him to get up and walk? Just so you know that the Son of God has the power to forgive sins, I am going to do something. . . .” Jesus turned to the man on the stretcher and said, “Get up, pick up your stretcher and go home.”

Immediately after the words left Jesus' mouth, the man—who hadn't used his leg muscles for years and years—jumped off the stretcher, rolled it up, and ran toward home, praising God all the way! This is how this part of God's story ends: *(Open the Bible and read [Luke 5:26](#).)*

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Kindergarten-1st Grade: A Man Who Can't Walk Learns about Jesus](#)
 - [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't Walk](#)
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