GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Four Friends and a Roof

Mark 2:1-12



YOUR BIBLE READING

Jesus has authority to forgive, and friends can help someone reach needed care.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Way Through the Roof

Mark 2:1-12



Jesus returned to Capernaum, and people heard that he was at home. Soon so many gathered that there was no room, not even around the doorway. He spoke the word to them while the house filled with listeners. The crowd had come to hear, but its size created a barrier for others. A place full of people could still be difficult for someone who needed help reaching the person inside.

Four people arrived carrying a man who was paralyzed. He could not walk to Jesus, and the crowd prevented the group from bringing him through the usual entrance. Mark does not give their names or explain how the paralysis began. The man's need and the companions' practical help are clear. They had brought him on a mat and now faced the problem of getting near Jesus in a house where the way was blocked.

They went above the room and opened the roof where Jesus was. After breaking through it, they lowered the mat with the man lying on it. The account describes determined action, but does not tell us about the roof's later repair or every response in the room. We can follow what is given: the four companions found another way, and the man came down into the place where Jesus was teaching.

Jesus saw their faith and spoke to the man with a tender form of address. He told him that his sins were forgiven. These words introduced something the companions had not been described as asking for. The man was being met as a whole person, not merely as a difficulty to be solved at the doorway. Yet the words also raised a serious question among some teachers of the law who were sitting there and listening.

Remember: Caring friends find ways to help.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Authority Seen in the Room

Mark 2:1-12



The teachers of the law questioned Jesus inwardly. They believed only God could forgive sins and wondered how Jesus could speak this way. Their concern was about his authority, not about whether the roof had been opened correctly. Mark tells us that Jesus knew what they were reasoning in their hearts. He addressed the question directly, bringing their unspoken objection into the conversation happening in front of the man and the gathered people.

Jesus asked which was easier: to tell the man that his sins were forgiven, or to tell him to get up, take his mat, and walk. A spoken claim about forgiveness could not be inspected by the crowd in the same way that walking could. Jesus said he would show that the Son of Man had authority on earth to forgive sins. Then he turned his words into an instruction directed to the man himself.

He told the man to rise, take up his mat, and go home. The man got up immediately. He picked up the mat on which he had been carried and walked out in front of everyone. The change was visible to those in the room. What had brought him into the house was now something he could carry away. The account presents an extraordinary healing together with Jesus' declaration of authority to forgive.

The people were amazed and glorified God. They said they had never seen anything like it. The scene ends with praise rather than a detailed account of the man's later day at home. The crowd had witnessed the companions' faith, heard Jesus' words, and seen the man walk. The story does not say paralysis was caused by his particular sins. Its focus is on Jesus' authority, the forgiveness he announced, and the life-changing help given in the crowded house.

Pause and think: What barrier could your group remove so another person can participate with dignity and safety?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Making a Way for Another Person



The companions noticed a barrier and acted together. In our lives, helping someone participate may mean clearing a path, choosing an accessible room, or asking what arrangement would be useful. It does not mean copying a dangerous climb or damaging a roof. Children should seek adult guidance about safe ways to help. Thoughtful care begins with the person's needs rather than with a plan designed to look impressive.

The man was more than his inability to walk. The passage does not give us a reason to blame him for his paralysis. Disability is not proof of wrongdoing, and a person's worth does not depend on being healed. We can read about this particular miracle while treating disabled people with dignity now, listening to their preferences and including them as people with voices and choices of their own.

Jesus' words of forgiveness led to a question about who he was. The visible healing answered that question within the account. For readers, the story invites attention to both practical help and spiritual authority. The companions brought their friend, but they did not control what Jesus would say. Their part was faithful care that helped him come near.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Jesus met the man with forgiveness and healing, while the companions' practical faith helped him overcome a barrier.

What barrier could your group remove so another person can participate with dignity and safety?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. How did the friends bring the man near Jesus?

2. What did the man carry as he walked out?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Jesus forgives and heals him, and he walks out.
- ☐ Four friends arrive at a crowded house.
- ☐ They lower the man through the roof to Jesus.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw four friends helping lower a mat through the roof.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Caring friends find ways to help.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Mark 2:3-5

A thoughtful conversation

Forgiveness and healing both occur, but the passage does not say the man's disability was caused by his sins. Never imply that disability means wrongdoing or weak faith. Do not imitate roof climbing.

Activity answers

1. They lowered him through an opening in the roof.
2. His mat.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

Jesus, help us be friends who notice needs and offer care. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Mark 2:1-12. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 41_Mk_02_06_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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