

Extreme Faith Makeover

The Scene: a yard

The Simple Setup: an empty stage

For Extra Impact: If possible, do this skit near an entrance or in front of a door.

Bible Story
Jesus Heals a
Paralyzed Man

Scripture
Mark 2:1-12

The Characters

Narrator: a friendly storyteller

Friend 1: a guy or girl

Friend 2: a guy or girl

Law Professor: a guy or girl

Crowd: kids who will group together as if trying to enter a house

The Skit

After you've assigned the roles of Friend 1, Friend 2, and the Law Professor, ask the other children to play the role of the Crowd.

As the skit starts, have the Crowd center stage, tightly packed together. The Law Professor will be at the back of the Crowd. Friend 1 and Friend 2 will enter from stage right, holding two ends of a mat or sleeping bag.



Start the "Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry* CD (track 28). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

Narrator: WELCOME to Capernaum. Jesus has come today, and people are PACKING the streets leading to the home where he's teaching. It's standing room ONLY. Actually, even STANDING is hard with so many people rushing to see Jesus. Outside the house where Jesus is, there's a crush of people hoping to SEE Jesus, to TALK with him, and perhaps to be HEALED by him.

Too late to get into the house, some men have arrived carrying a paralyzed friend on a mat.

Friend 1: EXCUSE us. COMING through. STEP aside, please.

Law Professor: Hey, no cutting in line! We've been waiting here since FIVE THIS MORNING!

Friend 2: Sorry, but our friend can't walk. We NEED to see Jesus.

Law Professor: So does everyone ELSE in line. What you need to do is WAIT YOUR TURN, just like everyone else.

Narrator: The Friends tried getting around the crowd by moving LEFT, but the Crowd moved left to BLOCK them. Then the Friends tried going RIGHT, but the Crowd moved RIGHT. There was NO WAY the Friends were going to cut into the line.

Friend 2: What are we going to do?

Friend 1: Well, we can't QUIT. We've GOT to see Jesus! It's the only hope our buddy has of ever walking again. We should try begging.

Friend 2: You think that'll WORK?

Friend 1: What have we got to LOSE?

Friend 2: Ahem...my dear friends! I know you all have your reasons to see Jesus. I know you've been waiting a long time. But hear me: Our buddy here can't move at ALL—he's PARALYZED! Certainly that MUST earn him a place at the front of the line. Please—I BEG you—let us in! Let us in!

Law Professor: Not by the hair on our chinny-chin-chins.

Friend 1: Great job. I laughed. I cried. It moved me...but it didn't move THEM.

Narrator: Again the Friends tried to inch closer to the door, but nobody would move. The Crowd just pushed them back every time they tried to elbow their way through the Crowd. The Friends were totally BLOCKED.

Law Professor: WE know our rights! We were here FIRST. Go to the end of the line!

Friend 1: This is so hard. We're so CLOSE!

Friend 2: We can't give up, THAT'S for sure!

Friend 1: I wish we could think of SOME way to get inside.

Law Professor: You and everyone ELSE. What makes YOU so special? Rules are rules, pal!

Friend 1: That guy is REALLY beginning to BUG me.

Friend 2: And you never have bug spray when you really NEED it, do you?

Narrator: The Friends looked at each other and at the crowd. Their arms ached and their paralyzed friend was getting heavy. Would he understand if they didn't see Jesus? If they gave up, what chance did their buddy have to ever get well again?

Friend 2: It's hopeless. We can't go OVER them, can't go UNDER them, can't go AROUND them, and can't go THROUGH them. Let's call it a day.

Friend 1: What did you say?

Law Professor: He said, "Can't go OVER them, can't go..."

Friend 2: I said "Let's call it a day." As in, I give up.

Friend 1: But that's IT! We'll go OVER the crowd!

Friend 2: Great idea!

(Friend 1 and Friend 2 lift the mat over the Crowd and set it behind the Crowd while the Narrator talks.)

Narrator: So the Friends lifted the mat over their heads and found stairs up to the roof of the house where Jesus was teaching. The Crowd didn't try to stop the Friends, because nobody else wanted to get on the roof.

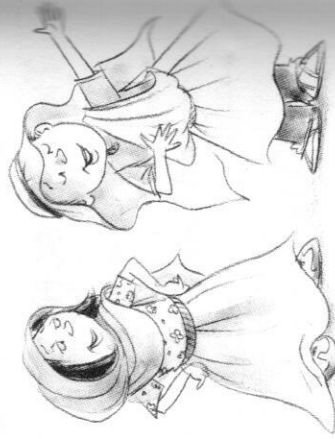
Law Professor: Hey! THERE'S an idea! If you can't get to the front of the RIGHT line, go be first in the WRONG line!

Narrator: The Crowd laughed and pointed at the Friends. But what the crowd couldn't see was that up on the flat roof of the house, the men were cutting a hole in the roof. When the hole was big enough, they lowered their buddy's mat down to where Jesus stood.

Friend 1: Coming down! Everyone watch out!

Narrator: The Crowd pressing around Jesus was surprised—and so was the guy who owned the house! The mat settled to the floor in front of the astonished Crowd.

(Friends arrange the mat or sleeping bag on the floor.)



Narrator: The CROWD couldn't believe the Friends' persistence. What would JESUS say?

Law Professor: (*calling*) Hey, Jesus—tell them to get back in line!

narrator: But Jesus saw the Friends' faith and said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Jesus healed the paralyzed man's WORST injury first. Not only did the HOUSE get an extreme makeover, but so did the paralyzed man!

Law Professor: Hold EVERYTHING! STOP the presses! Jesus, you can't DO that. You can't forgive sins—only GOD can do that!

narrator: Jesus told the Crowd that it was just as hard to forgive sins as to heal, but HE could do both. Some people in the crowd weren't convinced, so Jesus looked down at the paralyzed man. He told the man to walk, and THE PARALYZED MAN GOT UP AND WALKED! The Friends started jumping up and down, clapping their hands with joy!

Law Professor: I...I can't BELIEVE it!

Friend 1: Maybe YOU can't...

Friend 2: But WE can!

Friends 1 and 2: THANK you, Jesus!



To Talk About

- ◆ **The paralyzed man's friends never quit trying to help him. Share a time someone didn't give up trying to help you—how did it make you feel? How do you keep trying to do what's right when it gets hard?**
- ◆ **Jesus healed the man of his sins first, because of the faith of the friends. Why do you think Jesus did this? How do you make Jesus the most important part of your life?**
- ◆ **Tell about a time you helped a friend. What did you do?**

Topical Tie-Ins: Perseverance, Faith, Friendship