

## CHILDRENS LESSON

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### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

As you prepare to teach, read through the entire chapter of Luke 5. Even though our story this week focuses on Jesus healing the paralytic, it is important to know what comes directly before and after this teaching.

Think about some of your best friends. Some of these friendships may have ended in some not-so-great ways, but we all need friends in this life. These friends sacrificed time, effort, possible embarrassment, and a ton of energy to make sure their friend got to meet Jesus. These friends fit right into the Reach Texas Missions theme this year "All things... All people... Reach Texas." They truly became everything to their friend to help him reach Jesus.

As you lead the lesson and activities, help the students think of ways that they can help tell others about Jesus. It won't be carrying a paralyzed friend on a mat to the feet of Jesus but help them think of easy and practical ways they can lead others to Jesus this week. Make sure to mention the Reach Texas State Offering and encourage them to participate. This missions offering helps become all things to all people so that they may know Jesus.

If your students did not bring money to give financially today, help them make a plan to do so later on. Help them with some ideas on how to raise some money to be able to give. Maybe they can do extra chores around the house, donate some of their allowance, have a lemonade stand, etc.

Finally, make sure every student walks away from your lesson with the knowledge that Jesus is commanding them to bring their friends to Him. This won't look exactly like the story but help students think of practical ways that they can accomplish this throughout the week. Maybe they need to tell a friend at school about Jesus, invite them to church, be kind to someone who is sitting by themselves, etc. Help them understand that when we display the fruit of the Spirit, we are showing Christ's love.

Make sure to look through this entire guide and pick a few of the application activities to complete in your class. You can edit the order and flow of the lesson to fit what your classroom is normally used to. We can't wait to hear all about how your children are reaching their friends and neighbors for Jesus!

## INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY “OK SIGN” - 5 MINUTES

### Supplies Needed

- Nothing

As students are arriving, explain that you have a special challenge for them today. Make an “OK” sign with one hand. Challenge them to do the same and then poke their head through the hole that their thumb and finger make. Let them try for a while and then when most of the kids have arrived encourage them to figure out how to do it. Finally, poke your head with a finger through the hole, not actually squeezing your whole head through the hole.

**Say:** “Today we are going to talk about how Jesus did something impossible. Even though this task wasn’t impossible for us, there are some things that are impossible for us. Let’s hear our story to learn what did Jesus that seems impossible!”

## BIBLE LESSON 8-10 MINUTES

### Supplies Needed

- A Bible for every student
- A Chair
- A Large Blanket
- Poster board with 1 Corinthians 9:22 written on it

Have every student join you in a circle and make sure they all bring their Bible (or grab one off the shelf). Begin by asking them to list some things that are impossible. Allow a few kids to answer something that is impossible. If they are struggling to think of any, have them think of some superhero movies or books they have read (i.e. flying, being invisible, transforming, super strength, reading minds, etc.). “Today we are going to learn about something impossible that Jesus did. Open your Bibles to Luke 5:17-26. Let’s read the story aloud.”

\*\*If you have mostly younger elementary kids, feel free to add some speaking cues into the story. Divide the children into various groups: the friends, Jesus, the Pharisees. Give them some speaking cues so that every time you mention their person or group of people, they must respond with a phrase.

Friends- “I am a good friend.”

Pharisees- “I don’t believe this.”

Jesus- “I love you.”

After reading the story, ask the students what they thought about the story, specifically what they thought about the friends. Do they think it was easy or hard to carry their friend up to the roof, dig a hole, and carefully lower their friend through it?

“In our story today, it was four friends who helped the paralyzed man get to Jesus. Do you think it could have worked with only two or three friends? (allow a few kids to answer) Let’s find out!” Set a chair on top of the blanket. Invite two friends in the room to come and see if they can pick up the chair WITHOUT it falling over. Repeat the same process with three friends. Repeat one more time with four friends (one holding each corner of the blanket).

**Say:** “It didn’t work with two or three friends. It needed all four friends to make it happen. It takes all of us working hard to be all things to all people to reach them for Jesus. It doesn’t work nearly as well with only one person trying to reach their friends for Jesus. We all have to work hard to help people find Jesus. Let’s read our key verse for today that talks about this.”

Encourage all your students to open their Bibles to 1 Corinthians 9:22. Ask for a volunteer to read it aloud to the group. If any other student has a different version, allow them time to read their version in their Bible.

**1 Corinthians 9:22 (CSB):** “To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some.”

“Jesus’ command was to go into all the nations and tell everyone about Him and His story. He wants His followers to tell others about how much He loves them (enough to die a brutal death for them). Jesus also wants us to baptize them and teach them everything Jesus has taught us. This special Reach Texas Offering that we are celebrating today helps do exactly that! It helps churches around the entire state of Texas tell others about the good news of Jesus. By giving money towards this offering, we are helping spread the word of Jesus all around our state!”

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS 10 MINUTES

Ask the following questions to your group to help facilitate conversation and application.

### 1. What did the four friends do to show their friend how much they loved him?

They carried him on a mat to Jesus. They had to lift him on the roof, dig a hole, and lower him to Jesus.

### 2. What is a Pharisee or a teacher of the law and why is it important that they were there?

They were the religious of the leaders of the time and didn't believe that Jesus had the power from God to heal people and forgive sins.

### 3. Did Jesus have the power to forgive their sin?

Yes! He is the Son of God and has God's power in Him.

### 4. What is one way we can bring we can “bring our friends to Jesus”?

Bringing our friends to Jesus probably won't mean carrying our friends on a mat to the feet of the Jesus, but we can do other things to help them meet Jesus. Encourage them to think of ways they can love others with the love of Jesus this week. Make sure they are practical.

### 5. Who is one person this week you can tell about Jesus?

Allow students to share someone in their lives who may not know about Jesus.

Finish out the small group time with prayer that we would all be bold to tell others about Jesus and that God would work in the hearts of those we will tell.

## APPLICATION ACTIVITIES \*Feel free to choose as many activities as time allows.

### ACTIVITY 1 “Build a Tower”

#### Supplies Needed

- Building supplies (Legos, blocks, etc.)

**Say:** “Let's build a tower together. A huge part of our story today was how the friends worked so hard to connect their friend to Jesus. They sweat a whole bunch, dug a hole, and climbed on top of a roof. As we build our tower, let's talk about different ways that we cannot ourselves and others to Jesus.”

Work together to build a single tall tower together. Every time someone adds a block to the tower, they can share a way that they can connect themselves or others to Jesus. If they need help, have the whole group work together to think of new ways.

**ACTIVITY 2 “Carry Your Friend”****Supplies Needed**

- A Big Blanket

Pick one person in your group to play the role of the paralyzed friend. They must lay on the ground on the blanket. Four of their friends from the classroom will each pick up a side of the blanket and try to carry him across the room. Make sure they don't carry their friend too far above the ground in case they fall.

Give everyone in the room a chance to be the friend that gets carried. Remind them take it takes all four of the friends to work equally hard or else the friend falls off the blanket.

**Say:** “We all had to work together to carry our friend across the room. It wasn't easy, and we were just walking straight across the room. Imagine trying to climb a ladder, dig a hole, and lower your friend through the hole. It would be so much harder. These friends knew the importance of getting their friend to Jesus. Although we may not need to carry one of our friends' on the mat to Jesus, we can work hard this week to show the love of Jesus to those around us.”

**ACTIVITY 3 “1 Corinthians 9:22”****Supplies Needed**

- Large Poster board or butcher paper 1 Corinthians 9:22
- Pieces of the key passage to hid around the room

Show your students the key passage poster. Work hard on saying the key passage together. After the group has said it a few times together, take the pieces of the key passage and hid them around the room while all the students have their eyes closed.

They must work as quickly as possible to find all the pieces and put them in the correct order. If time permits, play boys versus girls and allow different groups of kids to hid the key passage pieces around the room.

**Say:** This verse reminds us that Paul worked hard to meet people's needs in order to tell them about Jesus. Sometimes people need to see kindness, love, and goodness prior to hearing the good news of Jesus. Once we have worked hard to be a friend to them, we can share the love of Jesus with them.

**ACTIVITY 4 “Create a Reminder”****Supplies Needed**

- Craft Sticks (5 per student)
- A piece of cloth (a few per student)
- Glue
- Scissors and Markers

Give each child 5 craft sticks and a piece of cloth. They can decorate their craft sticks to represent each person (and could even do one to represent Jesus if desired). Then they can glue the craft sticks onto the cloth to make the story more probable.

After everyone has finished decorating their people, have them share with a partner what they are going to do this week to become all things to all people in order to help them know Jesus.

**Say:** Jesus calls us to tell everyone about Him. This includes people all over Texas. This special offering that we are celebrating today helps equip churches all over the state of Texas to go out into their cities and neighborhoods to tell people about Jesus.