

Reality – Bible Lesson for May 31, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

New Testament

Section Two: His Love for All People

Lesson 1: Healing – Through the Roof

1. **Lesson: Through the Roof**
2. **Scripture:** Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26
3. **Memory Verse:** "The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need." Psalm 23:1
4. **Mission Story:** Betty Greene – Part 1
5. **Bible Skills:** Next week
6. **Materials needed for teaching the lesson - Bible Story – Prepare this in advance:** one sheet of white poster board cut into 4 equal strips (make each strip about 18 - 22 inches long and about three inches wide); 3 paper brads; single hole punch (directions below)

Bible Story Instructions on Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX5xUpXHUNE>

Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUHiRy1aCFY>

Crossroad Kids:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWDgdPiNpz0>

1.Prayer: Pray with your children – then introduce the story:

2.Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

(This is a simple and great way to tell this story! You just have to look carefully at what the woman on the video does and, using paper strips and paper brads, repeat her design and actions. Particularly notice how she forms the Cross at the end.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX5xUpXHUNE>

Now tell the story in greater detail (or use the paper strips as you use this script) = Today's story is about a man who was paralyzed. That means he could not move his arms or legs. He could not walk or sit; all he could do was lay still. He was completely unable to help himself. He could not get to Jesus on his own. There are many people today who are paralyzed who are still able to do many things. But back then, it would have been a very difficult way to live. This man did have a very important

thing going for him...he had determined friends who were walking by faith. They were willing to carry their friend to Christ.

Jesus had been in the city of Capernaum but left and went to other towns in Galilee because the crowds around Him had grown very large. **Mark 1:45** tells us that Jesus was surrounded by people so that He "could no longer enter a town openly. He stayed outside in lonely places..." He then came back to the city and went to a friend's home. It may have been Peter's house. People were excited whenever they knew Jesus was in their area because they wanted to see a miracle or ask Jesus to heal them. But this wasn't the main ministry of Jesus. He wanted to teach people about God's Word and His Kingdom.

So many came to hear Jesus that the house was filled and there were even people standing outside the door and in the yard. **(Mark 2:2)** They were standing wherever they could and still hear Jesus' voice. Even Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come to hear Jesus teach. **(Luke 5:17)** All the people kept squeezing and pushing in until there was absolutely no way anyone else would fit. That's when it got interesting.

Four men heard that Jesus was in town and decided to carry their paralyzed friend on a mat to see Jesus and be healed. **(Mark 2:3)** The mat would have been some sort of lightweight pallet. When they got to the house, it seemed impossible to get through. We can imagine the look on the faces of the four friends when they got to the edge of the crowd and saw that there was no hope of passing through the mass of people. They could have told their friend that it just wouldn't work – that they would have to come back another day, but they weren't ready to give up. The friends looked up at the roof of the house where Jesus was teaching.

Houses were designed with flat roofs. Roofs were generally constructed of beams covered by branches and a thick layer of mud plaster. Grass could even be seen growing on the roofs. It would not have been difficult to remove the beams and replace them again. Families would even sit or sleep on the roof in the summer or use it to dry raisins, flax, etc. in the sun. There would have been a staircase or a type of ladder leading from the ground to the rooftop.

It could not have been easy to hoist their friend up the stairs and onto the roof and then guess where Jesus was teaching down below. The four men made a hole in the roof, large enough for their friend and his mat and lowered him down to Jesus – probably using fishing ropes that were laying nearby. Their faith was strong – they knew it would be much harder to pull him back up through the hole they had made so they must have counted on him walking out of there.

Imagine listening carefully to Jesus when all of a sudden there is a lot of noise above you. The ceiling starts to crumble a bit and then a huge hole breaks through and a man is lowered down in front of you. **(Luke 5:19)** Jesus saw the faith of the paralyzed man but He also saw the faith of his four friends. The first thing Jesus said when He gazed upon the man is in **Mark 2:5**, "Son, your sins are forgiven." This was probably not what the man and his friends were expecting. However, Jesus knew what this man needed

most because He knew what was in his heart. He knew that forgiveness meets man's greatest need.

Some of the teachers of the law heard Jesus forgive the man's sins and they began thinking How dare this man forgive sins, only God can do that! **(Luke 5:21)** Jesus knew what they were thinking and gave them a beautiful response in **Mark 2:8-11**, "Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So, He said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." (Jesus often referred to Himself as the Son of Man – a reference to **Daniel 7:13-14.**)

The Bible says that the man got up, took his mat, and walked out in full view of all of them. The crowd was amazed, and they began to praise God. **(Mark 2:12)** Jesus didn't offer to carry the man's bed for him – with the command to take up his own bed and walk came the strength to obey. When Jesus forgives our sins, He doesn't take away the problems of our daily lives – He gives us the strength to carry them.

As we obey and trust Jesus, we will see how He works in our lives. Jesus is the answer to all of our questions and the solution to all of our problems. He is the God of the universe and worthy of all our trust.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

1. Why did the man's friends carry him to meet Jesus? (The man could not walk, and they wanted him to be healed. They had faith that Jesus could heal him.)
2. Why couldn't they get close to Jesus? (There were too many people crowded into the house.)
3. How did the man's friends get him close to Jesus? (They climbed on the roof and made a hole in it. Then they lowered their friend down into the house through the hole.)
4. What two things did Jesus do for the man? (He forgave his sins and He healed the paralyzed man.)
5. Why was forgiveness of sin so important to this man's healing? (Since the people believed any physical problem was the result of sin, there may have been fear that he couldn't be healed. Jesus forgave his sin but also healed his paralysis.)
6. Why were the religious leaders upset? (They said only God could forgive sins and they refused to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.)
7. What did Jesus know about the teachers of the Law that only God can know? (He knew what they were thinking in their hearts.)
8. Why did Jesus say that He forgave the man's sins and healed his body? (He did this miracle to show the teachers of the Law that He did have authority from God to forgive sins.)

4. Prayer/Journaling:

We learned today of how the four friends did everything they could do to help the man who was paralyzed. They set an example of how to be good friends. They had complete faith that Jesus would be able to heal their friend.

Let's read **1 Timothy 4:12**...Of course, there are some things that adults can do, but you cannot yet. There are some things that you have to wait to do, but serving God is not one of them. Think about the talents and abilities that God has given you. I want you to get out a piece of paper and divide it down the center. On the left side of the paper write: MY TALENTS AND ABILITIES On the right side of the paper write: HOW I CAN USE THESE GIFTS (Give the children time to do this and then share what they wrote.)

You are not too young to use your talents and abilities. God has given you talents and abilities to use in serving Him and others. God has work for you to do. He wants you to learn what He has for you to do. And He wants you to use your talents and abilities to help others learn about Him. Look for ways around your church, in your community, and at home where you can use your talents and abilities to help other people.

Pray: God, please give me opportunities to use the talents and abilities you have given me to help others and to help them learn more about You. [Let's take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. (Take prayer requests)]

5.Mission Story: Betty Greene – Part 1

On Betty Greene's sixteenth birthday, her father gave her and her twin brother the gift of an airplane ride. Aviation was the new thing with Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927 and Amelia Earhart's flight in 1928. Betty, born on June 24, 1920 in Seattle, followed each event with enthusiasm and saved every penny to take flying lessons.

Her Christian parents supported her interest in aviation, but when it came to college, they encouraged her to enroll in a nursing program at the University of Washington. But Betty was unhappy with that, so she dropped out after two years. Then an elderly Christian woman, who knew of Betty's interest in aviation, suggested that she combine her flying with missionary work. "Of course, dear," she said, "think of all the time – and sometimes lives – that could be saved if missionaries didn't have to spend weeks hacking their way through jungles."

Suddenly, Betty had a direction for her life. She returned to school to study for missions and continued working toward her pilot's license. When World War II broke out, she signed up as a WASP (Women's Air Force Service Pilot) to get additional flying experience while serving her country. One day she wrote an article for a magazine about using planes to help missionaries, something that had been done only a few times before. When Navy pilot, Jim Truxton, read the article, he contacted Betty and

suggested starting an aviation organization to serve missionaries once the war ended. The Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship was officially born on May 20, 1945. Later, it changed its name to Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

Betty was released from the service and helped set up MAF offices in Los Angeles. The new organization obtained its first airplane, a red Waco biplane, and Betty flew it down to Mexico to help Wycliffe Bible Translators in their jungle training camps. She became MAF's first official pilot.

At age twenty-six, Betty was finally doing what God had prepared her for. And she loved it! The flight into or out of the jungle camp took one hour and forty-five minutes, while hiking through the jungle required ten days to two weeks. Altogether, she flew more than 4,800 hours, bringing medical supplies and food to missionaries, flying sick and injured people to hospitals, and carrying missionary children to their schools or to be with their parents for vacation. She served in Mexico, Peru, Africa, and Indonesia.

In 1962, Betty retired from fieldwork but continued to ferry planes for MAF from time to time. Finally, she returned to Seattle for the last years of her life until she died in April 1997.

One story that is told about Betty is...

The red Waco biplane was coming in a little too fast for the strange airfield in El Real, Mexico, but Betty Greene wanted the new pilot, George Wiggins, to get a feel for the plane. He touched down all right, but the biplane had a large radial engine that made it difficult to see the runway ahead once the tail was on the ground. And at this airport, an unfamiliar pilot could be in trouble if he couldn't see where he was going because the runway was not straight. Halfway down the field, it turned a little bit, and right at the turn was an old shack.

"Watch the shack, George!" Betty cautioned. George cut the corner, but the wings hit the building. The plane spun around and came to a shuddering stop. Betty winced. It wasn't her fault, but this wasn't how she wanted to end her first assignment on the mission field. George Wiggins had come down to replace Betty so she could go to Peru and fly another plane for Cameron Townsend, the founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators. Now Nate Saint, MAF's mechanic, would have to spend several months in Mexico repairing the Waco before it could fly again.

Once Betty was in Peru, she faced another problem. The plane she was to fly was a Grumman Duck that could land on water or the ground – ideal for the many rivers in the Amazon Basin – but it was trapped in the city of Lima on the west coast. The missionaries who needed it were on the other side of the towering Andes Mountains. The military man who turned the plane over to MAF looked Betty up and down doubtfully. "No woman can fly this brute," he growled, "much less take it over the mountains." Betty just smiled. She knew God had prepared her when she had done high-altitude testing during the war.

Her first attempt to cross the mountains was blocked by clouds. Three days later, the weather looked better and she and Cameron Townsend took off in the morning. At twelve thousand feet, Betty put on her oxygen mask. Higher and higher they went looking for a gap in the clouds that would let them fly through a canyon. Would the Duck ever escape? At sixteen thousand feet they followed a mountain river up its gorge until they just skimmed over the pass. But ahead, all they could see was a blanket of clouds stretching out to the east. How would they ever get down through the clouds to land at the town of San Ramon?

On Betty flew, praying that if she couldn't find a way down through the clouds, the clouds behind her would not close in to prevent her return back through the pass. Then a hole appeared below her, and she threaded the old Duck down through it where she could fly along for sixty or seventy miles under the clouds but above the plateau. When the plateau dropped away, another layer of clouds lay on the basin floor. Betty hesitated to go much lower until she was certain she could land at San Ramon. If she could not land, she did not want to climb all those thousands of feet back up to cross back over the Andes.

Finally, Betty sighted San Ramon through a break in the clouds. Gratefully, she circled the Duck through the break to a perfect landing. Betty Greene grinned at Cameron Townsend. She had just become the first woman pilot to cross the Andes Mountains.

6. Bible Skills: Next week

7. Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse one more time –
"The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need." Psalm 23:1

Play: Snap It

Try snapping your fingers and clapping your hands in between phrases. For example, "The Lord"...snap, snap..."is my"...clap, clap..."shepherd"...snap snap..."He gives...clap clap...me everything...snap snap..."I need..."clap clap..."Psalm 23"...snap snap... 1!...CLAP! You get the picture. Alternate snaps with claps and keep it moving. It takes some discipline in the beginning but it's a fun way to learn a verse. Have them go faster and faster as it becomes more comfortable to them

8. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.

