

## **The Lame Man with Four Friends**

A Lesson Set written by Carol Hulbert from:  
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## **Storytelling Workshop**

Teaching method: Create blankets to donate to Project Linus. Discuss the faith of the four friends who brought the lame man to Jesus. How can we bring our friends to Jesus?

### **Leader Preparation:**

Read the scripture for this lesson. Mark 2:1-12

Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.

Gather the following materials:

Bibles

1 and 1/2 yard piece of double-sided polar fleece (one piece for every 4-5 students)

Masking tape, several rolls

Rulers

Scissors that can cut fleece fabric (high quality student scissors, such as Fiskars brand)

Coloring sheets for younger students - optional

Word search & crossword puzzles for older students - optional

### **Before Start of Class:**

In preparation for 1st and 2nd graders, apply masking tape as a cutting guide, 6" in from the two cut ends of each piece of fleece. Fringe this area as described in the lesson. (Consider having the older students do this preparation for the younger students).

### **Opening:**

Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to the Storytelling Workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults.

[Note: The Shepherd will be taking care of attendance while you are starting your lesson.]

Ask: How many of you remember having a special blanket when you were younger?

Allow sharing of “blankie” memories.

Say: Today we will be making blankets to give so that children in need can have a special blanket. Let’s begin our time with prayer.

Ask for any prayer requests. Ask if anyone would like to lead the group in prayer.

Be prepared to say a prayer yourself, working in prayer requests. A suggestion:

“Dear God, Thank you for everyone that is here today. Thank you for the opportunity to learn about your love for us. Your love for us is like a warm blanket. We are thankful to be able serve others in love by making blankets to share. Amen”

### **Dig In:**

Distribute Bibles. (Encourage bringing Bibles - 3rd grade and up.)

Ask: Where in the Bible would we read about Jesus healing people? (New Testament)

What are the first four books of the New Testament?

What do we call those first four books? (the Gospels)

Say: The word Gospel means “good news”. The good news about Jesus is that he has God’s power to heal and forgive sins. Jesus forgives our sins.

Have everyone find Mark 2:1-12.

If this is a week early in the Rotation, read the scripture together. Towards the end of the Rotation, ask the students if they can tell you the story. Have them check their Bibles for accuracy.

Ask: How would you feel if your best friend needed help, but there were lots of people in the way? Have you ever wanted to help someone but have been frustrated by obstacles of some sort? What happened? What did you do?

Say: The friends of the paralytic man really wanted to bring their friend to Jesus. They must have heard about Jesus’ healing power. These friends had faith that Jesus could heal their friend.

Ask: What obstacles did they face? What did they do?

Say: The four friends didn’t let those obstacles get in their way! In this story it’s a miracle that the man was healed, but it’s also a miracle that the man had such good friends who worked so hard! We’ll talk some more about helping friends as we work on making blankets.

Introduce and explain the art project.

Spread out a piece of fleece and have children gather around it.

Ask: What does paralyzed mean? (unable to move)

Say: In our Bible story the friends carry the paralyzed man on a mat. It's not described in the Bible but it may have been something like a blanket. We are going to make blankets that will be donated to children at St. Peter's Hospital, here in Olympia. There are some children there who are sick. This soft fleece is comfortable and they will be able to use it both to lie on, as well as to cover themselves.

For older students:

Have these students prepare the edges for fringing by applying masking tape 6" in from the two cut ends of each piece of fleece. (Only the two ends will be fringed; the sides of fleece have a semi-finished edge that can be left as is.) The masking tape will be used as a cutting guide.

Demonstrate how to cut strips about one inch wide from the edge up to the masking tape – this will create the fringe. Have them use a ruler or eyeball their cuts (two fingers?). Point out that the inner part of the "V" of scissors is where the best cutting is done, not at the end. Ensure that everyone gets a turn to cut.

For all students:

Say: As we work on this blanket, think about filling the blanket with love for the person who will receive it. We are like the friends who carried the man – we are showing our love and concern to the person, to help "carry" him or her through a difficult time.

Demonstrate how to tie a loose knot in one piece of the fringe. The knot should be at the top of the fringe up against the blanket, not at the tip of the fringe. Keep an eye on how tight they are making the knots. May want to establish some kind of mental gauge such as "tie just until one finger can fit underneath the knot".

### **Discussion: (while the students are working)**

Talk about the work that the Charity Quilters do at Gloria Dei.

Another option to talk about is:

Project Linus got started because a woman in Colorado read about a little girl going through treatment for cancer who said her security blanket helped her get through the treatments. That woman started making blankets for other children in the hospital. Now it is a nation-wide effort to make new, handmade, washable blankets to be given as gifts to children who are very sick. These children range in age from birth to 18 years old.

Isn't it amazing what one person can do when they see a need! What did the man in the story need from Jesus? I wonder what things your friends need that

you could ask Jesus for?

Sometimes a friend or someone you care about, doesn't need healing – they aren't paralyzed like the man in the story – but maybe the healing they need is for the way they feel. Maybe they are worried or afraid.

Which people have brought us to Jesus? (parents, friends, grandparents) I wonder how you can bring your friends to Jesus? (suggestions: let them know you are praying for them, invite them to Sunday's Cool, talk to them about God, think of things you can do to help them) Encourage the students to share other ideas about how their friendship and faith in God, can "bring others to Jesus". What about our own needs to be close to Jesus – how can we get closer to Jesus?

### **Extra Activities (For those who finish early)**

Coloring page for younger students

Word search or crossword puzzle for older students

Review the key verse ("Gal. 5:13c") by playing Scripture Simon Says:

The teacher is Scripture Simon and begins by giving the first word of the key verse. The children respond by repeating it. Continue on in this fashion and then insert an incorrect word. The children must remain silent or they must start over. At first, the verse should be displayed for the children to follow, but after a few repetitions, remove the verse from view. The game would sound like this:

Leader: Serve

Class: Serve

Leader: one

Class: one

Leader: another

Class: another

Leader: potatoes .....in love.....

Class: (should remain silent)

Closing:

Gather around the blanket with everyone holding part of it.

Say: Do you have someone you love that you want to bring to Jesus? It could be a friend, a family member, or a classmate. Think about that person that you want to know Jesus better, someone you can show love to, through your actions. Think about that person or those people in your hearts as we have a time of silent pray. Remember, God hears all your prayers, spoken and unspoken. After a moment of silence, finish with "Amen".

### **Resources:**

Crane, Amy. "Four Faithful Friends: Movie Workshop." 2003. (Closing material)

<http://rotation.infopop.cc/groupee/forums?a=tpc&s=1206067121&f=4576068121&m=452609763>

“Prayer Blanket Project for Man Let Down Through the Roof.” Online posting by Linnea. January 22, 2004.

<http://rotation.infopop.cc/groupee/forums?a=tpc&s=1206067121&f=4576068121&m=302601426>

Senyard, Jamie. “Four Faithful Friends – Art Workshop.” 2003. (Scripture Simon Says game)

<http://rotation.infopop.cc/groupee/forums?a=tpc&s=1206067121&f=4576068121&m=452609763>

“The Man Let Down through the Roof: Creation Station.” Faith Quest Lesson Sets at Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church. 2001.

<http://www.kirkofkildaire.org/quest/FQlessons/RoofCreation.htm>

Coloring page and crossword puzzle from

<http://www.calvarychapel.org/children/site/pdf/New/Curr180.pdf>

Word search created at

<http://www.awesomeclipartforkids.com/worksheets/schoolwordsearch.html>

Pattern for blanket from Project Linus website: Patterns and Links.

<http://www.projectlinus.org/>

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