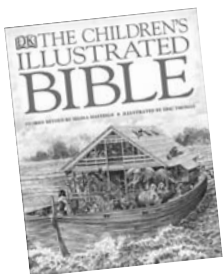


Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



The
Children's
Illustrated
Bible
page 216

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, many people gathered in a house to hear him speak. It was very crowded in the room. Four friends brought a paralyzed man to Jesus, but when they could not get past the crowd, they removed the roof above him, dug through it, and lowered the mat where the lame man lie. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven. Stand up, take your mat, and go home." The man stood up and immediately took the mat and went out in front of all of them; they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

—Mark 2:1–12 adapted



Raise the Roof!

Share the story of the men who lowered their friend through the roof of a house so that Jesus could heal him. It is found in Mark 2:1-12, and in the *The Children's Illustrated Bible*.

Rooftop Snack

Tell the following story as kids create a new type of snack. Give every two kids a small bowl of peanut butter, a bowl of crumbled shredded-wheat cereal, plastic knives, and half a bagel each. (Be aware of peanut allergies with this snack. You can substitute cream cheese or jelly for peanut butter, coconut for shredded wheat.) Have kids follow your story and directions to create a rooftop snack. Go slowly so kids can keep up with the directions.

In Jesus' day roofs were sometimes made of mud and straw. (Hold up the bagel.)

First they spread mud across the roof. (Using a plastic knife, spread peanut butter on the bagel.)

The mud was like concrete that held the straw to the roof. (Sprinkle peanut butter with shredded wheat cereal.) **The straw helped keep the sun and rain off the house.**

When Jesus was in the house healing people, the lame man's friends made a hole in the straw and mud of the roof. (Poke finger down through the bagel center.)

And that's how they brought their friend to Jesus to be healed! (Celebrate by eating the Rooftop Snack!)

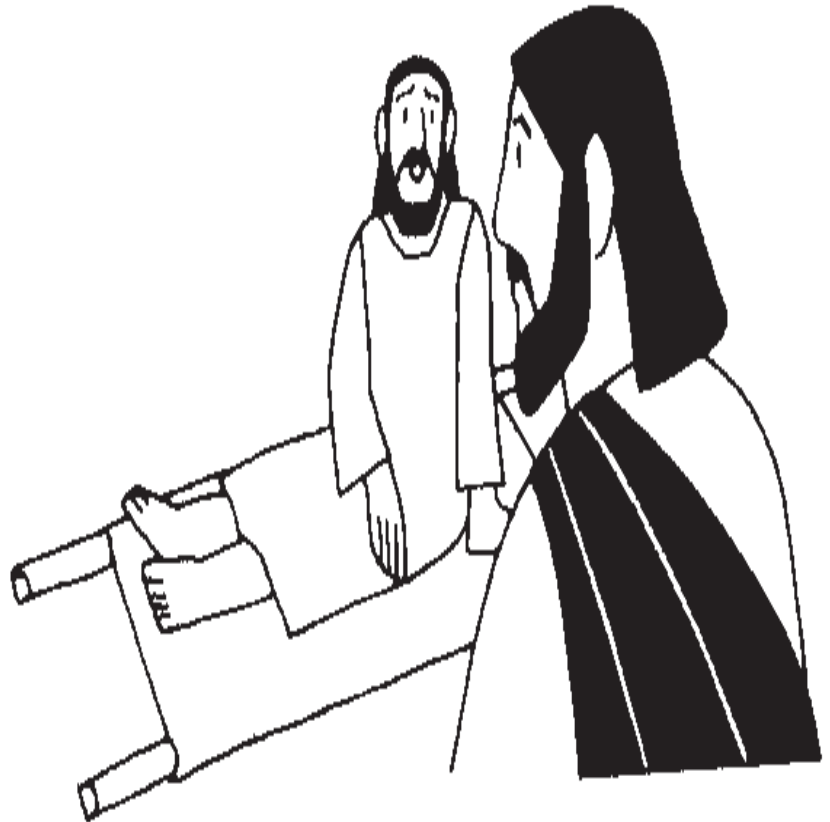


Butterflies: New Bugs

Invite kids to tell you about butterflies: where they come from, what stages they go through, how they "begin" their lives. Discuss: If you hadn't learned this and you saw a butterfly and caterpillar side by side, would you think they were the same bug? Show them pictures or models of caterpillars and butterflies, if possible.) Discuss the differences of each—one crawls and one flies, one has wings and one has many feet, both are colorful. Read Isaiah 42:18-19. Jesus makes us new so we do new things! The caterpillar now can fly. The lame man could walk. In what ways does Jesus change people? Has Jesus changed you?

Make butterflies as a reminder of Jesus making us new. Give each kid a copy of a butterfly to cut out (found on the KidsPage) and decorate with colorful markers. Tape pennies to the bottom of the front wings. Kids can balance the butterflies on their fingers and "fly" them around the room.

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Color and cut out the butterfly. Tape a quarter on each of the large wings. Balance the butterfly on your finger and let your butterfly fly!

