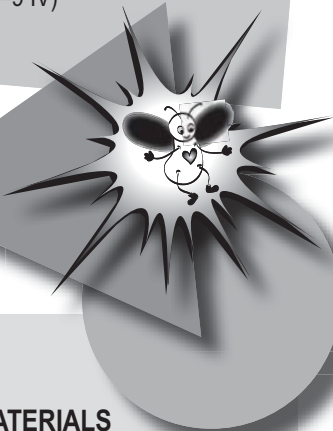


BRING FRIENDS To Jesus

Mark 2:1–12
(2:1–9 IV)



MATERIALS

- BRING FRIENDS**
stuffed animals
- SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY**
Bible
scripture cards
- SCRIPTURE STORY**
blanket
doll
- DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE**
offering basket
- HELPING FRIENDS**
blanket
stuffed animals
- BRING A FRIEND TO JESUS**
index cards
tape
yarn
crayons
pattern copies for each child
- FAMILY CONNECTIONS**
take-home pages

BRING FRIENDS

Have an assortment of stuffed animals available. Greet the children with, "I'm so glad you came. Who did you bring with you?" Let the children tell you who came with them to church, such as family members or friends. Then ask who they would like to bring to class. Pretend one of the stuffed toys is the friend, and let the child invite their friend to class. The toy can stay with the child throughout class, doing the same things the child does.

SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY

The scripture words are the ones Jesus said to the man who couldn't walk. Write each word on a scripture card and place them in the book of Mark for the children to discover.

Jesus said,
"Stand up
and walk."
—Mark 2:9

SCRIPTURE STORY

The text from Mark 2:1–12 (*page 26*) is about the man let down through the roof. Use props to tell the story, such as a mini stretcher made from a blanket with string on the ends so the children can lower a stuffed animal or doll into the center of the story circle.

Talk about friends they would like to bring to Jesus—to church. Who are they? How do the children know them? Why would they like to invite them to church? What would they want to show their friends? What would they tell them about Jesus?

"Sharing Generously"

Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.
In faith we give because we care,
Sharing generously.
With a nickle here, and a quarter there,
See our money helping others,
bringing love to one another.
God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.



Disciples' Generous Response

Let children place their money in the offering basket as they sing, clap, and dance to the music of the song "Sharing Generously."

HELPING FRIENDS

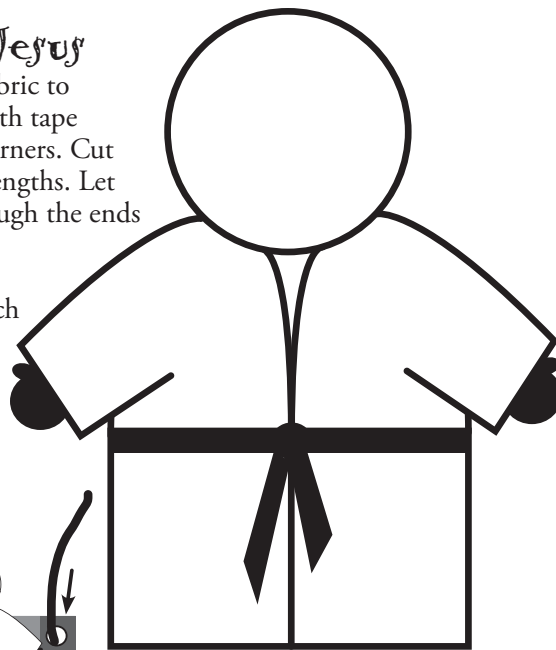
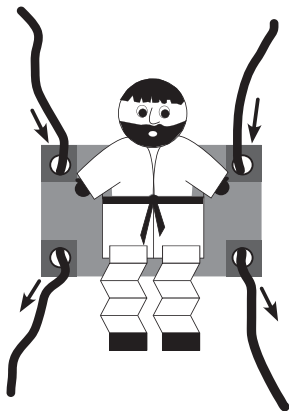
Create a mat from a blanket. Roll the sides to provide handles to hold. Arrange the children around the sides. Place their animal friends on the mat and carry them around the room. Talk about how the men must have felt as they carried their friend to Jesus.

BRING A FRIEND TO JESUS

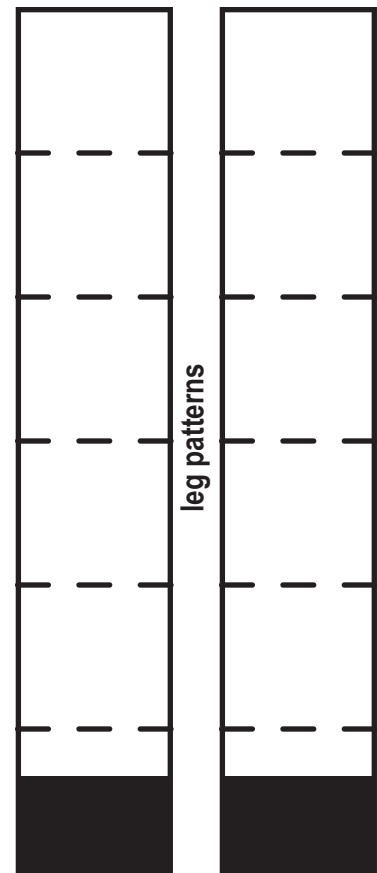
To make the mat, cut paper or fabric to pattern size. Reinforce corners with tape and then punch a hole in each corner. Cut yarn or string into two 18-inch lengths. Let children lace the yarn/string through the ends then tie together.

Copy and cut out patterns for each child. Let them color and add a face. Give each child two strips of paper (see pattern) folded accordion style. (Let older children help fold the legs.)

Help children to tape the legs onto their person so he can jump and walk.



body pattern



leg patterns

mat pattern

STAND UP AND WALK

Have children lay flat on the floor. Instruct them to wait until "Jesus" touches them and says, "Your sins are forgiven, stand up and walk!" Then they can jump up. Let children take turns playing the part of Jesus.

Let children blow bubbles as you sing the song.

ECHO PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for our friends. Help us to share your love with them. Amen.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

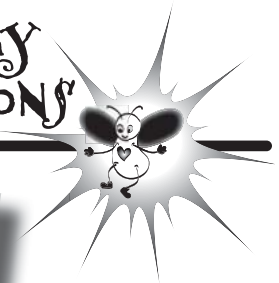
Make copies of the Family Connections (page 26) to send home with each child. Mail a copy to children who missed today's class.

BUBBLIN' OVER

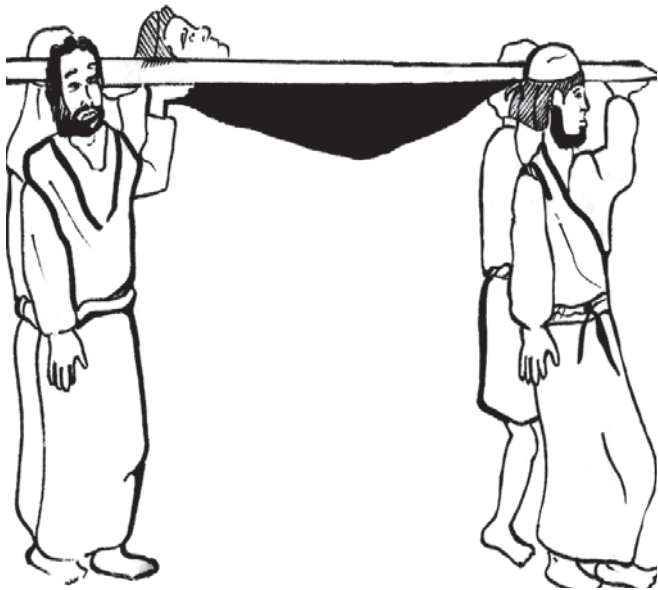


Je - sus' love is bub - blin' ov-er, Je - sus' love is in my soul.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS



Jesus said,
"Stand up
and walk."
—Mark 2:9



- **Let's read today's story together.**
- **I'll bring a friend to church.**
- **Let's go visit someone who can't get to church on Sunday.**

Supporting Friends by Marge Nelson

"Jesus is back!" someone shouted. "He's come back to Capernaum!"

"Where is he? Where?" people were asking. They not only wanted to hear Jesus speak, they wanted to bring their sick ones to him to be healed.

"He's at the house down the street. You can't miss it. People are crowding inside and out trying to get to Jesus."

"Did you hear that?" Jacob asked his friend lying on the mat near the window.

"Yes, I heard," responded Matthew weakly. "But what good will that do me? I can't move. I can't walk. I can't go to see Jesus."

"Maybe you can't move, but we can. We'll carry you. Won't we?" Jacob asked, turning to the other friends who had come to visit Matthew.

Gently they lifted the man off the floor, one holding each corner of his bed. Carefully they worked their way through the door and started off down the street.

"We're here," one of the friends announced.

"Yes, but look at the crowd. We can't even get inside, let alone all the way to see Jesus," another said.

"There are steps on the outside of the house," said Jacob. "Let's take him up to the roof." The friends climbed the steps, being careful not to tip the bed where Matthew lay. They crossed the flat roof to the middle and began to pull the palm leaves and mud away from the center. When they had made a large hole, they began to lower their friend down through the opening.

People were looking up now. They moved back to make room for the bed coming down. When the mat was on the floor, Jesus smiled down at the man. "Matthew, your sins are forgiven. Stand up. Take up your mat and walk."

The crowd just stared. They thought only God could forgive sins. But just then Matthew sat up! He got on his knees and then pushed up to his feet. He was a little wobbly at first. Carefully he took a step. Then another and another until he was moving through the crowd toward the door.

His friends on the roof, seeing what was happening, hurried down the outside steps to meet Matthew as he came out. Everyone was so happy. They were all so glad they had brought their friend to Jesus.