



St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge



## Family Activities: Sunday 9th August 2020

### Working Together

*Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home' and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10.45am to go through some of the activities together!*

*We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their 'Weekly@' resources which we are drawing on to help us to put together each week's activities.*

*Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at [carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk) to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @10.45am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.*

**Theme:** To show that Jesus has the power both to heal the body and to forgive sin.

**Setting the Scene:** This week we look at the fact that teams are better when the players or members use their different abilities without jealousy or fear. We will use the Bible story of the healing of the paralysed man to consider how four people worked together for the good of their friend. This will help us to continue thinking about the importance of working together and how each of us has a part to play.

**Song:** Sing and dance along to 'Our God is a great big God'

<https://youtu.be/eSTfM8M2Md8>



### **Bible Passage:**

A cartoon of the bible passage(s) can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/OLqHYkGU4Zg>



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*...or you may prefer to read it:*

### **Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man**

<sup>17</sup> One day Jesus was teaching the people. The Pharisees and teachers of the law were there, too. They had come from every town in Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. The Lord was giving Jesus the power to heal people. <sup>18</sup> There was a man who was paralysed. Some men were carrying him on a mat. They tried to bring him in and put him down before Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But because there were so many people there, they could not find a way to Jesus. So, the men went up on the roof and made a hole in the ceiling. They lowered the mat so that the paralysed man was lying right before Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Jesus saw that these men believed. So, he said to the sick man, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>21</sup> The Jewish teachers of the law and the Pharisees thought to themselves, “Who is this man? He is saying things that are against God! Only God can forgive sins.”

<sup>22</sup> But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, “Why do you have thoughts like that in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier: to tell this paralysed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to tell him, ‘Stand up and walk’? <sup>24</sup> But I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So, Jesus said to the paralysed man, “I tell you, stand up! Take your mat and go home.”

<sup>25</sup> Then the man stood up before the people there. He picked up his mat and went home, praising God. <sup>26</sup> All the people were fully amazed and began to praise God. They were filled with much respect and said, “Today we have seen amazing things!”

International Children’s Bible

### **Questions to ask:**

- 1) Which part of the story did you like best and why?
- 2) How do you think Levi felt when he was being lowered down into the room?
- 3) Did Levi’s friends work as together as part of a team?
- 4) I wonder how Levi felt when Jesus forgave him and said get up, take your mat and go home?
- 5) What were the reactions of the crowd in the room after Levi got up and went home?



### Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

In the story four people worked together for the good of their friend. All four were needed to be able to carry their friend on his mat. None of them were better than the others. One of them perhaps had the idea of making a hole in the roof, but it needed all of them to carry out the plan. No doubt some of them were stronger and some were cleverer. However, each of them needed to work together if their friend was to be healed. All of us are different but working together without jealousy or fear always creates the best results. This can be hard sometimes, but we can always pray to God and ask Him to help us

The story shows us that Jesus has the power to heal people, but he thought it more important that people's sins were forgiven.

Sometimes people are still miraculously healed today. However, Jesus will always forgive us when we trust Him and ask for His forgiveness.

The four men worked together for the good of their friend. God wants us to work together. He doesn't want us to fight and fallout. He wants us to treat other people well and to work together for the benefit of others.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father: Just like the men carried their friend to Jesus for healing, we want to bring our friends to Jesus, too. We can do this by telling our friends about Jesus and bringing them to Him in prayer. Thank you so much for hearing and answering our prayers.



### Game: Pick up your mat

Give each child a piece of A3 paper (or bigger if you can), which will become their 'mat'. Explain that you are going to play some music for them to move around the room to, but when the music stops, they must stand on their mat so that no parts of their feet are touching the floor. When you shout, "pick up your mat", the children must pick up their paper, fold it in half and continue moving around to the music. When the music stops again, the children must stand on their now smaller, folded piece of paper. The children can stand on tiptoe or balance on one leg but no part of their foot should be touching the floor. The game continues until the children are no longer able to balance on their mat because it is now so small.

**Activities:** Give each child a piece of coloured paper and help them to take off their shoes and socks so they can draw round one of their feet, then cut them out. Alternatively, they can draw around one of their shoes. Show the children how to make cut-outs of arms, legs, eyes, ears, a nose and a mouth to add to their feet to turn them into people. You may wish to prepare these in advance for younger children. Remind the children that the man in the story was healed so he could stand up and run



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and jump. Also make the point that God wants us to use everything that we have; hands, feet, etc. for him and to help other people.

Use 2 lolly sticks/straws/strips of thick card and some fabric to make a stretcher. Give the children paper/card and pens, or a pipe cleaner to make a person to fit on the stretcher



**Challenge:** Part of working together and not being jealous of other people's gifts requires us to encourage each other. We can encourage others in lots of ways, such as by telling someone you appreciate them, pointing out when someone has done something well and celebrating their successes, or by helping them to use their gifts and talents. Ask your children to think of someone who is important to them; this might be a family member or friend. Challenge them to do something intentional this week that will encourage that person and show them how special they are.

