

WEEK 41 | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

Main Lesson, Activity & Discussion

Ages 6 to 10 | Read Aloud Lesson | Scripture Centered | Christ Centered

LESSON OVERVIEW

Lesson Title: Jesus Shows Compassion and Power

Primary Scripture: Mark 2:1 through 12

Supporting Scripture: Mark 1:21 through 34; Mark 4:35 through 41; Mark 5:21 through 43; Mark 6:30 through 44

Big Idea: Jesus has the power to help us, the authority to forgive us, and the compassion to care about what hurts.

MEMORY VERSE

"The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Mark 2:10

MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE

Beloved friends, I would like you to picture a small town beside a great lake, with stone houses crowded close together and narrow paths running between them. There are no cars moving through the streets, no electric lights glowing in the windows, and no phones telling everyone what is happening across town. Most news travels because one person tells another, and when something important happens, it probably does not take long before people begin talking about it.

The town is called Capernaum, and by the time we arrive there in Mark chapter 2, people have been talking about Jesus.

They have heard Him teach, and they have noticed that He does not sound like an ordinary teacher. They have watched Him heal people who were sick, and they have seen evil spirits obey when He commands them to leave. Everywhere Jesus goes, people are beginning to realize that something about Him is different, and the question hanging over everything is the same question we still need to answer today.

Who is Jesus?

That question matters because the Bible does not introduce Jesus as someone who merely gives good advice. He says things and does things no ordinary person has the right or power to do, and Mark wants us to watch closely as the answer becomes clearer.

Listen to how this day begins.

"A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home." Mark 2:1

Once people discovered that Jesus was there, they came quickly. Soon the house was so crowded that there was no room left, even near the doorway, and Jesus began teaching the people God's Word.

Now picture four men coming down the road while all of this is happening. They are carrying another man on some kind of mat because he is paralyzed, which means that part of his body cannot move normally. Mark does not tell us how old he was, what caused his paralysis, or how many years he had lived that way, so we will not pretend we know those things.

What we do know is that he could not simply stand up and walk to Jesus.

Someone had to carry him.

His friends brought him as far as the house, but when they arrived, they faced a problem they probably saw immediately. There were too many people, and they could not reach Jesus through the door.

I wonder what we might have done.

It would have been easy to decide they had tried hard enough and turn around. They had carried their friend all the way there, and no one could accuse them of doing nothing. Yet these men believed getting their friend to Jesus mattered, so they found another way.

Homes in that part of the world often had roofs that could be reached from outside, so the men climbed up and opened a place in the roof above Jesus. Then they began lowering their friend down on his mat.

Imagine being inside that room.

Jesus is teaching, everyone is listening, and then something begins happening above them. People look upward, an opening appears, and slowly a man who cannot walk is lowered into the middle of the room.

Everyone can see what is wrong with his body.

Jesus can see it too.

But the first words Jesus speaks are not about the man's legs.

Mark tells us:

"When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" Mark 2:5

That probably was not what most people expected Jesus to say.

The man had been brought because he could not walk, yet Jesus began by talking about forgiveness. Jesus was not saying that one particular sin had caused the man's paralysis, because Scripture does not tell us that. Later, in John chapter 9, Jesus even corrects His disciples when they try to blame a man's blindness on somebody's personal sin.

Something deeper is happening here.

Jesus cared about the man's body, and in a few moments He would prove that beyond any doubt. But Jesus also knew that this man had a need much deeper than the one everyone could see.

He needed to be forgiven.

So do we.

The Bible calls our deeper problem sin. Sin happens whenever we turn away from God's good ways and choose our own way instead. Sometimes sin shows itself in something other people can see, such as lying, stealing, cruelty, or disobedience, and sometimes it lives quietly inside us through pride, selfishness, jealousy, or hatred.

Every one of us has sinned, which means every one of us needs something we cannot give ourselves.

We need forgiveness.

This is why our memory verse matters so much today. Jesus says:

"The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Mark 2:10

Let us say those words together.

"The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

Jesus often called Himself the Son of Man, and this title helped people understand who He was. Long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the prophet Daniel wrote about one like a son of man who would receive authority and an everlasting kingdom from God.

Now Jesus is standing in a crowded house and saying that He has authority to forgive sins.

Some teachers of the law are sitting nearby, and when they hear this, they immediately recognize the size of Jesus' claim. They know that sin is ultimately against God, which means true forgiveness belongs to God.

They begin asking themselves how Jesus can speak this way.

Their question is important.

If only God can finally forgive sin, then who does Jesus believe He is?

Jesus knows what they are thinking, and instead of avoiding their question, He brings it into the open. He asks which would be easier to say to the paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or, "Get up, take your mat and walk."

Think about that with me.

If someone said, "Your sins are forgiven," there would be no way for the people in the room to look inside heaven and see whether the words had actually done anything. Forgiveness is real, but it is not something our eyes can watch happening.

Telling a paralyzed man to stand is different.

Everyone can see what happens next.

Jesus explains why He is about to perform the miracle.

"But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Mark 2:10

Then Jesus looks at the man and says:

"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Mark 2:11

The man gets up.

The mat that had carried him into the room is now in his own hands, and he walks out while everyone watches.

Try to picture the room at that moment. The crowd had seen this man lowered through the roof because he could not walk, and now the same man is walking past them carrying his mat.

Mark tells us that the people were amazed and praised God.

Jesus had done something they could see to help them understand something they could not see.

The healing showed that His words carried real authority.

This is one reason the miracles of Jesus matter. They are not little tricks meant to make a crowd clap, and Jesus never behaves like a magician trying to impress an audience. His miracles reveal who He is, what He cares about, and what kind of authority belongs to Him.

As we continue reading the Gospels, we see that authority again and again.

One evening Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee when a violent storm struck their boat. Some of the disciples had spent much of their lives around the water, yet even they became afraid as the waves crashed over them.

Jesus stood and spoke to the storm.

"Quiet! Be still!" Mark 4:39

The wind stopped, and the water became calm.

The disciples looked at one another and asked the question that Mark keeps placing in front of us.

Who is this?

On another day a huge crowd followed Jesus into a lonely place, and the people had almost nothing to eat. Jesus received a small amount of food, gave thanks, and fed thousands of people.

Later, a father named Jairus begged Jesus to help his little girl, who was terribly sick. Before Jesus reached the house, people came with the terrible news that she had died.

Jesus went with the father anyway.

He entered the room, took the girl by the hand, and told her to get up.

She did.

When we place these accounts beside one another, we begin to see something beautiful about Jesus. He has authority over sickness, authority over creation, authority over evil spirits, authority over hunger, and even authority over death.

Yet His miracles also show us His heart.

Jesus does not look at suffering people as interruptions.

When people are hurting, He sees them.

When people are frightened, He cares.

When people are hungry, He has compassion.

When people are trapped by sin, He does not stand far away and tell them to fix themselves.

He comes near.

This is the part where we need to be especially careful, because some of us have prayed for sick people and watched them remain sick. Some children live with pain or disability every day, and some have prayed for someone they love who later died.

Those experiences can raise difficult questions.

If Jesus has this much power, why does He not heal everyone right now?

The Bible does not give us a small answer that makes every painful situation easy. Jesus never promised that everyone who trusts Him would immediately be healed from every sickness, and He never said that enough faith would guarantee an easy life.

We can ask Jesus to heal because He is compassionate and powerful.

We can pray with confidence because He hears us.

We can thank God for doctors, medicine, nurses, treatment, and wise care because those good gifts are not enemies of faith.

But when healing does not come in the way we hoped, we should never tell a child that they did not believe hard enough.

Faith is not a button that makes God do whatever we ask.

Faith means we trust Him.

That trust rests on something stronger than whether every prayer is answered exactly the way we wanted. It rests on who Jesus is and what He has already done for us.

The man in Capernaum eventually grew older and died, even after receiving this wonderful healing. Every person Jesus healed during His earthly ministry eventually faced death again, which means those miracles were real, loving gifts, but they were not yet the end of the account.

Jesus came to defeat something deeper.

He came to deal with sin and death themselves.

A few weeks ago in our lessons, we stood beside the Jordan River and saw Jesus baptized. Jesus the Son was in the water, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and the Father spoke from heaven.

That moment helped us understand something the Bible teaches throughout its pages.

God is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

There are not three gods, and God is not one Person pretending to be three different people. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, while there is only one God.

The Jesus standing inside this crowded house is God the Son.

He became truly human without stopping being God, and He lived among people who were frightened, sick, lonely, sinful, grieving, and confused.

He knew exactly why He had come.

Jesus did not come merely to make sick people healthy for a few more years. He came to bring sinners back to God.

We cannot do that for ourselves.

Being nicer tomorrow cannot erase yesterday's sin, and doing many good things cannot purchase forgiveness from a holy God. Our sin is real, and God is good and just, which means He does not simply pretend evil does not matter.

This is why Jesus went to the cross.

The One who had power to command storms allowed soldiers to arrest Him.

The One who could heal broken bodies allowed His own body to be wounded.

The One who raised others from death willingly gave His own life.

Jesus had no sin of His own, yet He died for our sins. He took the judgment we deserved, was buried, and on the third day He rose from the grave.

Death could not keep Him.

That is why Mark 2 is about something even greater than a man walking again.

Jesus really cares about the hurting man on the mat, but He also knows that the man needs forgiveness. Jesus has come to provide both compassion for his suffering and an answer for his sin.

When we turn from our sin and trust Jesus, He forgives us and gives us new life.

Our memory verse says:

"The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Mark 2:10

That is not only good news for the man in Capernaum.

It is good news for us.

Someone might still wonder whether Capernaum was simply a town made up for the Bible, and that is a fair question to ask. Capernaum was a real place beside the Sea of Galilee, and archaeologists have uncovered remains of homes there from the time when Jesus lived.

That does not prove the miracle happened.

Archaeology cannot dig up the exact moment when the paralyzed man stood and walked.

What it can show us is that the Gospel writers are describing real places inside the real world of history.

That gives us a helpful way to think whenever we have questions about the Bible.

We begin by asking what Scripture actually says.

Then we can ask what history or archaeology helps us understand.

Finally, we should be honest about what we do not know.

We do not know the paralyzed man's age.

We do not know his medical condition.

We do not know the names of the four men who carried him.

We do not know exactly whose house Jesus was teaching inside.

Saying, "I do not know because the Bible does not tell us," is not weak faith. It is one way of showing that we care about the truth enough not to make things up.

I think there is one more part of this account worth carrying with us.

Inside a room crowded with people, Jesus saw the man on the mat.

He saw the problem everyone else could see, and He also saw the deeper problem nobody else could solve.

There may be moments when we feel a little like that man.

Maybe something hurts that other people can see, or perhaps the hardest thing in our life is something nobody else knows about. We may be frightened, lonely, worried about someone we love, ashamed of something we have done, or unsure whether Jesus wants us near Him.

Mark 2 shows us the kind of Savior Jesus is.

We can bring Him what hurts because He is compassionate.

We can trust Him with what frightens us because He is powerful.

We can confess our sin because He came to forgive and save.

Sometimes Jesus may change a difficult situation in a way we can see, and sometimes He may walk with us through a difficulty that does not disappear right away. Either way, His love is not measured by whether life becomes easy.

His love is most clearly seen at the cross.

His power is most clearly seen in the empty tomb.

And His promise gives us hope that one day everyone who belongs to Him will live in a world where sickness, pain, sin, and death are finally gone.

The man who entered that house on a mat walked out carrying it.

Everyone could see that something remarkable had happened.

Yet the greatest gift Jesus offered that day was not simply stronger legs.

It was forgiveness.

So when we remember this account, I hope we remember the roof, the crowded house, the mat, and the man who stood up and walked. But even more than those things, I hope we remember the words Jesus spoke about Himself:

"The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Mark 2:10

Jesus has the power to help us, the compassion to care about us, and the authority to forgive us.

That is why we can trust Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. Why did the four men bring their friend to Jesus?

They cared about their friend, who could not walk, and they believed Jesus could help him.

2. What did Jesus say before He healed the man?

Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven.

3. Why did Jesus talk about forgiveness when the man had come because he could not walk?

Jesus cared about the man's body, but He knew the man had an even deeper need. Like all of us, he needed forgiveness from sin.

4. Does the Bible say the man was paralyzed because of something bad he had done?

No. Scripture never tells us that his paralysis was punishment for a particular sin, so we should not say that it was.

5. Why did Jesus heal the man where everyone could see it?

The visible healing showed that Jesus truly had extraordinary authority. He did something people could see to help them understand His authority to forgive sins, which they could not see happening.

6. What do the miracles of Jesus show us?

They show His power, His compassion, and His authority. They also help us understand that Jesus is much more than an ordinary teacher.

7. Does Jesus promise that everyone who believes in Him will always be healed right away?

No. We can pray for healing and trust that Jesus cares, but the Bible does not promise that every sickness will be healed during this life.

8. What should we think if we prayed for someone and that person stayed sick?

We can keep trusting Jesus because His love does not depend on getting the answer we hoped for. We can tell Him when we are sad or confused, and we can remember that His resurrection promises final healing and life with Him.

9. Who is Jesus?

Jesus is God the Son. He became truly human, lived without sin, died for our sins, and rose again.

10. What should we do when we realize we have sinned?

We can be honest with God, turn away from our sin, and trust Jesus, who died and rose again so that sinners can be forgiven.

HANDS ON ACTIVITY

Carry the Mat

Purpose: Help children remember that the four men could carry their friend to Jesus, but only Jesus could meet his deepest need.

Supplies: One towel, small blanket, or strong sheet of paper for each group; one lightweight object such as a stuffed animal, empty box, or rolled towel; paper; crayons or markers.

Place the lightweight object on the towel and ask four children to hold the corners carefully. Let them carry the object together across a short part of the room, and then give another group a turn.

After everyone has participated, remind the children that the four men in Mark 2 did something loving when they carried their friend to Jesus. They could bring him to the One who could help, but they could not heal his body or forgive his sins themselves.

Give each child a piece of paper and invite them to draw a simple mat in the middle. Above the picture, have them write:

"The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Mark 2:10

Around the mat, children may write or draw something they can bring to Jesus in prayer, such as a fear, a sickness, trouble at school, someone they care about, or something for which they need forgiveness.

Remind them that they do not need to show anyone what they wrote or drew if it is private.

TEACHER CLOSING

Gather the children and remind them that Jesus saw the man on the mat, cared about his suffering, and knew his deepest need.

You may close by saying:

"Sometimes people can see what is hurting us, and sometimes they cannot. Jesus sees both. We can bring Him our fears, our questions, our sickness, and our sin because He cares for us. Jesus died for our sins and rose again, so everyone who turns to Him and trusts Him can be forgiven and receive new life."

Then pray together:

"Father, thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus, Your Son. Jesus, thank You for caring about people who hurt and for giving Your life so our sins can be forgiven. Holy Spirit, help us trust Jesus when life is easy and when life is hard. Please care for those who are sick and hurting today, and help us show Your compassion to them too. Thank You that Jesus is alive and that His promises are true. Amen."

TAKEAWAY TRUTH

Jesus has the power to help us, the compassion to care for us, and the authority to forgive us.