

PARENT TAKE HOME

Jesus Shows Compassion and Power

Mark 2:1 through 12

BIG IDEA

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

A SIMPLE WAY TO EXPLAIN IT

"Son of Man" is one of the titles Jesus used for Himself. Jesus was teaching that He has authority no ordinary person has. He can forgive sin and bring people back into a right relationship with God.

Try saying the verse together a few times this week. You might ask your child, "What does Jesus have authority to do?" The answer is simple: Jesus has authority to forgive sins.

WHAT YOUR CHILD LEARNED TODAY

Today your child heard the true account of a paralyzed man whose friends carried him to Jesus. The house was so crowded that they could not reach Jesus through the door, so they opened the roof and lowered their friend down on his mat.

Everyone could see that the man could not walk, but Jesus first spoke about a deeper need. He told the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Some religious teachers questioned whether Jesus had the authority to say this, because they knew that forgiveness ultimately belongs to God. Jesus then healed the man in front of everyone. The man stood, picked up his mat, and walked home.

The miracle showed that Jesus had real authority, but the lesson went deeper than physical healing. Jesus cared about the man's body, yet He also knew the man needed forgiveness. So do we.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Jesus' miracles show both His power and His compassion. He healed the sick, calmed storms, fed hungry people, commanded evil spirits, and even raised the dead.

But Jesus did not come only to make people's lives easier for a little while. He came to save us from sin.

God is holy and good, and every one of us has sinned. We cannot erase our own guilt by trying harder. Jesus, God the Son, lived without sin, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. When we turn from sin and trust Him, we are forgiven and receive new life. That is our deepest hope.

TRY THIS AS A FAMILY

Place a small towel on the floor and imagine it is the man's mat.

Ask each family member to name one thing people sometimes carry in their hearts, such as worry, fear, sadness, guilt, or concern for someone who is sick.

Then remind one another: We can bring what hurts to Jesus because He cares, and we can bring our sin to Jesus because He forgives.

Finish by saying the memory verse together.

A QUESTION CHILDREN MAY ASK

If Jesus can heal people, why doesn't He heal everyone right now?

This is a hard question, and it is okay to say that.

Jesus is still compassionate and powerful, and Christians can pray boldly for healing. Sometimes God brings healing through doctors, medicine, treatment, or in ways we cannot explain.

But the Bible does not promise that every person who prays will be healed during this life. A person who remains sick has not failed God, and unanswered prayer does not mean Jesus stopped caring.

Our greatest hope is the resurrection. Because Jesus rose from the dead, everyone who belongs to Him has the promise that sickness, pain, and death will not have the final word.

TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

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

Suggested answer: They cared about him and believed Jesus could help him.

2. Why did Jesus talk about forgiveness before healing the man?

Suggested answer: Jesus cared about the man's body, but He knew the man had an even deeper need. He needed forgiveness from sin.

3. What did the miracle show about Jesus?

Suggested answer: It showed that Jesus has real power and authority, and that His words can be trusted.

4. What can we bring to Jesus when we pray?

Suggested answer: We can bring Him our fears, sickness, questions, mistakes, worries, and the people we care about.

PRAY TOGETHER

"Father, thank You for sending Jesus. Thank You that He cares when we hurt and that He has authority to forgive sins. Help us trust Jesus when life is good and when life is difficult. Please care for those who are sick, frightened, or hurting, and help us show them compassion too. Thank You that Jesus died for our sins and rose again. Amen."

A FINAL THOUGHT FOR PARENTS

You do not need to have every answer before you talk with your child about God.

If your child asks something difficult, it is perfectly faithful to say, "I do not know, but let us see what the Bible says." Honest questions do not threaten the truth.

The goal is not to convince your child that Christians never hurt. It is to help them know that when life hurts, Jesus is still compassionate, still trustworthy, still alive, and still able to save.