



Rotation Model Sunday School Lesson Plans

“Through The Roof”

Memory Verse: “Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

Learning Center Overview:

Holy Word Cinema: View the Nest DVD “The Lost Is Found” and answer the onscreen review questions.

Creation Station (Art): Students will sculpt clay to build Peter’s house and sculpt Jesus and other characters to retell the story of the healing of the paralytic. Students will also get to see the remains of Peter’s first century house in the Holy Land.

Eat Your Way Through the Bible: Students will build a Graham Cracker House to act out the story of the paralytic who was let down through the roof.

Bible Background

Post your Sunday School bible background ideas, activities, and resources for Jesus and the Man Let Down Through the Roof

- Please include a scripture reference, supply lists, sources, suggested age range, age modification, etc.
- Photos are much appreciated! Click “attachments” and upload to your post.
- Please be careful not to post copyrighted materials. Excerpting and paraphrasing is okay. Include attribution.

Jesus and the Man Let Down Through the Roof - The story of the paralytic being brought by four friends and healed by Jesus can be found in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 9:2-8, Mark 2:1-22 and Luke 5:17-26, etc.

Background note

Posted by member Angie2:

The story of the paralytic being brought by four friends and healed by Jesus can be found in three of the four Gospels: **Matthew 9:2-8, Mark 2:1-22 and Luke 5:17-26.**

Matthew's account leaves out the roof destruction. Mark's account identifies the location as Capernaum. Luke's account is very similar to the Mark account.

I prefer to teach children with Mark's account because it has all the elements of the story we think of, plus the part about the miracle happening in Capernaum, which was Peter's hometown.

Background notes

Posted by Neil MacQueen:

I too prefer Mark's account because the added info about it happening at Capernaum LIKELY refers to Peter's Family Compound -- which was located in Capernaum. After the resurrection, Peter's house became an important meeting place.

I've been to Capernaum. The ruins have been extensively excavated and preserved. Capernaum looks like a small village of maybe 50 homes. It sits on the main road around the Sea, and had a stone fishing pier (recently rediscovered under the water) --making it something more than just a village, but a port-of-call. Jesus knew how to pick his spots!

Late in the First Century A.D. the Jews in Capernaum built a wonderfully ornate synagogue which is still partially standing today. This indicates a strong Jewish faith community in Capernaum, and a likely center for scribes and Pharisees. This probably means that the crowd inside Peter's house that day were family, neighbors, and local officials who knew the family. It is believed that this ornate synagogue rests on an earlier synagogue which Jesus would have used. Today, a large modern Franciscan church was built on pillars over the ruins of Peter's house, and appears to "hover". Kind of looks like a spaceship.

Most of the houses in Capernaum were built next to each other using common stone walls between them. This may explain why the friends could so easily get to the roof. Perhaps they stepped up on their own roof and over to Peter's roof. His house was a series of rooms around a central courtyard. (Add: In my Faith Through the Roof 🧑🏻🔧_Now free to the supporting members of [Rotation.org](https://www.rotation.org) we recreated this house-courtyard based on the archaeology of the site.)

Check out the [two video posts](#) about a teaching clip from "The Nazareth Jesus Knew" A Television Series" on real archaeological-connections, describing what the house's roof would actually have been like, interesting stuff.

Based on the site, there was room for about 30 to 40 people in the main room of Peter's compound, and spilling outside.

One last interesting thought:

Given the size of the town and the fact that Jesus and Peter used it as a base of operations, it's logical to assume that Jesus MAY have met the lame man or his friends beforehand.

There's a photobubble of Capernaum and the synagogue in the Footsteps of Jesus CD (now out of print, but if you have it, worth looking at).

Added by Neil MacQueen:

There are FOUR miracles in this story:

1. The man's healing.
2. That the man's friends would go to such great effort.
3. Jesus forgiving the man's sins! Forgiveness IS healing, restoration, reviving. That Jesus did it was a shocking thing to the Jewish authorities. Only God can do that, ...so guess who Jesus is!
4. The Miracle of Belief. Some went away believing. Some went away doubting. Belief is a miracle.

Disclosure: Neil MacQueen is the author of the mentioned software. The Rotation.org Board has encouraged Neil to post his lesson plans and to create new lesson plans for this site and has since donated the software to rotation.org to our Supporting Members. Often those lessons will make use of Neil's software. Neil's work with computers in Christian Education grew out of his work in developing the Workshop Rotation Model.

Clay Art/Storytelling Lesson Plan

Adapted from Original Posted by Neil MacQueen

Summary of Lesson Activities:

Using clay, the kids made their own story telling kits. Students were divided up between those who made the house, and those who used clay to sculpt Jesus, the lame man, his friends, and the crowd. A stretcher made of fabric, small dow rods and yarn is premade to help tell the story.

Open with basic bible study of the story then make a clay re-enactment scene for the students to use as they gather to retell the story as a group.

Supply List:

- Block of self-drying clay
- Clay face molds & sculpting tools
- Small dow rods
- Yarn
- Burlap or cloth for mat
- Cardboard and scissors
- Band aids with "Forgiven" written on them
- Long bandage
- Magic markers
- Computer/TV/ video "On Location The House of Peter"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELRcUMW_Cvo

Lesson thoughts:

There are two miracles in this story:

1. It's a miracle that Jesus can forgive sins! Only God can do that, and having your sins forgiven is the biggest 'healings' a person can ever have.
2. The miracle of the man's friends, who believed in Jesus enough to go the extra effort and risk offending the crowd to help their paralyzed friend.

Scripture/Bible Story:

1. Before telling the story show the children how to find the passage in the Bible using your Bible. Review the organization of the Bible: The Bible is divided into two big parts, the Old and New Testaments. Each part is a collection of books. Each book is divided into chapters and verses. Show them that if they open their Bible in the middle, they will usually land in the book of Psalms in the OT. Point out that the book name is at the top of each page. Tell them that Mark is the second book of the New Testament and it come after Matthew. After they have found Mark tell them to find Mark 2:1-12. Some of the children may confuse chapters and verses. Show them that chapter numbers are the big ones, and also are at the top of every page (in most editions). After showing them how to find the passage, set your Bible aside and tell the story using the story telling kit you made prior to class.

2. Provide some background on homes in first century architecture in Galilee. Show pictures of buildings and towns. They will see that homes in that part of the world are very different than houses here. Because the climate is mostly dry, people do not have to worry about heavy snow or pools of water on their roofs. The houses are connected side by side and the roofs are almost flat - sometimes they have slight domes in the center. Walls are made of stone and stone steps on the outside of the houses leading up to the roof. A roof is made of a network of wood beams, branches, and mud. These roofs are very strong and when the weather is good, they are used like a deck or patio. To keep the heat out, windows are few, small and high up." (from Creation Station (art) lesson plan, Kirk of Kildaire)
3. Watch the YouTube video: "On Location The House of Peter" by Sojourner Ministries that has been downloaded onto the presentation computer.
4. Briefly read/tell the story from Mark 2:1-12 that was just presented in the video.



Dig-Main Content and Reflection:

Divide the children up into groups: those who will build Peter's house out of clay and those who will sculpt, Jesus and the other characters in the story out of clay. Students may need to use cardboard to make the roof to make it strong enough. Cut a hole in the cardboard and then plaster a layer of clay on top.

To make the people, use clay to sculpt bodies. Impress heads into clay face molds to create faces for figurines.

After the students have completed their projects let the kids retell the story using the clay house and figurines.

Talking points while the children are working:

- Why did the paralytic (crippled) man's friends bring him to Jesus?
- What stood in the way of them getting their friend to Jesus?
- Why do you think they tore a hole in the roof of Peter's house? What would you have done?
- How do you think Peter felt when the roof of his house was first broken through? How do you think Peter felt after Jesus healed the lame man?
- Why do you think the people were so amazed by Jesus' miracle?
- What do you think keeps people from feeling that they can meet Jesus today?
- Who brought you to meet Jesus? How did they bring you to meet him?
- Who could we bring to Jesus?

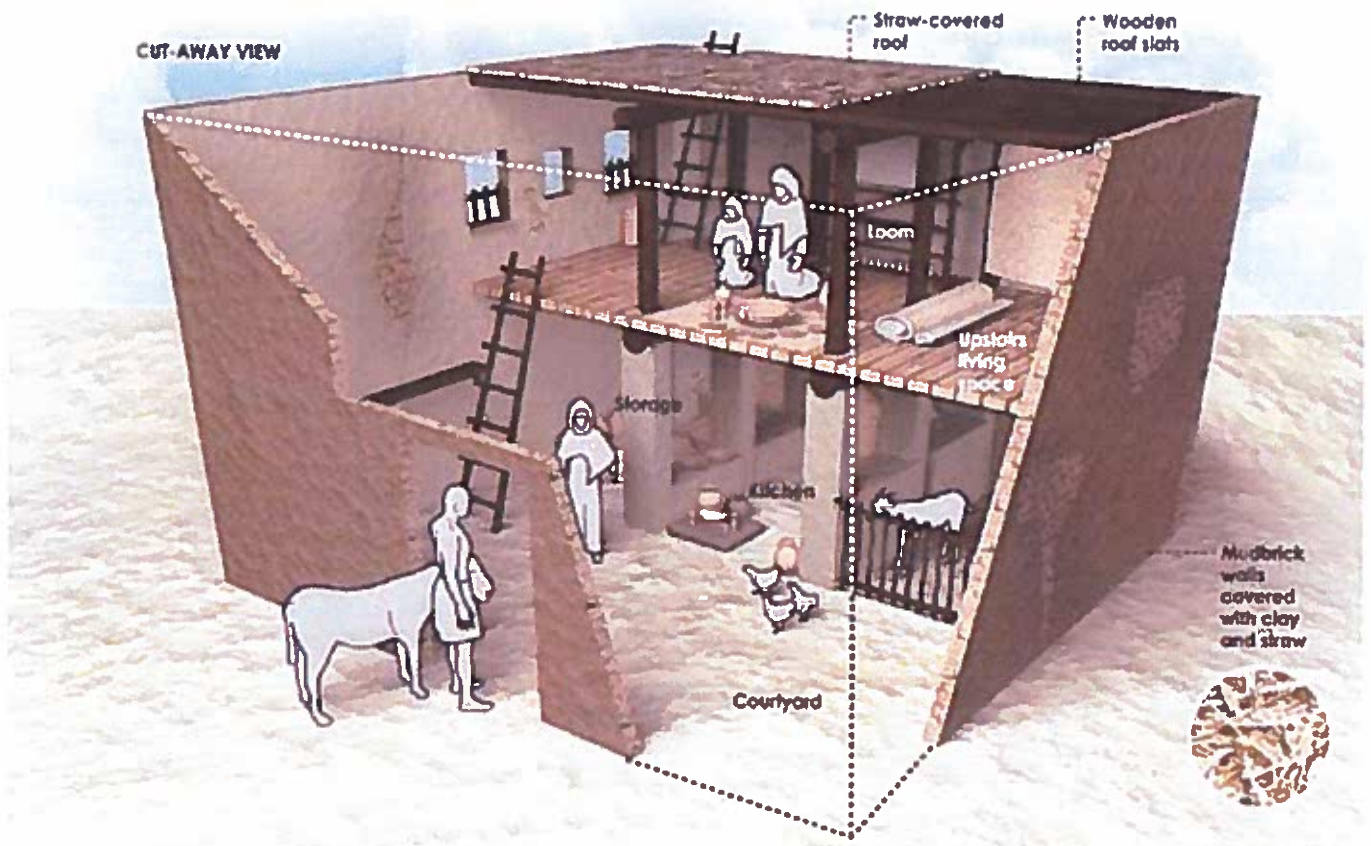


Reflection Activity

As a Reflection Activity, have students write as many sins as they can think of on a long long BANDAGE. Then wrap a student in that bandage so they can't move. Discuss how our sins keep us from living life the right way. Discuss how our sins can "make us fall" (which should be metaphorically obvious if you have wrapped the student's legs together!). Then ask about "how Jesus heals us by forgiving us". Begin to unwrap the students. But also take the opportunity to demonstrate that our "healing" doesn't mean we can't re-bandage ourselves, get ourselves in a bind again with our sins. The difference is that God no longer counts our sins against us, and wants to help us live forgiven lives. This is an important nuance!



When you're finished, give each student a BANDAID with the words "Forgiven" written on it. Use the application of the bandaid as your closing reflection. (Theologically speaking, God's Grace promotes healing! What else can? Prayer?)

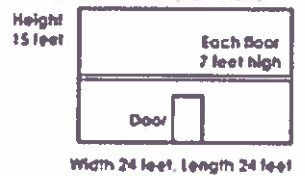


First-Century Israelite House

The homes of poor families were small and plain. They were built of rough stone (or mud-brick) walls and roofs of woven branches covered with clay. Living spaces were used for household work—cooking and weaving. At night, the family's domestic animals were housed in the lower level.

Size comparison:

First-century houses were smaller than double-wide trailers and accommodated an entire family.



Double wide mobile home (front view)



Width 24 feet Length 60 feet

Home / Sunday School Lessons and Resources / LESSONS: MIRACLES OF JESUS
/ Jesus and the Man Let Down Through the Roof
/ COOKING and STORYTELLING Workshop Lessons & Ideas for Man Let Down Through the Roof

Reply to "COOKING and STORYTELLING Workshop Lessons & Ideas for Man Let Down Through the Roof"



Luanne Payne   Member of the Board of Directors & the Writing Team  a Supporting Member!

Wormy Note:

During review and renovation of this forum, we saved this lesson as a "storytelling lesson" rather than how it had been classified originally as a "cooking" lesson. Normally, graham cracker houses are one of those "over done" projects, but as a storytelling prop, and given that the story features a house and roof, we thought it was good to save.

Our reviewers suggest that you SPLIT UP the monolog into PARTS for the kids to speak. If you have someone who can play Peter's mother-in-law, however, it might be good! Our reviewers suggest that the script be adapted so that INSTRUCTIONS are included at various points for how to act out the story using their graham cracker house.

In this lesson, the house is constructed, then the scripture (in the form of the story) is shared.

This lesson *lacks* a well-developed opening and reflection activity.

Man Through the Roof

Graham Cracker House & Storytelling Lesson

Summary of Lesson Activities:

Building a Graham Cracker House to act out the story of the Paralytic who was let down through the roof.

Materials Needed:

- Graham crackers, vanilla wafers, small and large marshmallows for building materials
- Pretzel sticks, large marshmallows and wafer cookies for beams and supports
- Chocolate frosting mixed with marshmallow cream for mortar or mud
- Fruit roll up for stretcher
- Pretzel sticks for stretcher and doors/windows

- Licorice rope for ropes
- Gummy figures (sour patch kids) or little Elfin cookies for people
- Misc. candy for decoration

Leader Preparation:

- Gather the materials.
 - Read the story ahead of time.
-
-

Presentation

Opening-Welcome and Lesson Introduction:

Tell kids we will be building something so we can act out the story from today. Just like in the story, they will have to work together to make it work. Present them with the materials and tell them they need to build a house, a stretcher, the paralytic, his friends, Jesus and the crowd. Show pictures of houses from the time period and pictures of Capernum today (available on-line from several sources). Remind them that the houses were different than the houses we live in. They were made from rocks and mud to conserve wood for fuel and shipbuilding. Only a few beams of wood would have been used to give support.

Give them a time limit (Shepherds name a time that will leave about 10 minutes at the end of class to act out the story and eat the house). Let the kids decide which materials they should use for what. Encourage them, but let them work through their mistakes and learn to work together. If the group is large, you may want to divide them into 2 groups. This works best with about 4-5 in a group. Stress this is not a competition, however, but recognize the differences in the finished houses.

At the end of building project, have them act out the story AS IT IS BEING READ.

Talk about how Jesus first dealt with the man's spiritual problems (Your sins are forgiven) then helped with his physical problems (Take up your mat and walk). Then ask if they would help one of their friends if they needed. Discuss what they could do to help their friends with their spiritual problems as well as physical problems. Then, they may eat their creation.

Dig-Main Content and Reflection:

Script for Story Tent character:

Miracles of Jesus: Story Tent Monologue grades 1-5

I want to tell you about a miraculous thing that happened at my house one day. I am the mother-in-law of a man named Peter. You may have heard of him. He is pretty famous in our part of the world because he is a disciple of a man called Jesus. Now our village of Capernum is not very large. We all live in houses made of mud bricks with flat roofs that we use as patio when the weather is nice. One day Jesus actually came to stay in our little village! And he was going to stay at MY HOUSE!

Now Jesus had only been teaching for a short time, but we had already heard stories of miraculous things that he had done. My son-in-law Peter told me of the night Jesus called him and his fisherman friends to be disciples. They had been fishing all night long, and hadn't caught even one fish. They had given up, and were putting away their nets, when Jesus walked up to them and told them to go back out and throw out their nets one more time. So they tried one more time, and miraculously, in moments their nets were about to break because they were so full of fish. They filled up their little boat and had to call their friends to come with another boat to help them bring in the fish. Peter was so amazed he fell down on his knees and worshipped Jesus and then they left everything behind and became disciples or faithful followers of Jesus.

After that time, we kept hearing stories about Jesus' miracles. We heard how Jesus turned 6 huge stone jars full of plain water into wine, when the bridegroom ran out of wine. He also healed a man who had leprosy, which is just about the worst disease you can have, because you can't even live in town or touch anyone because it is contagious. He even healed me of a terrible fever when people thought I might die. Well, Jesus walked in the house, and just held my hand, and I was well instantly. I was so happy; I got up and made them dinner!

But I can see I'm getting off the subject. I want to tell you about the night at my house in Capernum. See, Jesus had come to visit, and everyone wanted to be near him and touch him, and hear him speak. Well that night after dinner, Jesus began to preach. Word spread throughout the village and soon my poor house was packed with people. There must have been 40 people there in there! Even more people were outside, pushing to get in or straining to hear by the windows. They wouldn't let anyone else in to the house! Now I didn't know at the time, but that poor paralyzed boy from 3 doors down was trying to get in to see Jesus. Well, I guess he isn't a boy anymore, he's a man now, but I've known him since he was your age. He believed that Jesus could heal him. Poor thing, he wasn't even allowed to go into the synagogue because the Pharisees, the men who ran the synagogue, believed that he was paralyzed because he was a sinner. Well this poor boy had that group of friends that he grew up with and they always helped him do things, so they put him on a mat and tried to push their way into the house. Well, no one was going to give up their spot, so they just pushed them back out!

Well, then his friends had an idea. Those boys always were getting into mischief like that, so they went up the stairs to the roof. The boys grabbed some tools my husband had left out and started digging into the clay roof right over where Jesus was! Now, everyone was concentrating on what Jesus was saying, so for a long time, we didn't even notice what was happening, until chunks of roof started falling down on us! They had tied ropes to the poor paralyzed boy's mat and were lowering him down through the roof. I was so worried at first. The ceilings in our houses are high to let the heat out, so a fall off that mat could have killed him! But he didn't even seem worried. He was staring at Jesus with this peaceful look on his face. He knew that he was in the presence of God!

When he got to Jesus, he didn't even have to ask; Jesus knew his faith, and said to him, "Your sins are forgiven." Now you could have heard a pin drop. Everyone was waiting to see what the Pharisees would say, because only God could forgive sins. We knew that they were thinking that Jesus was blaspheming, or saying that he was God.

Jesus read their minds too and said, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority of earth to forgive sins...." He said to the boy, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." And then, HE DID!!!!!! He just got up, picked up his mat and walked out of the house. The people made a path for him; they were all so stunned.

Now this was no trick, I have known this boy since he was a tiny little thing, and he had never walked in his life. We all jumped to our feet and praised God, it was so amazing.

Now that is a night I will never forget. Jesus went on to do even more miracles, feeding 5000 men, bringing people back from the dead, but nothing will ever amaze me more that Jesus healing that poor paralyzed boy, because I see him all the time. He still lives 3 doors down, goes to synagogue, and has a job now. But he and his friends will never stop praising Jesus and telling people about that miraculous night. I neither will I.

Closing:

End with a prayer.

A lesson written by Teri Smith for Lake Highlands Baptist
Sulphur Springs, TX

A representative of Rotation.org reformatted this post to improve readability.

Moderator adds: Below photo is from Janice Loeb of St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Lindsay, ON, where they built their houses out of premade gingerbread walls. This is a lot more work as she made the gingerbread pieces in advance, but thought you'd enjoy the photo.



Materials:

- Pretzels 5 pieces per child (ladder)
- 5 Teddy Grahams per child (people)
- Icing (to hold it all together)
- Sprinkles Green (Roof) and Brown (Ground)
- 4 wooden skewers (beams for roof)
- Gingerbread pre-made walls (3 walls-2 with holes for skewers, 1 roof, 1 wall door/window, 1 floor)
- Gingerbread base (styrafoam or cardboard covered cake circle from bulk barn)
- Spearmint Jelly Leaves
- Bushes - marshmallow mushroom candies
- White Chocolate rocks for pathway
- Red Licorice ropes
- Fruit Roll-up for mat

 Attachments

Show 

12/8/20 @ 2.43 PM *

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/ COOKING and STORYTELLING Workshop Lessons & Ideas for Man Let Down Through the Roof

Reply to "COOKING and STORYTELLING Workshop Lessons & Ideas for Man Let Down Through the Roof"



Lisa Spurlin An ambassador of Rotation.org a Supporting Member!

Cooking Workshop



Attached to this post is our Cooking lesson for Jesus Heals the Paralytic.

Attachments

Hide

Images (3)



Files (1)

[Roof-cooking1-1.doc](#)

12/8/20 @ 2:51 PM *

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Video Lesson Plan

Summary of Lesson Activities:

Watch the DVD "The Lost Is Found"

After watching the video, use the Special Features to lead the kids in the Adventure Quiz. Primarily use Level 2 as it has the most questions on Mark 2:1-12. Consult the Scripture references to help find the answers in Scripture and not just from the video retelling.

Close with prayer.

