

## Down Through The Roof

Jesus began to travel around and teach people about God. Sometimes he would perform miracles. Sick people would come to him and he would make them well. Soon everyone wanted to meet Jesus.

One time Jesus came to a town called Caesarea. He went to a house and began to teach people and make them well. So many people came to the house that soon the house was full. So many people were crowded into the house that not one more person could fit inside.

The people who were close to Jesus were very happy. The people who could not fit into the house were sad. One of the people outside was a man who could not walk. The man's friends had carried him to the house so that Jesus could heal him and make him walk. Now they could not even get their friend close to Jesus.

They were very disappointed. If they could not get their friend to Jesus then he would never be able to walk.

Then the men had a great idea! They found some stairs on the outside of the house and they carried their friend up the stairs all the way to the roof. The roof of the house was flat and made of clay. If they listened closely they could hear Jesus talking down below. The man's friends began breaking a hole in the clay. Soon the hole became as big as a man.

The people inside must have been very curious to see a hole appear in the ceiling. They could probably see blue sky from inside the dark house. Soon something started appearing through the hole - it was a man! The man's friends lowered him down through the hole. The man was lowered right in front of Jesus!

Jesus saw the man and he saw the man's friends. Jesus was happy that these men believed in God. He was happy that the man had such good friends.

Jesus said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven." When Jesus said that some of the Jewish teachers did not like it. They did not say anything out loud but inside their minds they were thinking that Jesus could not forgive sins. Only God could forgive sins. They thought it was wrong for Jesus to say that to the man.

Even though the teachers did not say anything out loud, Jesus knew what they were thinking. He knew that he could forgive the man's sins because Jesus is God's son.

So Jesus did something else that only God has the power to do. Jesus said to the man, "Get up, take up your mat and go home."

No one could believe his or her eyes. The man just got up and walked all by himself. A miracle had happened. The man was healed! He and his friends must have been so happy. Everyone started praising God and saying how good God is.

The man was happy that he had such good friends. Good friends really care about you. They want to help their friends follow Jesus.

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