

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
Four Friends
from Luke 5:17-26.

Jesus heals, forgives, and loves.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Roof
- Jesus
- Friends
- Paralyzed

Jesus was often in trouble with the religious authorities when he did healings because he healed on the Sabbath, ignored cultural rules and customs, and interpreted scripture in new ways.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 348-353

Spark Bible pages 1135-1136

Family Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for your love, forgiveness, and healing. Keep us mindful of all who do not know of your love. Give us opportunity to share the good news of the wholeness you bring to life. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What do you like to do with your friends?
- 2 What do you like best about one of your closest friends?
- 3 Who do we know that needs healing? What can we do to help them?
- 4 Healing does not always come in fantastic ways like in this story. Sometimes healing means finding wholeness and goodness in the midst of a disease or injury. What is your vision of wholeness and goodness? What does that look like in a life?



Eye Spark

Next time you see your good friends, remember this story of the Four Friends and Jesus.



Ear Spark

In worship, when you hear the words "your sins are forgiven," remember this story of Jesus healing, loving, and forgiving.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Take a family walk in your neighborhood, noticing the roofs around you. At each building or home, say a little prayer for the people inside. You might pray that they know Jesus' love, feel God's forgiveness, or experience the healing that they need.

For younger kids

Make a model scene of this story using blocks and dolls. Act it out—give everyone in your family a part!

For older kids

Can you find any Christian games online? Are there any that go with this story? If you were going to create a game that went with this story, what would it be like?

TRY IT

Art

Make an Outside-the-Box box together. Cut a slit in a shoebox lid. Decorate the box with images or symbols that represent your family. Write down creative ways to solve common family problems and put them in the box. When the time comes, turn to the box for God-filled, imaginative solutions!

Computer Lab

What makes it difficult for your family to help others? Use your computer to design a page with three columns: "Help needed," "What gets in the way of helping," and "How we might change that." Put it on your fridge and ask everyone to jot their ideas. Then take action on one concern.

Creative Drama

Try carrying different family members with just a blanket. What makes it easier or harder to carry someone? How do you have to work together to carry someone on a blanket? What do you think Bible time beds looked like?

Video

Plan a family movie night. The person with the next birthday chooses the movie. Divide other tasks among family members: preparing snacks; gathering snuggly blankets; and making invitations, movie posters, or tickets. Is someone in your community having a tough time right now? Ask them to join you.

Bible Skills and Games

Play a board game or card game together. What happens when everyone tries winning for themselves? What happens when everyone tries to help everyone else win? Talk about how it may make sense to play to win in a game, but when it comes to helping others, working together works best!

Cooking

Next time you bake cookies with nutmeg, grate whole nutmeg using a fine grater instead of using already-ground spice. Grinding nutmeg smells delicious. It takes a little bit more time, which reminds us that good things take time and that the four friends took the time to help their friend.

Music

Invite friends to create homemade musical instruments from things you have around the house, like paper towel tubes, pots and pans, and baking sheets. Put together a friends-and-family band as you play songs about friendship, and add rhythm with these instruments in your home.

Science

Walking has physical and emotional benefits for people of all ages and abilities. Make time for a whole family walk each week. Vary the length and setting to match your availability and the weather. Walk around the block after church one week; go on a nature hike the next.