

CREATIVITY

IMAGINING WHAT YOU
COULD DO BECAUSE YOU'RE
MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

FOUR FRIENDS WHO HELPED

MARK 2:1-12

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 145:3

When Jesus began to travel in Galilee, preaching and healing, news got out fast. Crowds gathered quickly. Some were farmers and fisherman and townspeople. But many Jewish leaders and teachers of the law had journeyed to hear Jesus too.

The crowd crammed tightly into the main room of the home where Jesus was teaching. There were so many people that they overflowed outside into the hot sun! They packed a dozen deep around the doors and windows, all straining to hear the words of Jesus and hoping to witness something miraculous.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now," said Jesus. "You will be satisfied . . ."

It was at this point that a paralyzed man—let's call him Bo—arrived. Now you may wonder how Bo showed up if he couldn't walk. You see, Bo had four good friends. Let's call them Fred, Merry, Pip, and Sam. They believed that Jesus could heal their friend. They believed it so much they dropped everything they were doing and carried Bo on a mat to see Jesus.

Bo could see the crowd as they neared the house. "Uh, guys?" he wondered.

"Where's Jesus?" asked Fred.

"There are so many folks, I can't even see the door to the house!" said Merry.

"How will we get inside?" Pip asked.

“Friends, we gotta think outside the box,” declared Sam.

So they did. Instead of trying to elbow their way through the crowd, they carried Bo up the stairs along the side of the house and onto the broad, flat roof.

Fred threw himself down flat on the roof tiles and listened. “Jesus is right below us.”

“We’ll go through the roof!” said Sam. “Let’s move it.”

So the four friends started pulling off the roof tiles!

Bo watched, a bit nervous. “Uh, guys? I’m really glad you’re doing all this for me, but . . .”

“We’ll fix it later,” assured Merry.

***Bo had four good friends.
They believed that Jesus
could heal their friend.***

Soon, Bo’s friends had created a gap in the roof large enough for Bo. Commotion erupted below, and one of the Pharisees sneezed. “All this dust! Stop it at once!” he commanded.

“Sorry!” Pip called down. “Almost done.”

“Hey, Jesus?” asked Merry. “Our friend can’t walk.”

The friends whipped off their belts and knotted them on the corners of the mat. Then they lowered Bo down through the hole in the roof!

“Look out below!” called Sam.

The crowd scuffled and shoved to get out of the way and moments later, Bo landed on his mat in the only empty spot in the whole room: right in front of Jesus.

The entire room fell silent as everyone watched to see what Jesus would do.

Jesus glanced up at the four determined faces staring through the hole in the roof. And then He smiled down at Bo, His eyes filled with compassion.

“Son,” He said, “your sins are forgiven.”

The room erupted with gasps and murmurs. The Pharisees were practically screaming inside their heads, *“Why is this fellow talking like that? He’s saying a very evil thing! Only God can forgive sins!”*

In forgiving sin, Jesus had just claimed to be God Himself! It was outrageous—unless He actually is God.

“Why are you thinking these things?” Jesus asked. “Is it easier to say to this man, ‘Your sins are forgiven’? Or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’”

The teachers of the law and religious leaders narrowed their eyes and nodded. On the roof above, Bo’s friends held their breaths, waiting . . .

“Jesus will heal him. I know it,” whispered Fred.

Then Jesus spoke. *“I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”* He smiled down at Bo again. *“Get up. Take your mat and go home.”*

Bo’s eyes popped open wide. He reached down to touch his legs.

“Jesus, I . . . I . . .”

Slowly, Bo sat up. Bracing himself, he struggled to his feet.

“I can stand!”

People in the crowd gaped in amazement.

Bo took a short step, and then a hop.

“I can walk.”

He sprang straight into the air.

“I can leap! Thank You, Jesus. Thank You!”

Bo waved to his four friends above. “Guys! Thanks!”

“Show us some moves, man!” called Sam.

Bo grabbed his mat and danced right out of the house, the crowd parting to make a path.

“Remarkable!” people cried out. “Praise God!”

On the roof, the four friends high-fived and began replacing the roof tiles. They knew that by working together, with God’s help, they’d forever changed their friend’s life.



Let's Talk!

Have you ever worked on a group project at school or work? Share what it was like.

It can be frustrating trying to work with other people sometimes, because they don't think and act like you do! But that's the beautiful thing too. God created each of those other people with unique talents and abilities, so that when you all work together, you can do bigger things than you ever could alone. Whether it's working together with kids at school, friends at church, or even your own family, you can show the world more of who God is than you can on your own. Brainstorm ways that you could work together as a family this week—even if it's as simple as baking chocolate chip cookies for a neighbor. Then pray for each other, that you'd find joy in working together.