

# A Hole in the Roof

"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother"

## **We serve God when we help others.**

**Know** that God is pleased when we are willing to serve others.

**Feel** a desire to help others.

**Respond** by finding ways to help other people.

The friends of a sick man want Jesus to heal him. It is difficult for them to get through the crowd to Jesus, but they succeed by lowering their friend through the roof of the house where Jesus is speaking. Jesus sees how much the man's friends have helped him, and He heals the man. Jesus tells him to take his mat (bed) and go home. The man leaves the house praising God.

Helping others is one way we serve God. And when we try very hard to help someone in need, we are God's helpers. If we want to help others and ask God to show us the best way to be helpful, He will show us how to help them

### ***STORY:***

## **We serve God when we help others.**

It didn't take long for word to spread. People everywhere soon heard that Jesus could heal sick people. Everywhere He went, big crowds came to hear Him teach and to be made well.

One day Jesus was teaching in a house. A lot of people had come to hear Him. Many of them were important teachers who had come from all parts of the country. They all crowded very close to Jesus.

Other people had come to see Jesus too. They had come to be healed. But the house was so crowded, they couldn't get in. They just couldn't get close enough to Jesus to ask Him for help.

One man was paralyzed. He couldn't walk. He couldn't even move by himself. He was there because he had friends who had carried him on his mat. But so many people were in the house that they couldn't get in! What could they do?

This man's friends were not about to give up. They were determined to get him in to see Jesus, even if the crowd wouldn't let them through. One of them had an idea.

The next thing he knew, the paralyzed man was being lifted up to the flat roof of the house. His friends tied a rope to each corner of the mat he was lying on. Then they began taking the roof apart! Before he knew it, the paralyzed man lying on his mat was being lowered through a hole in the roof! And he was coming down in the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

Jesus knew what the man wanted. He wanted to be made well. He knew what the man's friends were thinking. They wanted their friend to be well. They believed Jesus could heal him. Jesus could tell that the man's friends had worked hard to help him.

The man, who couldn't even sit up by himself, watched Jesus. He didn't even have to ask to be healed. Jesus said to him, "Your sins are forgiven." And then Jesus said to him, "Get up, take your mat, and go home."

At once the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and went home praising God. Soon people everywhere heard that Jesus could make sick people well. Everywhere Jesus went, big crowds came to hear Him teach, and many came to be made well. He helped them all.

Jesus wants you to help others too. He will help you do so. Just ask Him. People in the crowd were amazed. They said to each other, "We have seen wonderful things today."

**The friends in this story helped the man who couldn't walk. They not only tried to help him get to Jesus, but they did not give up, even though it might have been easier to take him back home. Would you like to have friends like that?**

**Would you like to be a friend like that?**

**Even though you are small, there are many ways you can be a friend and help others.**

**Tell me some ways you can help others.**

**Pick a box:**

**There are people all over the world who need our help. Some have had too much rain in their area; others have not had enough rain. Some have lost their homes due to floods or fires. Our sharing activity today is to pack a box for a child like you who needs our help.**

**What are some things that you would like to put in the box?**

Allow the children to look at the items and choose things to put in the box.

## **Activities:**

Sing this song to the tune of "Three Blind Mice":

**" One sad man, one sad man,**

**He couldn't walk, he couldn't walk.**

**Then Jesus came and healed his legs**

**,He jumped for joy.**

**He no longer begs!**

**He shared the news of Jesus' love!**

**One happy man, one happy man."**

Help your child call or write to someone and tell them that they care about them. Pray for that person today.

Gather some things to give to someone who needs them (toys, clothes, books). Help your child pack a box to take to Community Services or some other helping organization.

At family worship time, help your child act out the story and tell how they helped people this week. Think of other things to do to help. Draw a picture about helping someone. Ask: How can we help others tomorrow?