



NOVEMBER THEME

JAM SESSION

Build a Better Beat

BIBLE STORY

Luke 5:17-26

Stand By You | Jesus Heals the Paralytic

Spark Story Bible, pg. 348-353

Four Friends

BOTTOM LINE

Work together to help someone in need

MEMORY VERSE

“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV

LIFE APP

Cooperation | Working together to do more than you can do alone

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated...and with God’s help I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **COOPERATION** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story.

THIS WEEK—Key Question: Who do you know who needs help? In week three we head to a story found in **Luke 5:17-26**. We discover a paralyzed man who just happened to have some really good friends. When his friends heard that Jesus was in town, they tried everything to get their friend to Jesus. In fact, as friends, they cooperated, tore a hole in a roof, and dropped their friend down in front of Jesus while he was teaching. And as a result of their faith and cooperation a miracle happened.

Bottom Line: Work together to help someone in need. When we see others with needs that seem huge and overwhelming, we too often think they’re too big for us to help and end up doing nothing. However, if we cooperate with others to meet their need, we have a better chance of making a difference in their life and pointing them to God.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Pray that kids’ eyes would be open to the needs of those around them, and pray that they would recognize the opportunities they have to join forces with friends to help someone else. Ask God to show kids the value in working with friends to help meet someone else’s need.

●● EARLY ARRIVER ACTIVITY

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Construction paper strips, markers, stapler (on leader bin cabinet to share with other groups)

What You Do:

- Give each kid two paper strips and a marker.
- Encourage kids to think of two things they could do to help someone else.
- Instruct them to write them down, one on each paper strip.
- When finished, let the kids share their answers as you staple the strips together to create a paper chain.

●● FARMYARD FRENZY

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Farmyard Frenzy” activity kits

What You Do:



- Guide kids to get into groups of two.
- Give each group a “Farmyard Frenzy” activity kit.
- Encourage kids to use the pieces to make paths for the animals to get from the farmyard to the barn.
- Make sure kids know they can cover up any part of the farmyard when helping a particular animal. *(For instance, when making a path for the dog, they can cover up the duck pond with the path cards. Then they would uncover the duck pond and make a different path for the ducks.)*
- Challenge them to make paths from each location *(the pond, the pumpkin patch, and the pasture)* back to the barn.

What You Say: “You guys did a great job working together to make paths for the animals to the barn. **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard about some friends who worked together to get someone else to a special place.”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **CARRY THAT FRIEND** [Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Ball pit ball, bandana, leader bin

What You Do:

- Review today’s story with the following discussion questions:
 - How did the four friends in today’s Bible story **[Bottom Line]** work together to help someone in need? *(They carried their friend together all the way to Jesus)*
 - How do you think it felt to carry their friend all the way to the house where Jesus was, only to find that there was no easy way to get inside once they arrived? *(Maybe they were even more determined to get him in to see Jesus; maybe they were tired; maybe they felt like giving up at first, but then they decided to try to get him inside)*
 - What did the friends do in order to get their friend inside the house? *(They made a hole in the roof and lowered their friend down in front of Jesus)*
 - Why do you think they worked so hard to get their friend to Jesus? *(Because they believed Jesus could help him)*
 - How did the friends in today’s story show cooperation? *(They worked together; they encouraged each other to keep going when they may have gotten tired; they looked for a solution when they arrived and all the entrances to the house were blocked)*
 - How did Jesus help the man? *(He forgave his sins; he healed the man)*
- Choose four kids from your group to play the first round of the following game...
 - Place your leader bin on your small group table. This will represent the house where Jesus was.
 - Give the team of four a bandana and a ball pit ball.
 - At your signal, the team will put the ball in the center of the bandana and maneuver all around the small group table to get their “friend” *(the ball)* to “Jesus” *(at the bin/house)*.
 - The catch? All four team members must hold a corner of the bandana. Once they start moving, they may only touch the bandana. They cannot touch the ball!
 - When the team reaches the house, they should gently lower their friend inside.
- **NOTE:** If this is too easy for your group, add additional challenges such as: you must skip around the table, two group members must



have their eyes closed, you must sing and do the actions to “Head, shoulders, knees and toes” with your other hand while walking around the table, etc.

- Choose another team of four and continue playing until everyone has had at least one turn.

What You Say: “It wasn’t easy to carry your friend to see Jesus in our game today. Just imagine how hard it was for those four men to carry their friend all the way to the house where Jesus was teaching. And then they made it ALL the way there and were not be able to get inside! These friends were willing to do whatever it took to help their friend get to Jesus. What a HUGE example of four friends who were willing to **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone in need.**”

●● **OBSTACLE DICE** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Dice, “Help” activity pages (*set of 5*)

What You Do:

- Kids will take turns rolling the dice. In the first round, the goal is to roll a one. When someone rolls a one, hand them the activity page labeled “One,” but don’t let them look at it.
- Play another round, but this time the goal is to roll a two. When someone rolls a two, hand them the activity page labeled “Two,” but don’t let them look at it.
- Continue with 3 more rounds, until all 5 activity pages have been distributed.
- **NOTE:** Throughout the game, anytime anybody rolls a six, they must do six repetitions of an exercise such as: jumping jacks, burpees, jumping on one foot, etc. The game must pause until the exercises have been completed.
- When all 5 activity pages have been distributed, have the person with page number 1 reveal the object.
- That person should try to come up with a way they could use that object with friends to help someone in need. If they are having trouble coming up with an idea, let other group members help.
- Continue with the other 4 activity pages
- Here are some ideas if everyone is stumped:
 - Water bottle: organize a group of friends to do an activity to raise money and donate the money to a charity that digs wells in counties that lack clean drinking water.
 - Dog leash: once a week, after school, you and a few friends could volunteer to walk a busy/elderly/sick neighbor’s dog.
 - Jacket: gather a group of friends to go door to door in your neighborhood collecting used jackets or other items of clothing and donate the items you receive to Mission Outpost.
 - Shovel: after a big snowstorm, grab some friends and work together to shovel some driveways in your neighborhood
 - Ball: Encourage your group of friends at school to invite somebody who doesn’t have anyone to play with to join your game during recess.

What You Say: “Wow! Great job, friends! Each of the items you collected in this game could be used to help someone in need. You all worked together to roll the dice and collect the items and then you brainstormed together to come up with great ideas of how you could **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone in need.** Even when someone rolled a six and faced an obstacle to completing the task, you persevered toward the goal, just like the friends in our Bible story today!

●● **HELP EACH OTHER!** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Bible, “Paper Chain People Template” activity pages, scissors, markers

What You Do:

- Ask for a volunteer to look up and read Ecclesiastes 4:9 to the group.
- Ask: Why are two people better than one? (*They can help each other.*) What are some ways that people can help each other?”

