



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 IDEA

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

What You Need: “Four Friends” coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out “Four Friends” coloring pages and set out the crayons where everybody can share them.
- As kids color, ask them questions about what they think the picture is about.
 - What do you think is going on in this picture?
 - Why are some people in the picture happy?
 - Why are some people in the picture mad?
 - If you could be anyone in this picture, who would you want to be? Why?
- Tell kids that you will learn more about the picture in worship today.
- Praise kids for working together, being good listeners, and sharing the crayons.

•• 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.

●● **A FRIEND INDEED** [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: Spark Story Bible *(on leader bin cabinet)*, ball pit ball, bandana, leader bin

What You Do:

- Read Four Friends *(p. 348-353)* to your group from the Spark Story Bible.
- 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.
- Praise kids for working together.
- Choose another team of four and continue playing until everyone has had at least one turn.

What You Say: “You guys did a great job cooperating to work your way around the table! What were some obstacles that the four friends in our story had to overcome in order to get their friend to Jesus? *(They had to carry their friend up to the roof, make a hole in the roof and lower their friend down.)* Why do you think they were willing to go through all that trouble to get their friend to Jesus? *(They loved him. They knew that Jesus could heal him.)*

“When the four friends took their paralyzed friend to see Jesus, they weren’t doing it for themselves, were they? *(Pause for answers)* No, they were doing it to help someone in need—someone they loved. They cared for their friend SO much that they were willing to



do whatever it took to get him to Jesus. What a great reason to cooperate!

“So remember, **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone in need**, because God and Jesus worked together to help YOU!”

●● **WORK TOGETHER** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Rainbow” coloring pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out a “Rainbow” coloring page to each group member and set out the crayons where everybody can share them.
- Ask kids to choose somebody in their life (*parent, sibling, friend, teacher, neighbor*) who they would like to make an encouraging note/picture for.
- Explain that you are going to all work together as a group to create these pictures.
- Everybody in the group should choose one crayon to use for this project.
- Then, depending on how many kids are in your group today, divide up the picture so that everybody colors part of all of the color sheets. For example, one person colors the top stripe of the rainbow, another the middle stripe, another the bottom stripe, another the cloud, another the sun, and another the flowers.
- **NOTE:** If you have a very small group, kids may need to color multiple parts. Then, they can choose a different colored crayon for each assigned part.
- As the small group leader, you should put the final touch on the coloring sheets by writing “Smile, God loves you and so do I” somewhere on the picture.
- Remind kids to take their picture home to give to the person they want to help encourage.
- Compliment kids for working together to help someone in need.

What You Say: “When the four guys took their paralyzed friend to see Jesus, were they doing it for themselves? (*Pause for answers*) No! They were doing it to help someone in need. What a cool reason to cooperate! You guys are cooperating for a great reason, too. Your picture will help someone in need. It will help them know that we love them and that God loves them, too.

“What are some other ways that you can work together to help someone in need? (*Pause for answers.*) Could your family work together to make a meal for a neighbor who’s sick? Could you work with a friend to help another friend learn their sight words or flash cards? Could you invite your little brother or sister to play with you and your friend when they’re lonely?”

“So always remember: **[Bottom Line] Work together to help someone in need**, because what you do for others can make a big difference in their lives.”

●● **EVERYTHING THEY DO** [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, crayons

What You Do:

- Look up Ecclesiastes 4:9 and read the verse to the group. (*It can also be found on the left column of the first page of this leader guide.*)
- Teasingly ask, “Is this verse talking about two porcupines? Two slugs? Two turkey sandwiches? What ‘two’ is it taking about? (*Two people!*) Oh, people! So why are two PEOPLE better than one? (*They can help each other.*) What are some ways that people can help each other?”
- Give each child a “Paper Chain People” template.
- Guide kids to cut out the figures in such a way that they stay together/conjoined.
- Reassure kids that it’s okay if their cutting isn’t perfect.
- Encourage kids to color the figures to look like themselves and a friend.
- Guide kids to take their figures home as way to remind themselves of the verse and Bottom Line.

