The children can understand the value of caring and friendship while hearing about how Jesus forgives and heals.

**Scripture:** Mark 2:1-12

**Supplies:**
- A3 picture of the four friends
- Image of the disabled man to put up
- Prestik
- A scarf/something to make a blindfold with
- Chairs and boxes
- Towels/Pillow covers
- Soft toys
- Scarves/wool/something to tie up legs
- Hard cardboard
- Split pins
- Kebab sticks/something similar
- Newspaper
- Glue and colouring pencils/crayons/pens
- Copies of the comic
- Copies of the Join-the-dots

**WELCOME**

**Put him to bed** (suited for younger children): This game is like “*Pin the tail on the donkey*”. Put up an A3-sized picture of the four friends up against a wall or other surface, low enough so that the children can easily play the game. Each child should then get a chance to stick the disabled friend onto the picture. They must stand blindfolded in front of the image and then turned around 3 times. They must stick the friend onto the picture.

**Obstacle course:** Put up some obstacles (like chairs and/or boxes) in the hall or room. Make teams of 4 children (the number can change) and give each team a towel, pillowcase, or other similar piece of material, as well as one of the soft toys. Each child then holds a corner with the toy in the middle, and then they carry the toy from one side to the other. If the toy falls off, the team must go back to the beginning again.

**Three-legged-race** (works well with older children): Tie the legs of 2 children together, one child’s right to the other child’s left. Each of these pairs then get a soft toy to hold between their shoulders. Let the teams now run a race without dropping the toy.

**WORSHIP**

Make groups of 4 and pray for a friend who is not there/who may have problems/something similar. Sing the **theme song** you chose for this term.
One day there was a disabled man who couldn’t walk (picture - move legs back and forth). He could just lie down all day on his mat (picture). He had 4 (picture) friends who wanted to help him. They picked up his mat (picture) and carried him to Jesus on it. When they came to the house where Jesus was, they saw that there were people crowded into the house – even into the street. When they looked inside through the window (picture), they saw that there was no space to be able to get their friend to Jesus.
They decided to carry their friend up the stairs (picture) to the roof of the house. In Jesus’ time, the houses there didn’t look like our houses today (picture), but had flat roofs (picture). They made a hole in the roof (picture), tied ropes to the mat (picture) and let their friend down through the hole to Jesus.

When Jesus saw that the friends believed He could heal their disabled friend, He told the man: “My friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Some of the teachers of scripture sat there, and they thought: “Why does this man talk like that? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Jesus knew what they were thinking and so He said to them: “Why (picture) are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this disabled man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?” He then said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”

The man stood up (picture), picked up his mat (picture) and walked home! He, and everyone else who saw it, constantly praised God!

The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:
1. I wonder how the man felt when he was still disabled.
2. I wonder why his friends decided to help him.
3. I wonder how the man felt about his friends who came to help him.
4. I wonder how the man felt when he could walk.
5. I wonder if you would do the same for a friend.

Working and playing time

- All the children get smaller aids to practise the story and retell it at home.
- Use kebab sticks (or something similar) and (news-)paper to make a mat or stretcher. Make a small man from pipe cleaners to lie on the stretcher.
- Join the dots using the numbers and colour in the picture.
- Colour in the pictures which tell the story.
- Story with strip of paper: Colour in the pictures, cut out the 2 parts of the picture and make cuts on the lines. Then feed the strip of paper through the slits to tell the story.

Benediction:
Close with the blessing as in session 21.
Order in which to use the aid:

Jesus helps the disabled man
Pictures of the story to colour in.
Story with strip of paper: Colour in the pictures, cut out the 2 parts of the picture and make cuts on the lines. Then feed the strip of paper through the slits to tell the story.
Instructions for the story on p. 5:

First game: picture of disabled man to stick onto the picture of the stretcher (on p. 7)