
**BEAR
HUG 15**

Jesus Loves the Paralyzed Man

Make It Stick: Matthew 1:21: ... *Call His name **JESUS**, for **He will save His people from their sins.*** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is God. He loved people by healing the sick and the hurting, but the greatest way He showed His love was by forgiving sin.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Mark 2:1-12 (See other accounts of the miracle in Matthew 9:1-8 and Luke 5:17-26.)

Memorize: Matthew 1:21

Whom would you call in your hour of need? Has God placed in your life a special individual whom you could call at a moment's notice and who would be there for you as soon as possible?

Loving friendships are precious blessings in our lives, and a perfect example is the friends found in the account of the paralytic man. We do not know the names of the individuals in the story, but we see their hearts and their faith through their actions. These four men banded together to lower their paralyzed friend down through the roof of a crowded home so that the man could meet the Healer face to face.

The physical ailments of this man were obvious to the curious onlookers. But Christ saw an even greater need in his heart. Only after He cared for the paralyzed man's spiritual need did He heal him physically.

As leaders, it is easy for us to recognize and pray for God to change the outward behavior of Cubbies. Perhaps one child needs to sit quietly during story time or another child needs to stop crying for the first 15 minutes of club. But recognize that your Cubbies have an even greater need: salvation in Christ. Each week before club, pray specifically for your Cubbies, but address the condition of their hearts and ask God to use you to point them toward the gospel of the Great Physician.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand that Jesus is God. He has the power to forgive sins.
2. Know that Jesus loves all people.
3. Learn that Jesus wants to forgive people from sin.
4. Remember that all have sinned.
5. Trust in Jesus for forgiveness of sin.
6. _____
7. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Happy and Sad Face Plates

What You Need

- Paper plates
- Eye shapes and curved mouth shapes cut from colored felt, foam or paper
- Glue sticks

Give each Cubbie two paper plates. On one plate, Cubbies glue shapes to make a happy face. On the other plate, Cubbies glue shapes to make a sad face. Talk with Cubbies about the things that make them happy or sad. Talk about how sad the paralytic man must have been when he could not walk and how happy he was when Jesus forgave his sin and healed his legs. Use the plates for the Happy and Sad Faces game during Play Time.

IDEA 2: Make a Mat

What You Need

- Precut paralytic man patterns (resource CD)
- Colored card stock paper (8.5" x 11" [22x28 cm] size)
- Glue sticks
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Crayons
- *Optional* — hole punch, yarn strands of equal size

This craft involves simple cutting and folding practice for Cubbies. Give each Cubbie a precut man pattern. Cubbies can color both pictures of the man, fold the pattern in half on the line and glue the backs of the pictures together so they will be able to flip the man over to see him as either a paralyzed man or a healed man. Next, show Cubbies how to fold a card stock paper in half horizontally. They will cut along the fold to separate the halves. One half will be used as a mat for the man. Let

Cubbies color the mat and snip short lines along the short sides of the mat to create fringe. (Young Cubbies may need a leader to draw cutting lines for them.) When Cubbies are done, tell them to place the paralyzed man on the mat. Review the Bible story. When you mention that Jesus healed the man, Cubbies can take the man off the mat, stand him up with his healed side visible and move him around the table.

Instead of Cubbies cutting fringe on the mat, leaders can punch a hole in each corner of the mat. Cubbies can weave a yarn strand through the two holes on each short side of the mat and hold the yarn at the ends so the mat hangs down. Explain that the yarns look like the ropes the friends may have used to lower the man through the roof. This craft may need to be finished in Handbook Time.

IDEA 3: Story Play Centers

What You Need

- Blocks, Legos or Lincoln Logs
- Small toy people to fit in block house
- Bath towels
- Several dolls and stuffed animals to be carried on towels

At one center, tell Cubbies to use blocks to build a house with a roof. Then tell them to remove part of the roof and lower a toy person through the roof and into the house. At another center, include bath towels, dolls and stuffed animals. Choose two Cubbies at a time to set a doll or animal on a towel, grasp the towel at each corner and carry the doll or animal to a designated location. Use both activities to review the story of Jesus healing the paralytic.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto and the A and C verses along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions. This is also a great time to introduce the unit Core Truth: Jesus Loves All People.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — whistles for Cubbie and Katie to wear, string

(If you have the whistles, use the string to attach a whistle around each puppet's neck securely so it will not fall off during the puppet show.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let's call him together. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie puppet into view, hopping from place to place.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls!

LEADER (chuckling): Cubbie, you seem excited today, as usual! Why are you so excited?

CUBBIE: I am now an important member of the Help Club.

LEADER: The Help Club? What's that, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Oh, it's our new club on Apple Acres Farm. Timothy, Katie, Luvie and I are all members. Our job is to watch out for people who need help while they are visiting the farm.

LEADER: I see. Did you find anyone who needed help today?

CUBBIE: Well, Timothy and I saw a lady leaving the Apple Market. She was carrying a bag full of jams and yummy honey. Mmm! *(Makes lip-smacking noises.)*

LEADER: Did you help her carry the jars?

CUBBIE: Timothy offered to help her, but she said the jars could break easily so she needed to carry them herself. We started to walk away when we heard the sound of a whistle. Timothy and I ran to the playground.

(If possible, blow Katie's whistle while you and the puppet are out of view. Then bring Katie Collie into view, barking.)

KATIE: I blew my whistle to let Timothy know that someone needed help!

LEADER: Who was it, Katie?

KATIE: It was Will, Timothy's good friend from Cubbies.

LEADER: Oh, no! What was wrong with Will? Why did he need help?

KATIE: Will was in a wheelchair because of his broken leg. He was sad because he couldn't play with his friends or ride the Orchard Express, the train on Apple Acres Farm.

CUBBIE: Timothy and I realized we could help him. We pushed the wheelchair over to the train, and Mr. Ted, the train conductor, set out the ramp. We were able to push Will's wheelchair up the ramp and onto the train.

KATIE: Timothy and Cubbie were such good friends, and Will was happy that he got to ride the train.

LEADER: It sounds as if all of you are doing a great job helping others on Apple Acres Farm.

CUBBIE (laughing): I hope so. Katie, let's go and see if there's anyone else on the farm who needs our help!

KATIE (nodding and barking excitedly): Yes, let's go, Cubbie! Goodbye, everybody.

(Have children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Teddy on a Mat**What You Need**

- Teddy Grahams cookies
- Rectangular crackers or tortilla slices
- Plates

Serve each Cubbie five Teddy Grahams cookies on a plate. One cookie should be lying on a cracker (or rectangular tortilla slice); the other four should be placed around the cracker. As you serve the snack, remind the Cubbies of the four men who carried their friend to Jesus on his mat. Ask Cubbies to tell you what Jesus did for the man on the mat. (Jesus forgave the man's sins and made the man walk.) Talk about the amazing love and power of Jesus.

IDEA 2: Help Your Friend Snack**What You Need**

- Any snack that Cubbies enjoy, such as animal or fish crackers, pretzels, yogurt, applesauce, cereal pieces or fruit pieces

Seat all the Cubbies at tables in groups of four. Let each Cubbie stand up to get a snack from a leader, carry it back to the table and set it before a friend at the table. Tell Cubbies that they are helping a friend by serving him or her a snack. Remind them of the way the four men helped their friend in the Bible story.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Matthew 1:21”** from the *HoneyComb Handbook Music CD*
- **“Where Is the A?”** (Tune: “Where is Thumbkin?”) Hide TC14 or a construction paper A behind your back and display it when you sing “Here it is!”

Where is A? Where is A?

Here it is! Here it is!

Tell us what it stands for. Tell us what it stands for.
A is for all ... *All have sinned* ...

- **“J-E-S-U-S”** (Tune: “B-I-N-G-O.”) This is a good unit theme song. New verses will be added each week. Define the word *lame* for Cubbies. After Cubbies learn the song, say, “Wow! Did you know you just spelled Jesus’ name?” Cubbies usually find this exciting, since many are learning to spell their own names.

Who can make a lame man walk?

Do you know His name?

J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)

Jesus is His name.

Who can save us from our sins?

Do you know His name?

J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)

Jesus is His name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, let's talk to God. Talking to God is called prayer. When we pray, we can thank God for forgiving our sins when we trust in Him. A sin is anything we think (*point to head*), say (*point to mouth*) or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God. We all sin, but Jesus, God's Son, died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. (*Pray in such a way that Cubbies are reminded that all of them sin and need to trust Jesus Christ. Thank God that Jesus has the power to forgive sin.*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 61-64
- Bible with markers placed at Mark 2:1-12 and Matthew 1:21
- *Optional* — cardboard box, glue stick, Jesus and crowd scene (resource CD), paralytic man (resource CD), paper mat for man, scissors, paper strip, tape, towel, doll, a Cubbie vest

(Before club, make a Bible times house by cutting off the top flaps of a cardboard box and laying the box on its side. The former top of the box will become an open side for Cubbies to view inside the house. Paste the scene of Jesus and the crowd to the visible inner wall of the house. Make a paralytic man and mat as directed in IDEA 2 of Coming In. Make a stairway for the house by folding a strip of paper accordion style to represent steps. Tape the stairway to the side of the house. Cut a flap in the roof, larger than your paper mat.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

The Help Club sounds like fun! I'm glad they were able to help Will. Do you remember why Will was sad? *(Pause for responses. Remind Cubbies that Will had a broken leg.)*

It would be hard to not be able to use your legs. Can you think of all the ways we use our legs every day?

Optional: *Have children act out different ways we can use our legs. Ideas include jumping, kneeling, stretching on our toes, walking, running.*

(Open your Bible to Mark 2:1-12.) I'm going to tell you a true story in the Bible about a man who was paralyzed. That means that his legs did not work. This man could not go ANYWHERE unless someone carried him.

But do you know what? This man had four special friends who wanted to help him. These friends had heard many wonderful

things about Jesus. The friends knew that if ANYONE could help their paralyzed friend, it would be Jesus. *(Set the doll on the towel. Chose four Cubbies to each hold a corner of the towel and demonstrate how the friends might have carried the paralyzed man.)*

(Display TC61.) One day the four men lifted up their friend's mat and carried the man to the house where Jesus was.

Inside the house, Jesus was teaching people about Himself and His Father, God. There were so many people in the house listening to Jesus that the four friends couldn't even get through the door! But they did not give up. What do you think they did? *(Allow response, and point to the stairs on TC61 to give Cubbies a hint.)*

(Display TC62. Then display your optional prepared box with your paper stairs leading to the roof.) The friends carried their paralyzed friend up the steps outside of the house to the top of the house. Then they took off part of the roof of the house and made a big hole.

(Bend back the flap in the roof of your box. Lower your paper man on the mat through the flap and set the mat before Jesus.) They carefully lowered their friend down through the hole in the roof.

Imagine the surprise of the people in the house when they saw the paralyzed man being lowered down through a hole in the roof! Jesus loved the paralyzed man and wanted to help him. But Jesus wanted to do something even BETTER than helping the man's legs work again.

See, boys and girls, Jesus knew that the paralyzed man had a greater need than being able to walk again. He was a sinner. Remember what the A on your vest stands for? *(Hold up Cubbie vest and point to the A. Cubbies can also point to the A on their own vests.)* The A stands for All. Romans 3:23 says ... *All have sinned* ... Can you say that with me? *(Repeat the verse together.)* The paralyzed man was a sinner, like all of us. Do you remember what a sin is? A sin is anything we think *(point to your head)*, say *(point to your mouth)*

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or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God.

Jesus knew that He was the ONLY ONE who could forgive the paralyzed man's sin, and He also knew that the paralyzed man and His friends believed in Jesus. So He said, "Your sins are forgiven."

Now there were people in the crowd who did not believe that Jesus is God's Son. They did not understand that Jesus can forgive sin. To help these people understand, Jesus did something else very special that NOBODY ELSE could do. Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Get up! Pick up your mat and go home!"

(Display TC63.) And do you know what happened? The paralyzed man stood up! His legs were healed (which means his legs worked right again), and he could walk all the way home. **(Have children pretend to be the paralyzed man. Say, "Stand up and walk," and have children stand and walk in place.)**

The people who were watching then knew that Jesus is God. They were excited and praised God. **(Have Cubbies shout together, "Praise God!")**

(Display TC64.) Jesus loved the four friends and the paralyzed man. In fact, the Bible says that **Jesus loves all people.** **(Point to the Core Truth and have Cubbies repeat it with you.)** Jesus came to earth to love people. He healed people when they were hurt or sick. But the BEST way Jesus showed He loves all people was by forgiving their sin.

Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. But Cubbies, Jesus did not stay dead. After three days **(count aloud to three and encourage Cubbies to count with you)**, Jesus came alive again!

(Open your Bible to Matthew 1:21.) Because Jesus died for our sin and then came alive again, He has the power to forgive sin. Our memory verse, Matthew 1:21, says: ... *Call His name JESUS, for He will save His people*

from their sins. (Repeat the verse a few times with Cubbies.)

If you trust in Jesus as your Savior, God will forgive you of your sin. That means God won't be angry or punish you for your sin because Jesus took that punishment. God won't even remember your sin! After you trust Jesus as your Savior you can be God's friend and get to know Him better, and one day you can live with Him forever in heaven.

(Pay attention to any Cubbies who seem ready to learn more about how they can have their sin forgiven. Review the document "Sharing the Gospel with Cubbies" on the resource CD for helpful tips.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 15 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 15 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 15 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — cross stickers

Tell Cubbies to choose the path that will lead the four men and their friend to Jesus and draw a line to follow the path. Review the Bible story from Mark 2:1-12. Emphasize that Jesus is God. He loved the man who couldn't walk, and He had power to make the man walk. He also had power to forgive the man's sins. Jesus loves us too, and He forgives our sins. He died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. Cubbies may draw a cross or place cross stickers on the back side of the sheet.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 15 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

In all of these games, be sensitive to any Cubbies who are limited in mobility or have other physical limitations. Find a way to involve them in each game. For example, in IDEA 1, let them count all the happy or sad faces that are picked up by the group. In the relays, perhaps they could hand the towel, doll or animal to each team member.

IDEA 1: Happy and Sad Faces**What You Need**

- Many happy and sad faces cut from paper or foam sheets (you may use the plate faces Cubbies made during Coming In)
- Timer

Scatter sad faces and happy faces on the floor of the playing area. Talk with Cubbies about how sad the paralytic man must have been when he could not move his legs. Set a timer and tell Cubbies to try to gather all the sad faces before the timer goes off. (They could set the sad faces in a line against a wall.) Talk about how happy the paralytic man must have been after Jesus forgave his sin and healed his legs. Set the timer and tell Cubbies to try to gather all the happy faces before the timer goes off. (They could set the happy faces in a line against another wall.) Return all the faces to the playing area to play again.

IDEA 2: Four Friends Relay 1**What You Need**

For each relay group:

- Strand of rope
- Bath towel

Beforehand, roll up each towel tightly and tie it with a rope strand. Remind kids that after Jesus healed the paralytic (the man who couldn't walk), Jesus told the man to get up, pick up his mat and walk home. Divide Cubbies into relay groups of four or more. Give each group a rolled towel. Each group member will take a turn pretending to be the healed paralytic carrying his mat. The group member will walk, carrying the towel, to a designated spot and then return to give it to the next person in his group's line. With Cubbies, do not stress competition among groups. Just encourage all groups to do their best.

IDEA 3: Four Friends Relay 2**What You Need**

For each relay group:

- Four dolls or stuffed animals
- Bath towel
- Box

Remind Cubbies about the four men who carried their friend to Jesus. Divide Cubbies into groups of four. (If necessary, some groups can have two or three.) Give each group a towel and four dolls or stuffed animal friends. Set a box at an equal distance from each group. On the leader's signal, the four Cubbies will set a doll or animal (the "friend") on a towel, each grab a corner of the towel, carry the towel quickly to the box (being careful not to drop the friend) and place the friend into the box. Then the team will return to get a new friend. Play continues until all the friends are safely in the boxes.

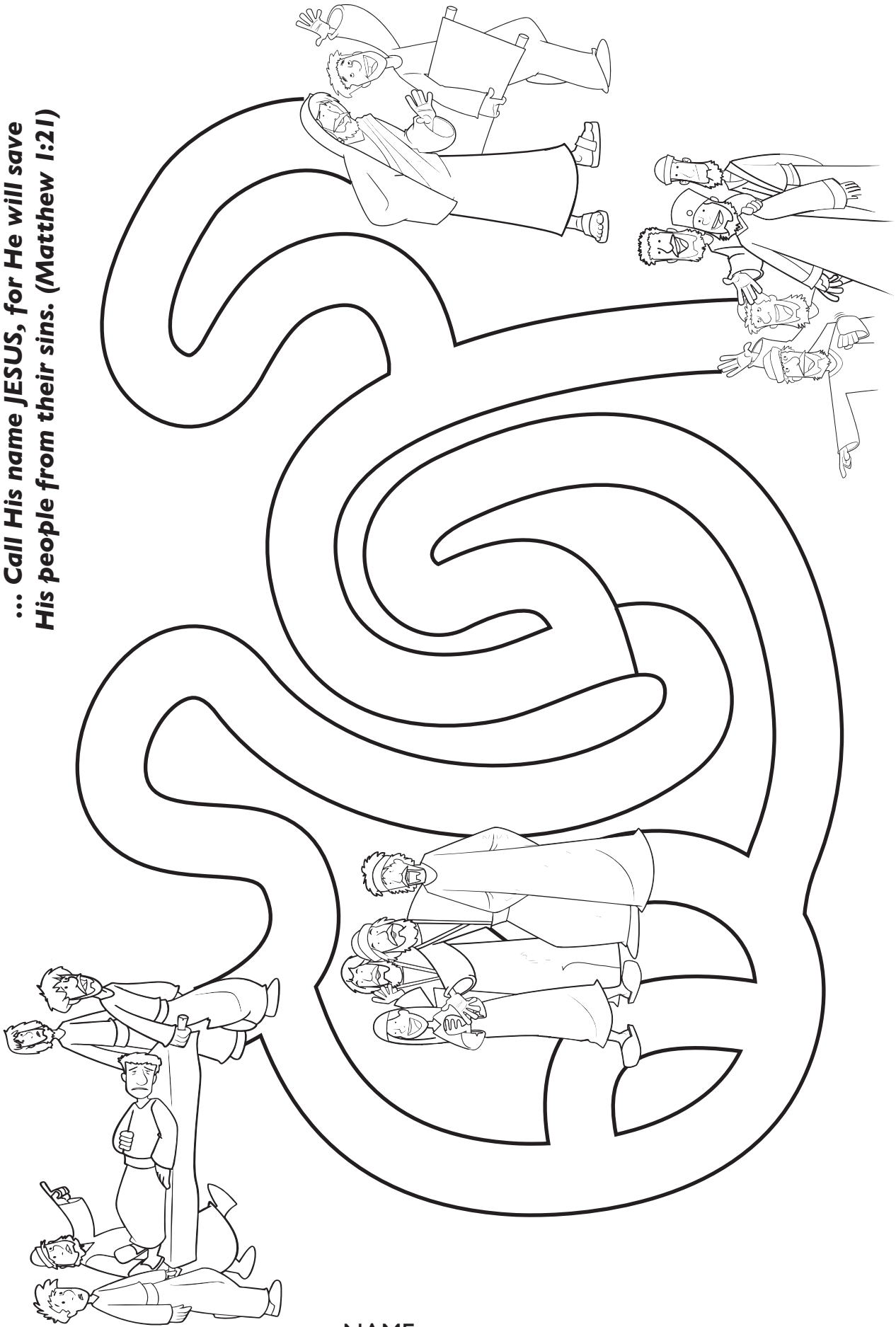
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

For fun, play Simon Says but tell Cubbies to sit on the floor with legs extended. Only give commands that involve the upper body. Then switch to commands that only involve the legs.

Review the verse, Matthew 1:21, as Cubbies prepare to go home. Remind Cubbies that sin is anything we think (*point to your head*), say (*point to your mouth*) or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God. Let Cubbies repeat the definition of sin and motions with you several times. Add fun by speeding up or slowing down your motions.

This lesson may bring up sensitive issues with children who have physical limitations or other special needs. Review the document on the resource CD entitled "Can I Come Too?" for help in welcoming, including and engaging the diversity of Cubbies in your club.

... Call His name **JESUS**, for He will save
His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)



NAME: _____

Basic Instructions: Four men had a friend who could not walk. They wanted to bring their friend to Jesus, but they could not get inside the house because of all the people. Draw a line to follow the path that leads to Jesus. What did the men do to get their friend inside the house to Jesus? (Ask a grown-up to read Mark 2:1-12 to you if you don't remember.)

Even More Fun: Color all the people on the sheet.

Ultimate Fun: When Jesus saw the man, He forgave his sins and healed his legs. He told the man to get up, pick up his mat and go home! Draw a cross or place cross stickers on the back side of this sheet. Remember that Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven.