

CHILDREN MINISTRY

# Preschool Lesson 2027

FOSTER THE CITY

**Theme:** Helping Like Jesus
**Scripture:** Mark 2:1–12
**Key Point:** Jesus is the best helper
**Sticky Truth:** I can be a helper

## Teacher Preparation and Mindsets:

Before you teach, take a moment to imagine this story through the eyes of a preschooler. Four friends saw someone who needed help, and instead of walking away, they chose to help by bringing their friend to Jesus. They worked together, carried their friend, climbed onto a roof, and did whatever they could to bring him closer to Jesus. Why did they bring him to Jesus? **Because Jesus is the best Helper.**

**Today's mindset: You are not just teaching a story- you are helping children discover that** they can be part of God's story by loving and helping others.

## 1. Opening Activity (5–7 minutes)

**Helping Hands Poster**

Materials: Large poster board with the words "I Can Be a Helper," construction paper hands, crayons/markers, glue/tape, safety scissors, stickers, etc.

**Activity:** As children enter the classroom, give each child a piece of construction paper. Help them trace their hand. Have them color and decorate their handprint. Help them cut their paper hand print out. Help children write their name on it, then add their handprint to the poster.

**SAY:** "Look at all these helping hands! In our Bible story today, four friends used their hands to help someone they loved. God gave us hands that can help too! We can share Jesus' love when we help others."

## 2. Lesson Part 1: Read the Bible Story (5–10 minutes)

**Story: Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man - Mark 2:1–12**

**Materials:** Children's Bible (Recommended: *Bible Storybook by the Bible App*)

**Activity:** Gather the children together and introduce today's Bible story. Read the story of **Jesus healing the paralyzed man** from a Children's Bible. We recommend using the **Bible Storybook by the Bible App**, but any children's Bible with this story can be used.

As you read, encourage children to notice:

- *Who needed help?*
- *Who chose to be helpers?*
- *Who was the greatest Helper?*

Pause throughout the story to point out the pictures, ask simple questions, and help children imagine what it would have been like to be there.

**SAY:** "Today we are learning about four friends who saw someone who needed help. They loved their friend so much that they carried him all the way to Jesus. They knew Jesus could do something no one else could do. Jesus is the greatest Helper! Jesus helps us, and we can share His love by helping others."

**Sticky Truth Practice:**
Teacher: "I can be a..."
Kids: "HELPER!"

## Lesson Part 2: Interactive Story Review (5–10 minutes)

Pick either the high tech or low tech Interactive Story Review Activities:

**Option 1 - High Tech: Story: "Through the Roof" - Bible App for Kids**

**Materials:** Bible App for Kids on App or phone (download the interactive story **"Through the Roof"**)

**Activity:** Now that children have heard the Bible story, reinforce the lesson using the interactive story in the Bible App for Kids.

Read through **"Through the Roof"** together. After each page, choose one child to take a turn touching the screen and discovering the interactive animations. Each page includes fun graphics that move when touched.

**Option 2 - Low Tech: "Through the Roof" Bible Story Sequencing**

**Materials:** Bible Story Activity Cards

**Activity:** Now that the children have heard today's Bible story, let's see if they can put it back together!

Mix the Bible Story Activity Cards and place them in a pile or spread them out so they are out of order. Invite one child at a time to choose the card that shows what happened next in the story. As each child selects a card, work together to place it in the correct spot on a timeline.

As you build the timeline, pause to ask questions like:

- *What happened first?*
- *What did the friends do next?*
- *Why did they climb onto the roof?*
- *What happened after they lowered their friend to Jesus?*
- *How did the story end?*

By the end of the review, the class will have created the complete timeline of **Mark 2:1–12**, helping everyone remember how four determined friends worked together to bring someone to Jesus.

## 3. Small Group Review (5 minutes)

Use this time to help children remember the important parts of the story:

- The man needed help.
- His friends showed love by helping him.
- Jesus forgave him and healed him.
- We can share Jesus' love by helping others.

**SAY:** "The four friends didn't walk away when someone needed help. They showed love by helping their friend get close to Jesus. Jesus was the biggest Helper because He forgave the man, loved him, and healed him.

**ASK:**

- "How many friends helped carry the man?" (*Four!*)
- "Where did they bring their friend?" (*To Jesus!*)
- "Who is the greatest Helper?" (*Jesus!*)
- "How can we be helpers?" (*Help a friend, share, be kind, and include others.*)

**SAY:** "Just like the four friends helped their friends, families and churches can be helpers too! We can look for people in our lives who need help and show them love. We can show Jesus' love by welcoming new friends, being kind, or sharing what you have with others."

**ASK:** "What are some ways you can be a helper?" (Allow responses, then give examples.)

- "I can share my toys."
- "I can invite someone to play."
- "I can use kind words."
- "I can help someone who is sad."
- "I can pray for others."

**SAY:** "You don't have to be big to share Jesus' love. Jesus helps us, and we can help others!"

**Repeat Sticky Truth:** "I can be a helper!"

## 4. Activity: Carry Your Friend Team Challenge (10 minutes)

**Materials:** Small blanket/towel, stuffed animals or dolls, cones or tape to create a path

**Activity:** Invite children to work together with a friend to carry a stuffed animal across the room on a small blanket. Encourage them to go slowly and carefully so their "friend" does not fall.

**SAY:** "Wow! You had to work together to help your friend. In our Bible story today, four friends had someone they loved who needed help. They didn't say, 'That's too hard!' They worked together and brought their friend to Jesus. Jesus loves helping people, and we can show His love by helping others too!"

## 5. Roof STEM Challenge (10 minutes)

**Materials:**

- Wooden blocks or Duplo® blocks
- cardstock squares (to create a roof)
- Small toy people or peg dolls to represent the "friend on the mat"
- Small piece of felt or fabric (to represent the mat)
- A picture of Jesus to place inside the "house"
- 1 per group: spatula, tongs, tweezers, yarn

**Activity:** Invite children to become builders! Challenge them to work together in small groups with an adult volunteer to build a house using blocks. Once the walls are finished, place a cardboard square on top to create the roof.

Next, place the "Jesus" figure inside the house and the "friend" figure outside on the fabric mat.

Ask the children: *"Oh no! The house is full of people. How can we get our friend to Jesus?"*

Allow children to problem-solve together. Encourage them to suggest ideas before showing them the solution. If needed, prompt them with questions such as:

- "Can we go through the door?"
- "What if the house is too crowded?"
- "Can you think of another way?"

Once children discover the idea of removing the roof, let them lift off the cardboard roof and carefully lower the toy figure into the house to meet Jesus (using one of the following materials: spatula, tongs, tweezers, yarn.)

Repeat the challenge as time allows, letting different children have a turn to lower the friend in the house or explain the story.

**SAY:** "The four friends didn't give up when they couldn't get inside. They knew Jesus could help their friend, so they found another way! They climbed onto the roof, made an opening, and lowered their friend down to Jesus. They worked together because they loved their friend."

"Sometimes helping someone takes creativity, teamwork, and not giving up. God can use us to help others and share His love!"

**ASK:**

- "Why did the friends bring the man to Jesus?"
- "Did they give up when the house was crowded?"
- "How did they solve the problem?"
- "Who is the greatest Helper?" (*Jesus!*)
- "How can you be a helper this week?"

Teacher Note: Resist the temptation to tell children exactly what to do right away. The goal of this activity is for them to practice problem-solving and perseverance, just like the four friends did. Celebrate their ideas and teamwork, even if they build the house differently each time.

**Sticky Truth:** "I can be a helper!"

## 6. Take Home Activity

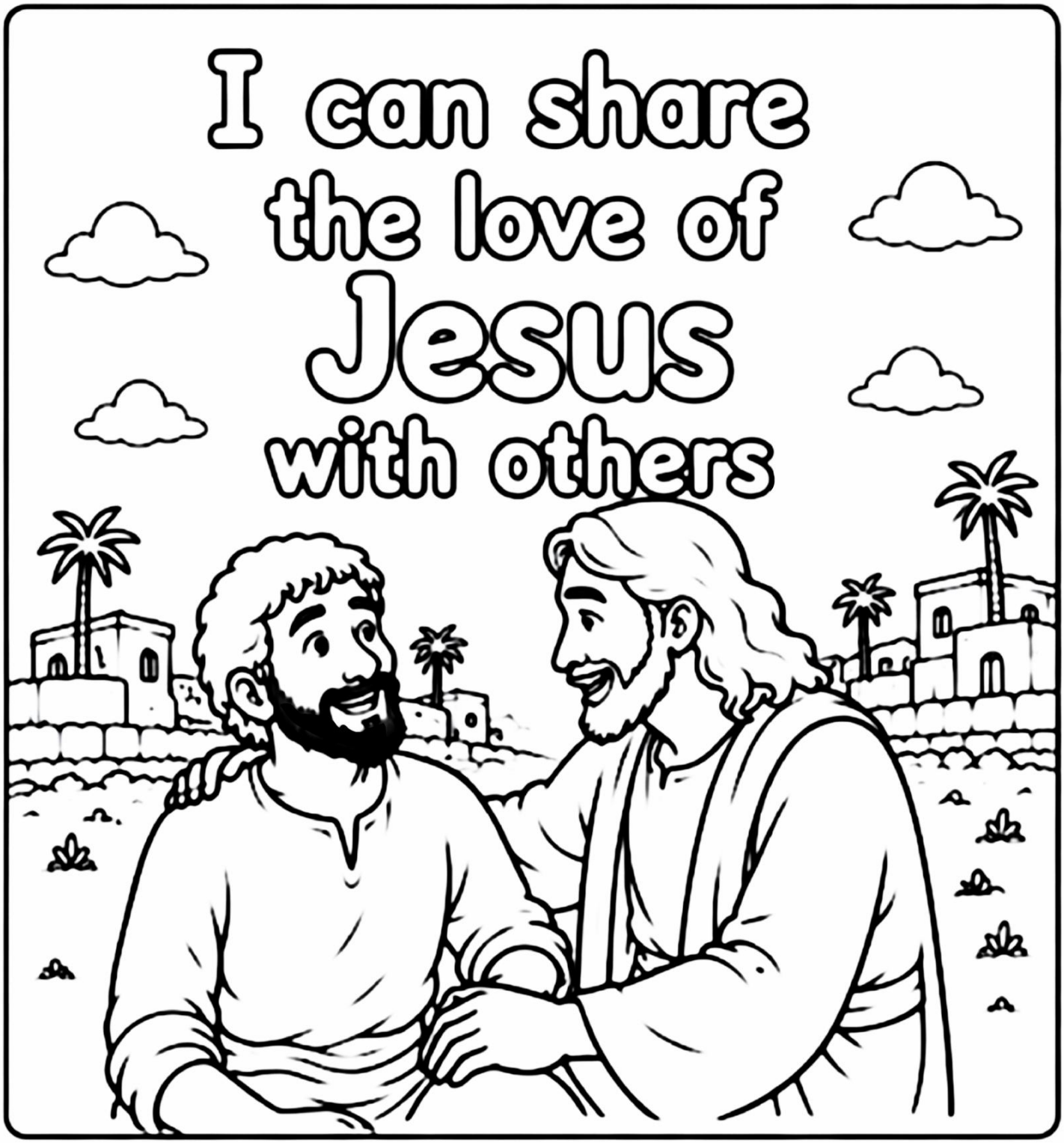
**Materials:** Mini-booklet (provided), crayons

**Activity:** Give each child a mini-booklet to color. As children color each page, walk around the room and talk with them about the pictures. Encourage them to retell the story in their own words by asking simple questions like, "Who helped the man?" or "Who is the greatest Helper?"

**SAY:** "Today you get to take home your very own Bible story booklet! You can show it to your family and tell them about the four friends who brought their friend to Jesus. Then you can read it together and talk about how your family can be helpers too."

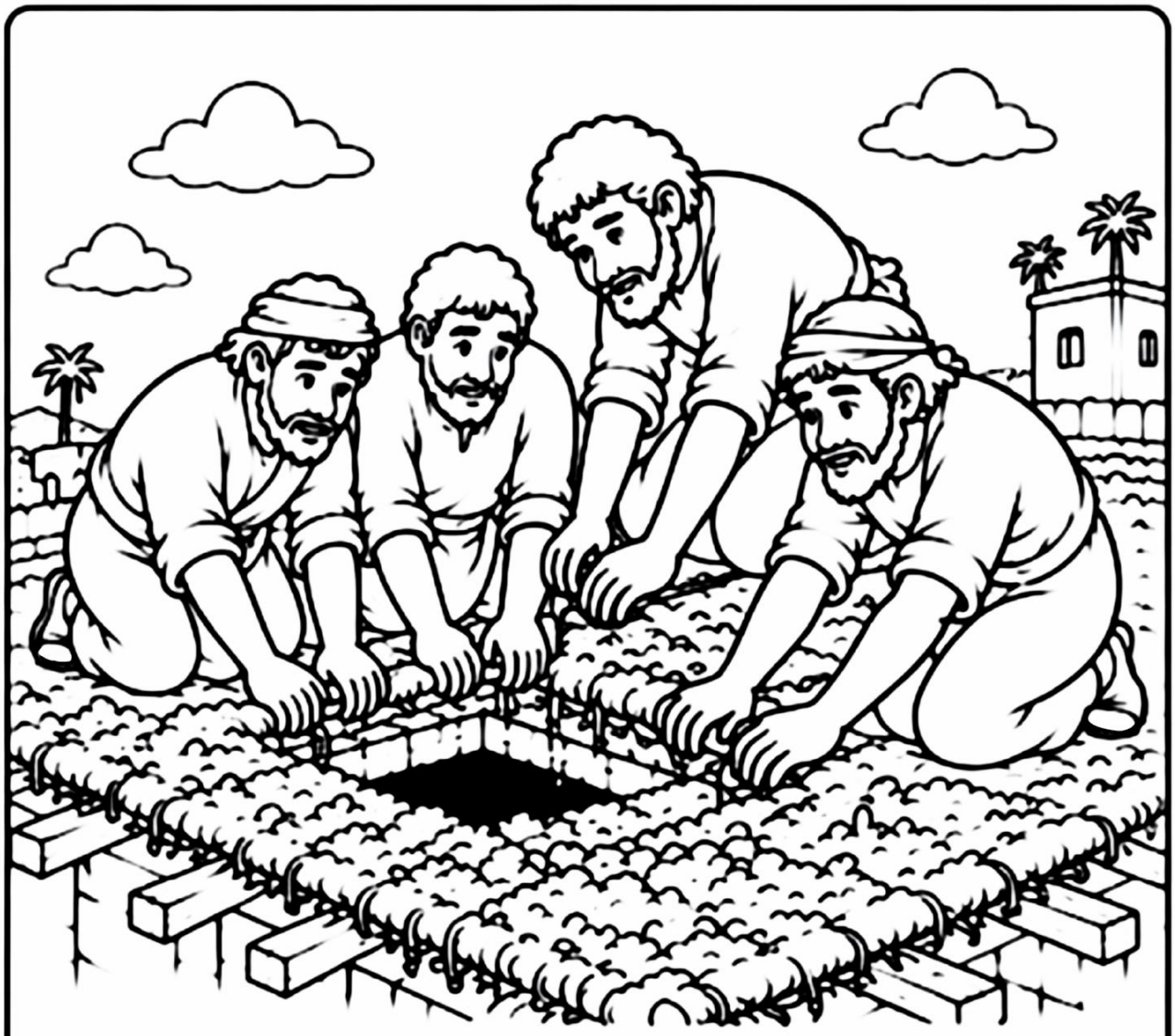
"Remember, Jesus is the greatest Helper. Because Jesus helps us, we can share His love by helping others just like the four friends did."

**As children leave, remind them:** "Don't forget to show your booklet to your family this week! Read it together and tell them what you learned."

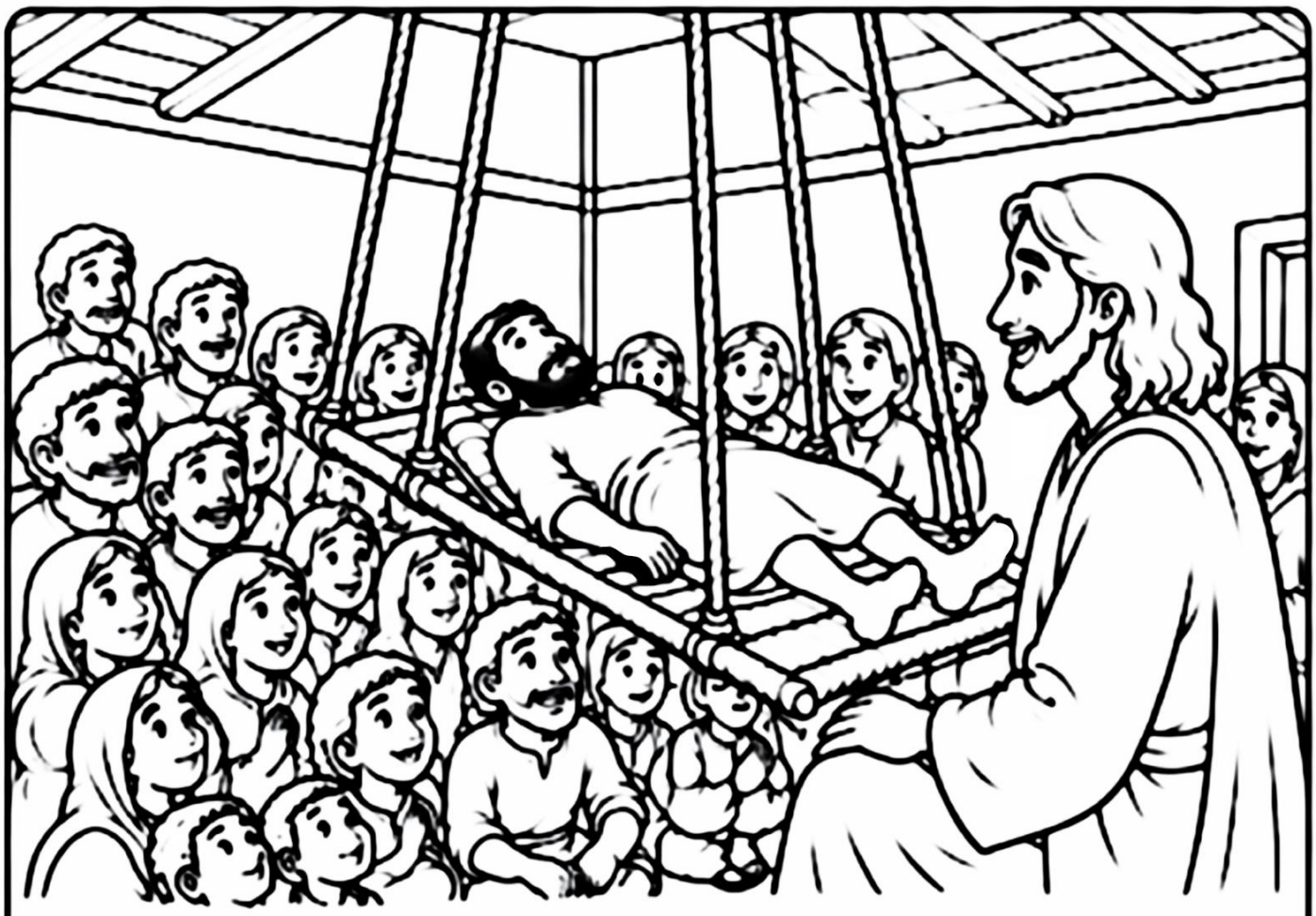

I can share
the love of
Jesus
with others



I can see when
someone needs help.



I can think of ways
to help.



Jesus loves everyone
and helps them.



I can share Jesus' love
with others.