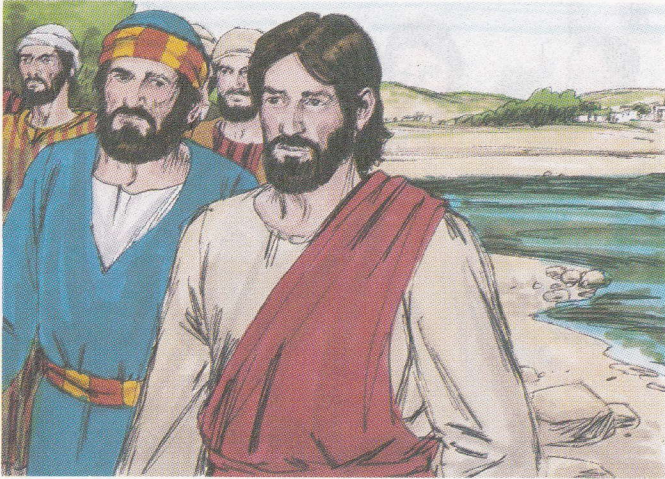
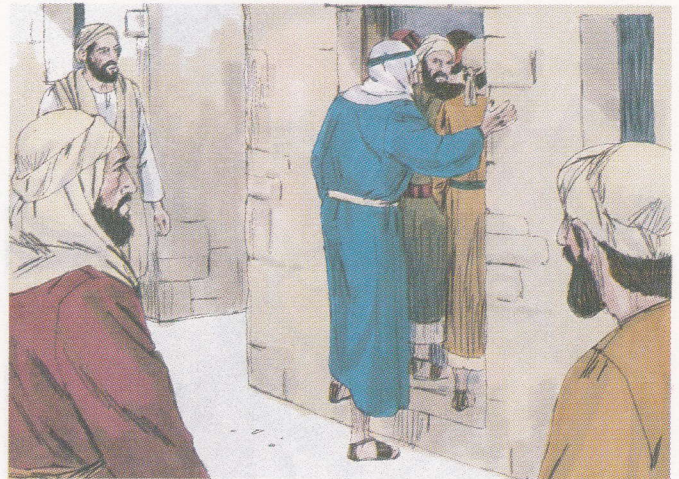


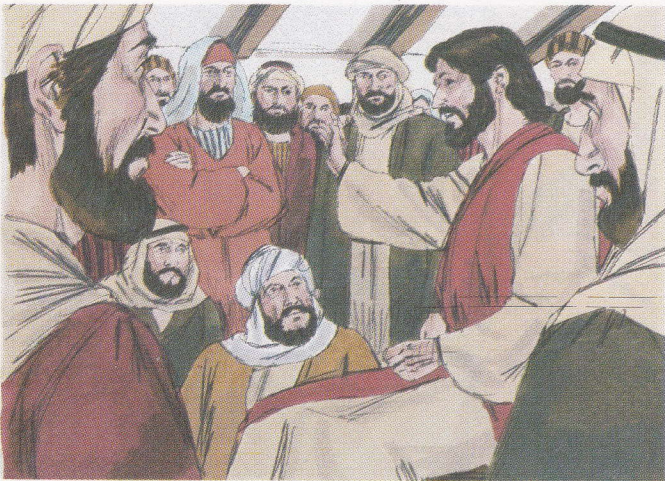
Jesus Forgives Sins



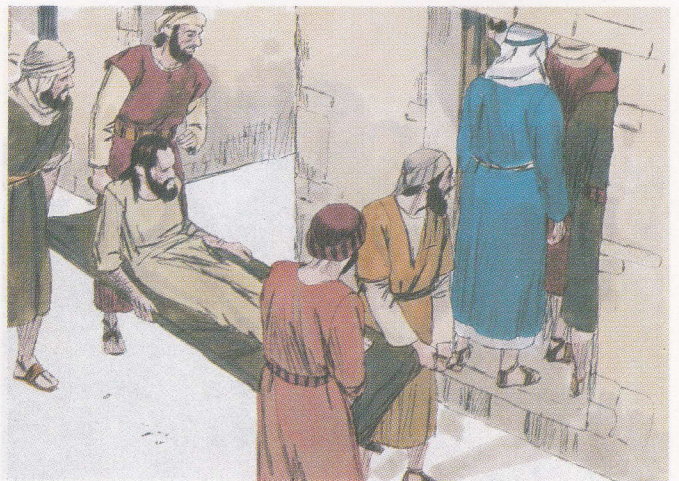
1 One day, after preaching and teaching at different places, Jesus returned to Capernaum. The news spread through town that Jesus had come home.



2 Many people came to his house to see him. The crowd was so great that the house was filled and no one else could even get inside the door. Jesus was preaching to the people who had come.



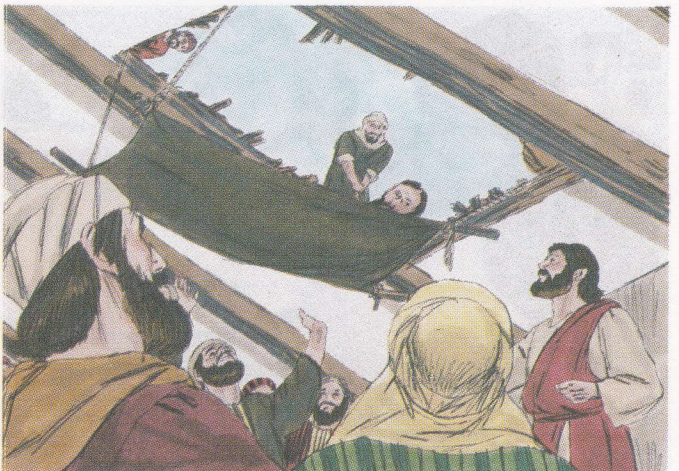
3 Among those who came to listen were some scribes (teachers of the Law) and Pharisees. They came from all parts of the country — from the villages of Galilee and Judea, and even Jerusalem.



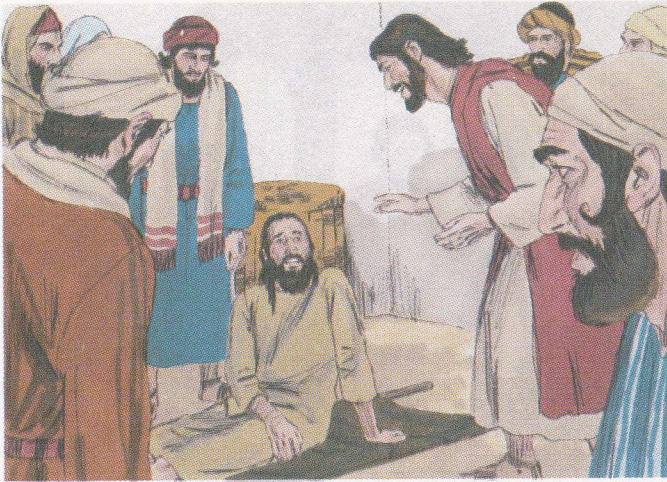
4 Four men arrived carrying a man on his bed. The man was paralyzed; he could not move his legs at all. They had brought him to be healed, but because of the crowds they couldn't get inside.



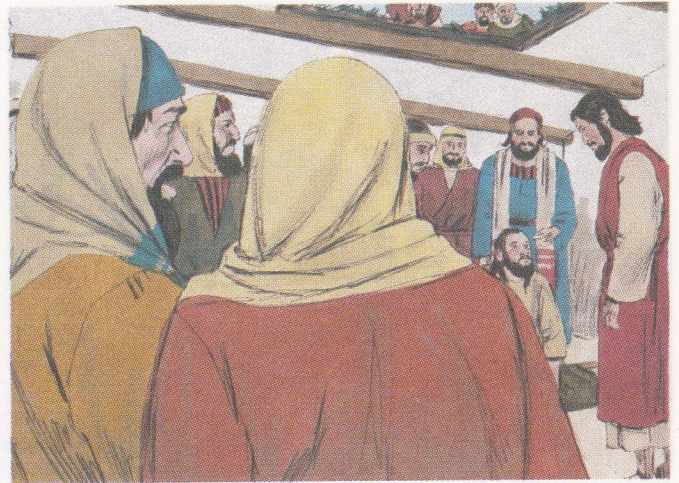
5 Then one of them said, "Let's lower him down through the roof!" So they carried the man up to the roof and dug a big hole in it.



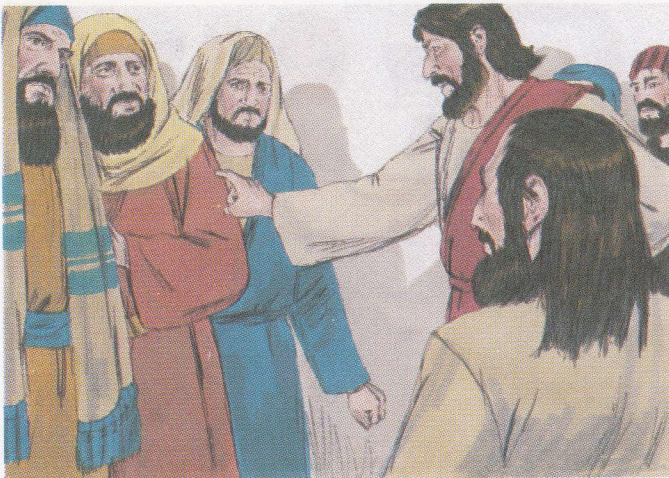
6 Then they lowered the paralyzed man down into the room right in front of Jesus!



7 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man who was paralyzed, "My son, your sins are forgiven."



8 Some of the scribes and Pharisees began to say to themselves, "How can he say such a thing? He's insulting God! Nobody but God can forgive sins!"



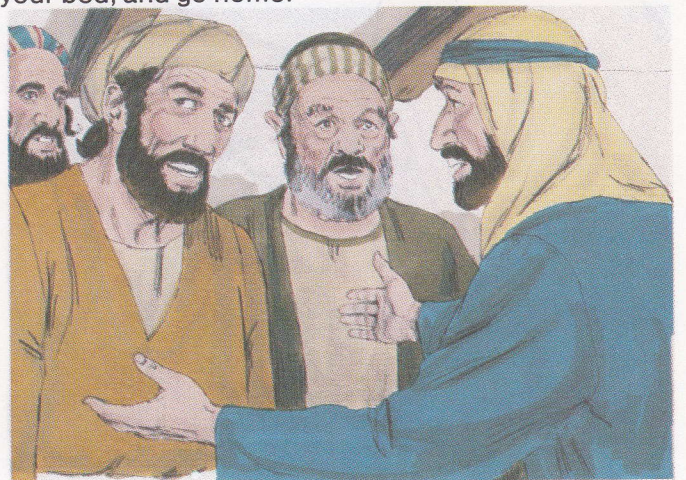
9 Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said to them, "Why do you have such thoughts? Which is easier to say — 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Rise, take up your bed, and walk'?"



10 "Now so you'll know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he turned toward the paralyzed man and said, "Get up, and take your bed, and go home."



11 Immediately the man who had been unable to walk got up! He picked up his bed and went walking out through the crowded room.



12 When the people saw this they were amazed. They praised God and said, "We've never seen anything like this before!"