

# *Forgiveness through Jesus*

Mark 2:1-12

## *Some first words of explanation:*

Imagine yourself as one of the paralysed man's friends. You are desperate to get him to Jesus because you have heard of his healing miracles. You throw caution to the wind and dig through the mud and straw of the roof of someone's house. Imagine the shock when Jesus doesn't just heal him. Instead he says "your sins are forgiven".

Even worse, it seems like there's going to be an argument because the religious teachers are up in arms – only God can forgive sins – and they are right. Who does this man think he is? Then the relief when your friend is healed – but more than that, the amazement that Jesus is not just an ordinary man – he is the Son of God who can forgive sins.

## *A question to ask:*

"What is the greatest need you feel in your life just now?"

## *A possible response:*

People give many different answers to that question. The Bible tells us that our greatest need is forgiveness of our sins. God, by sending his son to the cross meets that need. We can in no way earn forgiveness. It has to come from God to us through Jesus' death on the cross. This is a gift which we either accept or reject.

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***Suggested prayer:***

*This is a prayer you can encourage someone to pray if they are ready and happy to do so.*

Lord, I have many needs but help me to realise that my greatest need is forgiveness for all my sin.

Help me to understand that Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world to save sinners like me.

So I now receive Jesus as my Saviour and Lord and give thanks to you for the great blessing of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.



[www.presbyterianireland.org/pastoralcare](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/pastoralcare)

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