

Lesson #2-17

JESUS FORGIVES SINS

Mark 2:1-22

**Key Verse:**

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 2:5

The Point:

Jesus welcomes everyone into God's kingdom.

Unit Theme (December 31—January 14)

God's Kingdom Announced

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Gather at the table.

You will need:

† Optional: placemats or flatware and dishes

Preparation:

1. Set a table in the classroom with enough places for all participants (plus extra seats for additional participants). Optional: Set the table with tableware.

Instructions:

1. Gather the class around the table you prepared. Lead the class in a prayer thanking God for the opportunity to gather together at Jesus's table.
2. **An important part of our story today is about Jesus going to dinner at the house of a man named Levi. Levi was a tax collector, and during this time, lots of people did not like**

tax collectors. In fact, some people, called Pharisees, were worried about Jesus' behavior when he told Levi to follow him.

3. **Jesus gathered more tax collectors and other people who were disliked and shared a meal together at Levi's house. When the Pharisees asked Jesus why he with these people, Jesus answered with a comparison. Jesus said that just like a healthy person does not need a doctor as much as a sick person does, a well-liked person does not need a friend as much as someone who is not well-liked.**
4. **By his words and actions, Jesus showed that everyone is welcome at his table. Jesus shows us today that we are all welcome at his table, no matter who we are or what we have done. Who is welcome at Jesus's table? [Everyone!]**