

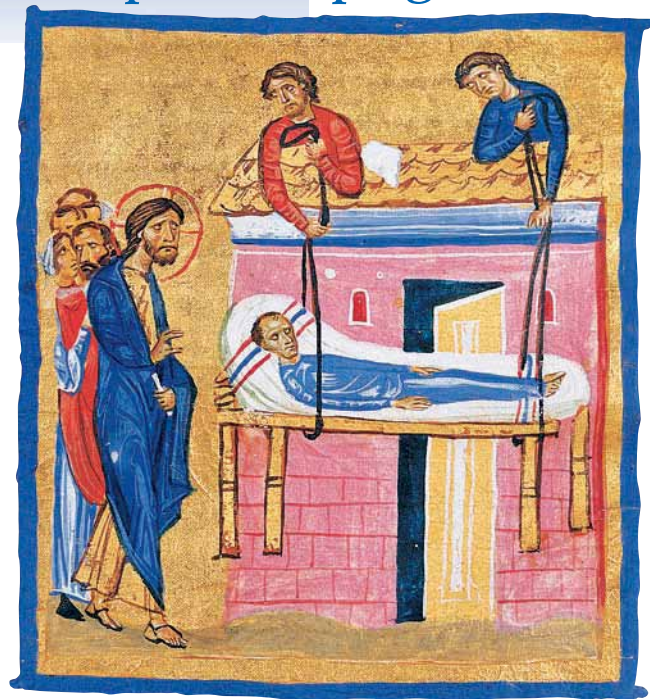
RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

Jesus Forgives Us

The Gospel of Mark tells the story of the man who was paralyzed and could not reach Jesus. His friends helped him by carrying him to the top of the house where Jesus was staying, tearing open the thatched roof, and lowering the man's pallet. Jesus first forgave his sins and then told him to take up his pallet and walk. The man had dependable friends who helped him reach Jesus. Jesus helps us when we recognize our need to be forgiven of our sins. He has given us the Sacrament of Penance through which we can confess to a priest and receive absolution. Once we are forgiven and reconciled with God and one another, we can face the future with hope.



The Healing of the Paralytic, from the Manuscript of The Four Gospels

Dinnertime Conversation Starter



Like the man who was paralyzed, we often have trouble getting close to Jesus. Help your child talk about what he or she can do to stay close to Jesus.

Spirituality in Action

Your child is learning that through the Sacrament of Penance we make peace with God and others. He or she is learning



that God wants us to be reconciled with members of our community and our world. Notice words or actions that prevent peace or that build "walls" between people.

Discuss with your child small steps that he or she might take to be a peacemaker.

Focus on Prayer

Your child was encouraged to live in peace. Pray with your child for a spirit of peace and forgiveness at home.



Hints for at Home

To remind your family that we can receive forgiveness for our sins, make healing bandages to use in your home. You will need plastic bandages of various sizes and shapes, permanent markers, and small stickers.

Invite your child to write messages, such as *God is with me* or *Live in peace*, on the bandages with the markers. Decorate the bandages with the stickers. Use the bandages each time a skinned knee or cut finger needs care.