



**Worship Illustration: Storybook**  
***The Bonzai Brothers***  
**God of Wonders Part 1: Miracles of Jesus**  
**Unit 2, Lesson 7**

# **Healing the Paralyzed Man**

**Mark 2:1-12**

**"It's a beautiful morning on this wonderful island," thought Mumsy as she took her morning walk. It was the first morning of her visit and she had decided to explore. As she strolled on the sand between the ocean and the tropical woodland, she enjoyed the sound of the breaking waves, the scent of bright tropical flowers, and the chirping of the birds.**

**Just then, a bird call filled the air. Mumsy jumped and looked around to see where the noise had come from. The call came again; followed by, "Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie!"**

**She looked over at the remains of a fallen tree sticking up out of the sand noticed a large pelican hopping around on top of it. "Oh my, you startled me. I'm not Algie, dear!"**

**Pepper Pelican gave out a surprised squawk and then said, "Oh, I can never tell you two apart. Chauncey! Chauncey! Chauncey! Chauncey! Chauncey! Chauncey!"**

**"I'm not Chauncey either, dear," Mumsy said as she stared at the talking bird. She had never met a talking bird before!**

**Pepper spread his wings and swooped down to a lower section of the old tree trunk to get a better look at Mumsy. "Then, who are you and what did you do with the Bonzais?"**

**"I am a Bonzai," she explained. "Mumsy Bonzai! I'm their mother."**

**The big, white bird twisted his neck to get a better look. "I can see the resemblance."**

**"And who are you, dear?" Mumsy asked.**

**"Pepper Pelican, messenger extraordinaire!" He replied as he puffed out his chest with pride. "I was really hoping to talk to the Bonzais. I need their help. My friend has a boo-boo and needs medical attention, right away!"**

**"Well, this is your lucky day." Mumsy exclaimed. "It just so happens that I was a nurse in the Army Air Corp."**

**"You were in the Air Corp?" Pepper commented, sounding skeptical.**

**Mumsy ignored his comment and asserted, "Well, don't dawdle, call your friend!"**

**"Yes Ma'am!" Pepper moved his wing up to a salute. "Oh, 800 Pound Gorilla!" Mumsy looked surprised. "You have a friend named 800 Pound Gorilla?"**

**"Yup, he's right behind you!" Pepper said with a smile.**

**She turned around and jumped with surprise. "Oh my! He is an 800 pound gorilla!" Recovering quickly, she looked him up and down. "Now, what seems to be the problem?"**

**800 Pound Gorilla moaned. Pepper, who spoke fluent Gorilla, translated. "He says he's got a splinter."**

**"Is that all? Well, put out your hand." Mumsy reached for the Gorilla's hand. He pulled it back with another moan.**

**"He's a little scared," Pepper said.**

**"Nonsense, it's only a splinter. Put your hand out...now!" She ordered and 800 Pound Gorilla quickly obeyed.**

**"Let me get a needle." Mumsy reached into her handbag and found her large knitting needle.**

**800 Pound Gorilla cried out and Pepper squawked, "Whoa! That's not a needle, that's a harpoon!"**

**Mumsy laughed. "Oh, don't be such babies. I'll have it out in two shakes of a lamb's tail." She grabbed the gorilla's hand, moved the needle under the splinter, and flicked the splinter out onto the ground. "There, you are! Done!"**

**The huge gorilla shook his hand and mumbled something as big tears began to form in his large brown eyes.**

**Pepper looked at Mumsy. "He said it stings."**

**"Oh, come here. Let Mumsy kiss the boo-boo." She planted a big kiss where the splinter had been. "There. Does that feel better?"**

**800 Pound Gorilla smiled and gave Mumsy a big, hairy gorilla-sized hug before waddling down the path into the forest.**

**Pepper couldn't believe what he had just seen. "Wow! Mumsy's kisses can heal anything."**

**"Actually, Mumsy's kisses do make things feel better, but it is Jesus who heals everything." She replied. "Pepper, you did do a very noble thing bringing your friend to me. It reminds me of the men who brought their friend to Jesus."**

**Pepper settled down on dead tree log and got ready to listen to a Bible story. If Mumsy was really a Bonzai, then he knew she had to be getting ready to tell a story about Jesus. "Did that really happen?"**

**Mumsy opened her big handbag and placed the needle back inside. Before closing the bag, she pulled out her Bible. "Absolutely, it's right here in the Bible in the book of Mark. There were four men who brought their paralyzed friend to see Jesus. Paralyzed means the man couldn't walk or use his legs and feet. When they got to the house where Jesus was preaching, there was such a big crowd they couldn't get in the door."**

**Pepper looked disappointed. "Aw, too bad. Did they go home?"**

**"Oh no, they wouldn't give up that easily." Mumsy said shaking her head. "They had faith that Jesus could heal their friend."**

**"So what did they do?" Pepper asked.**

**Mumsy continued reading from the Bible, "Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the man's mat through the roof and down to the floor where Jesus was."**

**Pepper flew around Mumsy and perched on her shoulder to get a better look at the Bible in her hands. "Wow! They actually opened up the roof?! What did Jesus do?"**

**"When He saw the great faith of the four friends, Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven." Mumsy said with excitement.**

**Confused, Pepper shook his head, "But I thought they took him to Jesus for healing."**

**"That was healing dear—for the man's soul," explained Mumsy. "Next, Jesus healed the man's body. Jesus told him, 'Get up, take your mat and go home.' And that's exactly what the man did..."**

**"Boy, that man sure had four great friends!" Pepper interrupted. "They did everything they could to bring their friend to Jesus. They never gave up!"**

**Mumsy nodded. "And that is why we should never give up on trying to bring our friends to Jesus. Because Jesus has the power to heal their bodies and their souls!"**

**Pepper hopped down to the ground and flapped his wings in excitement, "That's incredible!"**

**"Do you know what else is incredible?" Mumsy asked.**

**"I do! I do! It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!"**

**"That's right!" Mumsy replied. "And don't forget, if you have friends with boo-boos or friends who don't have Jesus in their hearts you can always bring them to Jesus! He has the power to heal our hearts and our bodies!"**

**Pepper's beak bobbed up and down in agreement. He looked down the beach where 800 Pound Gorilla had disappeared. "I am going to check on my friend. Thanks for the story!" he said as he flew away. Mumsy smiled and waved, then continued her walk on the beach.**