

## HOT TOPICS

1. How are disabled people treated in your country? *In threes*
2. What are miracles? Do you believe in them? Have you ever experienced a miracle? *In pairs*

## Today's Lesson...

*Today we begin a series of lessons leading up to Christmas.. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and some vocabulary associated with these special events.*

### JESUS THE HEALER

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing many people. Today's story is about a paralysed man who meets Jesus.

**Choose 6 people to read and act out the story: Narrator, Jesus, Lawyer 1, Lawyer 2, Lawyer 3, and Person.**

### Vocabulary

**Paralysed:** cannot move  
**Faith:** believing without proof; to trust  
**Forgive:** to decide not to be angry with someone or not to punish them for something they have done.  
**Sin:** breaking the law of God; wrongdoing.  
**Blasphemy:** words or acts that dishonour God; making fun  
**Law:** God's rules for living.  
**Picked up:** to lift up, to carry.  
**Amazed:** surprised.

## A Paralysed Man

*Luke 5:17-26*

**Narrator:** Jesus went back to Capernaum, and the news spread that he was at home. So many people came together so that there was no room left, not even in front of the door. Jesus was teaching when four men arrived, carrying a paralysed man to Jesus.

Because of the crowd, however, they could not get the man to him. So they made a hole in the roof right above the place where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they let the man down, lying on his mat. Seeing how much faith they had, Jesus said to the paralysed man:

**Jesus:** "My son, your sins are forgiven."

**Narrator:** Some teachers of the Law who were sitting there thought to themselves,

**Lawyer 1:** "How does he dare talk like this?"

**Lawyer 2:** This is blasphemy!

**Lawyer 3:** God is the only one who can forgive sins!"

**Narrator:** At once Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said to them,

**Jesus:** Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say to this paralysed man, 'Your sins are forgiven', or to say, 'Get up, pick up your mat, and walk?' I will prove to you, then, that the son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, get up, pick up your mat and go home!"

**Narrator:** While they all watched, the man got up, picked up his mat, and hurried away. They were all completely amazed and praised God, saying,

**Person:** "We have never seen anything like this!"

## Discussion ( in changing pairs or threes)

1. What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man?
2. What did the teachers of the Law think?
3. What does it mean that Jesus can forgive sins?
4. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
5. Have you ever forgiven someone or been forgiven?

# LESSON 2 JESUS FORGIVES

## A Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8:2-11.

Today we continue our lessons leading up to Christmas. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus and why he is so famous throughout the world. You will also learn some vocabulary associated with this special event.

### JESUS FORGIVES

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing many people. Today's story is about a woman caught having sex with a man who is not her husband and Jesus' response to her.

### Hot Topics

1. Do you have capital punishment in your country? Do you agree or disagree with capital punishment? (*In threes discuss*).
2. In your country is it a crime to commit adultery (to have sex with someone who is not your husband/wife)? Is there any punishment for adultery in your country?

### The Story

**Choose 5 people to read the story: Narrator, Religious Leader, Lawyer, Jesus and the Woman**

#### Vocabulary

**Temple:** a building used for worship

**Adultery:** sex with someone who is not your husband or wife.

**Command:** order, direct, or demand you to obey.

**Accuse:** to blame someone for some wrong thing.

**Sin:** to break God's law – do something wrong.

**Condemn:** to say very strongly that you think something is wrong or very bad.

**Stone to death:** A form of capital punishment where stones are thrown at the accused until they are killed.

**Narrator:** Early the next morning Jesus went back to the Temple. All the people gathered round him, and he sat down and began to teach the people. The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees (*religious leaders*) brought in a woman who had been caught committing adultery (*having sex with a man who is not her husband*), and they made her stand before all of them.

**Religious Leader:** Teacher (*Jesus*), this woman was caught having sex with a man who is not her husband.

**Lawyer:** In our Law a woman who commits adultery must be stoned to death.

**Religious Leader:** Now, what do you say Jesus?

**Narrator:** They said this to trap Jesus, so that they could accuse him. But Jesus bent over and wrote on the ground with his finger. (*long pause*).

**Jesus:** Whoever has done nothing wrong may throw the first stone at her.

**Narrator:** Then Jesus bent over again and wrote on the ground. When the religious leaders and lawyers heard this, they all left, one by one, the older ones first. Jesus was left alone, with the woman standing there. Jesus got up.

**Jesus:** (*to the woman*). Where are they? Is there no one left to condemn you?

**Woman:** No one, sir.

**Jesus:** Well, then, I do not condemn you either. Go, but do not sin again.

### Discussion

1. Give each pair a WH question to answer: **Who** is the story about, **What** is the story about, **When** did it happen, **Where** did it happen, **Why** is this story told?
2. Interview the actors in the story and ask the questions:  
**Lawyer:** What is the punishment for adultery? Why didn't you throw a stone?  
**Religious Leader:** Why did you walk away?  
**Woman:** How will your life change after this experience?  
**Jesus:** What authority/power do you have to forgive sins?
3. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?

# LESSON 3 JESUS IS GOD

## A Life Changing Catch of Fish

Luke 5:1-11

### Hot Topics

1. Have you ever been fishing? Who taught you to fish? What did you catch? Is it easy to catch fish in your country?
2. Why are fishing nets illegal in some countries? Is that a good or bad thing?
3. What qualities of character do you need to be a good fisherman/woman?
4. What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen in nature?

### Today's Lesson...

Today we continue our Christmas series of lessons. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus and why he is so famous. Through these lessons you will learn why this festival is so important and some important vocabulary associated with this special event.

*Choose 3 people to read the story:*

Narrator, Jesus and Simon (you may want to break the group up into threes so everyone has a speaking part).

### Vocabulary

**Lake Galilee:** a lake in the land of Israel

**Master:** a respectful name for a teacher of God's word.

**Partner:** someone who shares an activity with another.

**Sin:** Wrongdoing.

**Sinful:** guilty of many wrongdoings.

**Amazed:** greatly surprised.

**Reluctant:** not eager to do something.

**Narrator:**

One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Galilee. Many people were pushing their way up to him to listen to the word of God. He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats – it belonged to Simon – and asked to push off a little from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd. (Pause)

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon:

**Jesus:**

Push the boat out further to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch.

**Narrator:**

Simon answered:

**Simon:**

Master, we have worked all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets.

**Narrator:**

They let the nets down and caught such a large number of fish that their nets were about to break. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink. When Simon saw what had happened, he fell on his knees before Jesus.

**Simon:**

Go away from me Lord! I am a sinful man!

**Narrator:**

He and the others with him were all amazed at the large number of fish they had caught.

**Jesus:**

(to Simon): Don't be afraid: from now on you will be catching people.

**Narrator:**

They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

### Discussion

1. Why was Simon reluctant to go out fishing again?
2. What might the other fishermen on the shore have been saying to each other as they watched Simon heading out to deeper water? (In 2 smaller groups).
3. After Simon caught so many fish why did he say: "Go away from me Lord! I am sinful man!" (In threes)
4. Simon's close encounter with Jesus made him realize he was sinful and Jesus was holy. How did he respond to this? Have you ever had an experience like that? When? Where? How did it change your life? (In pairs discuss.)

