**Overcoming great obstacles Introduction**

The Paralympics have started. Inspiring athletes compete overcoming many barriers in their life. This week’s lesson is a famous story from the Bible about a disabled person with the help from his friends finds freedom. .

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Have you been watching any Paralympic events? What do you know about the Paralympics?
2. How are disabled people treated in your country?
3. What are some obstacles (difficult challenges) in your life you want to overcome? For example..

### **Today’s Lesson…**

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing may people.

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

**Vocabulary**

**Inspiring:** to motivate, something that is amazing

**Paralysed:** cannot move

**Obstacle**: something in the way

**Barrier**: Stops you

**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.

***Luke 5:17 – 26*** *(CEV)*

**Narrator**: One day some Pharisees and experts of the Law sat listening to Jesus teach. God had given Jesus the power to heal the sick, and some people came carrying a paralysed man on a mat. They tried to take him inside the house and put him in front of Jesus. But because of the crowd, they couldn’t get him to Jesus. So they went up on the roof, where they removed some tiles and let the mat down into the middle of the room.

When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the paralysed man:

**Jesus:** “My friend, your sins are forgiven.”

**Narrator**: Some teachers of the Law who were sitting there began arguing,

**Lawyer 1**: “Jesus must think he is God!

**Lawyer 2:** This is blasphemy!

**Lawyer 3**: Only God can forgive sins!”

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

**Jesus**: Why are you thinking that? Is it easier for me to tell this paralysed man that his sins re forgiven or to tell him to get up and walk? But now you will see that the Son of Man has the right to forgive sins here on earth. “I tell you, get up, pick up your mat and go home!

**Narrator:** Jesus then said to the man:

**Jesus:** Get up! Pick up your mat and walk home.

**Narrator:** At once, the man stood up in front of everyone. He picked up his mat and went home, giving thanks to God. Everyone was amazed and praised God, saying

**Person:** We have seen a great miracle today!

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**The Teacher will now interview the people:**

**To the Paralysed Man:** What did Jesus say to you? What happened?

**To the Friends:** Why did you take the man to Jesus? How did you feel when you couldn’t get in? What did you do?

**To the Lawyers**: Why were you upset that Jesus helped this man?’

**To Jesus**: Where do you get your power/authority to forgive sins?

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** Discussion**: What do you like about this story?