

‘ACTING THE BIBLE’

at

Beckley School

The Paralyzed Man

(Matthew 9 v1-8,

Mark 2 v1-12, Luke 5 v17-26)

2 October 2025

Joint Benefice of

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley St. Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover
St. Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley St. John the Baptist, Stanton St. John**

The Four Parishes 'Acting the Bible' team (previously known as 'Open the Book') leads assembly once a fortnight in Beckley School. The team take stories fresh from the pages of the Bible, and make them into mini dramas, to be acted out by themselves, together with Beckley schoolchildren. Through this, it is hoped that the Bible stories are brought alive, and remembered by the children, especially as they too are involved in the acting.

The team is led by Betty Dye, a Licensed Lay Reader, and includes members from Forest Hill, Stanton St John and Beckley. They meet once a fortnight to write the scripts, with the aim of adhering as closely as possible to the original Bible texts. This often involves comparing different Bible translations and even reading the New Testament in the original Greek!

ACTING THE BIBLE OCTOBER 2025

HEALINGS:THE PARALYZED MAN Matthew 9 1-8, Mark 2 1-12, Luke 5 17-26

Cast: Narrator; Jesus; Pharisee 1,2,3 (pupils); Paralyzed Man (pupil); Friend 1, 2, 3, 4 (pupils); Chorus

(4 FRIENDS sitting on floor stage right with PARALYZED MAN between them on a large blanket. JESUS by curtain with 3 PHARISEES. Narrator behind the CHORUS)

NARRATOR: This story starts when Jesus was travelling around, teaching and healing sick people wherever he went. Once he healed a man who had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. Jesus ordered the man to say nothing to anyone, but he was so excited that he went out and shared the news of his healing with everyone he met! So now more and more people wanted to see Jesus, including the Pharisees and teachers of the law.

One day Jesus arrived in a town that he had been to before. A man lived in the town who had been paralyzed since he was born. He couldn't move his legs or walk but he had 4 good friends who sometimes helped him to get around. Today the friends had all come to see him.

(4 FRIENDS get up and stand round PARALYZED MAN)

FRIEND 1: Have you heard the news?

FRIEND 2: Jesus the healer is in town.

FRIEND 3: Maybe Jesus could heal you.

FRIEND 4: If Jesus sees you, he is sure to heal you!

PARALYZED MAN: I really believe that Jesus could heal me. But how can I get there? I can't walk a single step on my own!

CHORUS: The man's friends want him to be healed. But how can he get to see Jesus?

FRIEND 1: We will help you, we can get you there!

FRIEND 2: I can carry you.

FRIEND 3: We can all carry you, all 4 of us, together.

FRIEND 4: We can carry you on this blanket. It's not very far.

NARRATOR: Through the crowded city the friends carried the paralyzed man lying on his blanket. (*FRIENDS mime this without actually moving*) At last they reached the house where Jesus was, but it was filled to overflowing! People were crammed into every corner trying to get near to Jesus. It was hot and sticky and no-one could get in or out.

CHORUS: Oh no! The house is too full! The friends will never be able to get him in now!

FRIEND 1: There must be another way in!

FRIEND 2: We can't give up!

FRIEND 3: If Jesus sees you, I know he will heal you!

FRIEND 4: Wait! I have an idea!

CHORUS: The friends still want to take the man to Jesus. But how are they going to get in?

NARRATOR: There were some Pharisees standing in the crowd next to Jesus. Suddenly, they heard a strange noise, which seemed to be coming from from above the ceiling. (*Pharisees turn and point towards PARALYZED MAN and FRIENDS*)

PHARISEE 1: What is that noise? What is happening up there?

PHARISEE 2: Someone is making a hole in the roof!

PHARISEE 3 They have lifted off the tiles and I can see their faces!

ALL PHARISEES AND CHORUS: What can they be doing?

NARRATOR: To everyone's amazement, the 4 friends had made their way up onto the flat roof and made a big hole in it. Then, using ropes, they started to lower the paralyzed man right down through the hole to where Jesus was standing!

CHORUS: The man's friends believe that Jesus can heal him!

JESUS: *(walks towards paralyzed man and friends)* Young man, you have amazing friends. They have so much faith that you will be healed! I am telling you, son, your sins are forgiven.

PHARISEE1: How dare Jesus say "your sins are forgiven"? He has no right to say it!

PHARISEE 2: Only God can forgive sins!

PHARISEE 3: No way will that man be healed!

CHORUS: Oh no! Have the man and his friends come all this way for nothing?

JESUS: Which is harder: to forgive the sins of the mind or to heal the body? Only God the Father can do both.

To prove to you that I have been given the right to forgive sins as well as to heal, I say to you 'Young man, get up! Roll up your blanket and go home'!

(The paralyzed man slowly gets up and picks up his blanket.)

PARALYZED MAN: Look at me! I can walk! I am completely healed!

CHORUS: Praise the Lord! We have never seen anything like this before!

