



Week 4 Secret word: **Faith**

Jesus heals

Mark 5:34 (NIV)

He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Today's secret word is FAITH.

FAITH means complete trust and confidence. In the Bible, and even today, faith in Jesus can have some surprising results.

As Jesus travelled from Galilee to Jerusalem and back to Galilee, many people watched Jesus do miracles and even heal people who were hurt or sick. Jesus often reminded them that this wasn't magic- that their faith in God and in the Son of God helped make these wonderful things happen.

Today we have two stories of Jesus healing people.

Our first story is about a woman who has been sick a long, long time- 12 years. She tried many ways to get better, but nothing worked. She hoped to talk to Jesus, but there was a crowd around him. This woman expected that if she could even just get close enough to touch Jesus' clothes, that she would be healed. And she was! Jesus could barely feel her touch, but she was completely healed.

Jesus looked down and said to the woman, "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

Our second story happens while Jesus is teaching in a house. He is surrounded by Pharisees and other teachers, who have come to learn from Him. There is a crowd of learners inside the house and a crowd of followers outside, so it is hard to reach Jesus.

A group of men have brought a paralyzed man, someone who couldn't move by himself, to Jesus for help. They can't get close enough, so they put their paralyzed friend on a mat and lower him right through the roof and land him in front of Jesus. The story says that when Jesus saw their faith, the faith of all of the friends, he told the man to stand up and walk- and he did. He went home carrying his mat, instead of lying on it.

There are many stories about Jesus healing those who are sick or hurt. Their faith in Jesus' power and in his connection to God gives them the courage to reach out for his help.

When we read the Bible and pray, we practice our own FAITH and our own courage to reach out for help from God and Jesus.

Which path should the men take to bring their friend to Jesus?

