



**A FRIEND IN NEED
(Children's Story/Parable)**

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Hello, Boys and Girls!

Can you remember that one time when you were struggling with something or needed help and a friend encouraged you to not give up? We all go through some tough times in our lives, but the good news is that God has given us our families and friends to help and encourage us.

In the Bible there is a story about four friends which we can find in Mark 2:1-12. One of the friends was paralyzed, could not walk, and had no way of going to Jesus to be healed. One day Jesus was in a house in their town. This gave them hope! They were excited to know that they could take their friend to Jesus.

The friends found a way to climb the stairs to a roof. They tied a rope to a little bed and lowered the bed with their friend through the roof. Imagine the look on all those people's faces when that bed came down through the roof! The friend could now see Jesus, and Jesus was amazed at the perseverance and faith of these friends.

Jesus told the paralyzed young man that his sins were forgiven and to pick up his mat and go home. The friend got up and started walking! What a miracle!! This young man was grateful that his friends brought him to Jesus!

Those are great friends; they not only encouraged their friend but took him to get healed. The paralyzed man's friends loved him so much that they took care of him until Jesus healed him. They never gave up.

This shows the power of encouragement, love and forgiveness. God wants for us to be there for one another, but not just for our friends. When your friend or someone is sick, sad, or worried, you can pray for him or her. What are some other ways you can help or encourage your friends, family, or other people around you? [Give time for answers]

Let's pray that Jesus will show us ways to help others and also to help us find people that we can help.

[Prayer]