Games Workshop

Choose any or all of the following activities, depending on time.
All materials are located in the classroom.

All of the following information will be taught in chapel
but can be repeated in workshops:

**Topic:** Healing the Paralytic (Through the Roof!)

**Goals:**
- Locate the story of Jesus healing the paralytic in the Bible.
- Locate Capernaum on a map
- Be able to picture the house in the story (ancient middle east architecture)
- Be able to tell the story in their own words
- Describe what it means to be paralyzed
- Identify how God helps and cares for our needs- where in our lives do we need healing and what might that healing look like
- Articulate ways that God might use you to meet another’s need

**Main Idea:** The four friends who carried the paralytic to Jesus had strong faith and hope, worked hard, and persevered to heal their friend (both spiritually and physically). Our faith in God can bring about healing and help others. We show our faith in God by helping and praying for others. Jesus cares about everyone’s needs, and so should we, and we should do what we can to bring healing to others.

**Bible Story:** Mark 2:1-12

**Memory Verse:** “When Jesus saw the faith of the friends, he said to the paralyzed man, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”

**Activity #1: (for all ages): Jesus Says**

*Materials needed: none*

Instructions:
1. Explain that this is a game of “Jesus Says” (like “Simon Says”). Have everyone lie on the floor as if paralyzed. Say things like “Jesus says, paralyzed man move your fingers”, “Jesus says, paralyzed man move your toes, etc.” Just like in Simon Says, catch the kids by saying things like, “paralyzed man, touch your head”- kids should not move because you didn’t say Jesus says!” Play for a couple of minutes. Ask: **Was it difficult to be “paralyzed”?**
Activity #2: (for all ages): Kneezies

**Materials needed: 2 soft balls**

Instructions:

1. Explain that this is a game called Kneezies. This game will help children know how it feels to have restricted mobility and that Jesus cares for everyone’s needs.
2. Divide children into 2 equal teams. Line up. First child in each line put a soft ball between knees. Instruct children to walk to a designated place and back again to the next child in line without dropping the ball. They can’t use their hands to hold the ball in place. If they drop the ball, they have to pick it up and put it back between their knees and continue. The first team that has all their players back wins. Play again, if desired, with each child hopping or skipping with the ball between their knees.
3. As children play, or afterwards, say: It’s harder to walk when you can’t move your legs freely, isn’t it? People who have hurt their legs or are born with crippled legs can’t move their legs like most of us do. Ask, What do you think it would feel like to not be able to run and play? How could you get from place to place if you couldn’t walk? How can we “heal” people who cannot walk? (help them get places, etc).
4. Say, “It feels good to be able to walk and run, doesn’t it? The paralytic man couldn’t walk, but he had friends who cared about him so much that they took him to see Jesus. Jesus cares about everyone’s needs, and so should we, and we should do what we can to bring healing to others.

Activity #3: (for all ages): Man on the Mat Race

**Materials needed: 2 pillow cases, 2 ping pong balls**

Instructions:

1. Ask, Why are friends special to us? (Children respond.) Those are all great reasons! We have been learning about a man who had four very special friends. The man could not walk. His friends worked very hard to take him to Jesus so Jesus could heal him.
2. We are going to play “Man on the Mat Race.” In this race, four friends must work together to carry the man’s mat across the finish line without dropping the man-- In our game, the paralyzed man is a ping pong ball and the mat is a pillowcase. May the fastest friends win!
3. Divide children into relay teams of four friends on each team.
4. Have two teams line up at the starting line.
5. On each team, each friend holds one corner of the “mat”/pillowcase.
6. Place a “man” (ping pong ball) on each mat/pillowcase.
7. On your signal, teams race to the finish line.
8. If the man falls off the mat, put the man back on the mat and keep going.
9. The first team to reach the finish line with the man on the mat and each friend still holding a corner of the mat wins.
10. Repeat with additional teams.

**Activity #4: (for all ages): Balloon Toss**

*Materials needed: balloons*

**Instructions:**

1. Say, “Do you think that it was difficult for the four men to get the stretcher to the top of the roof? Do you think they may have needed a rest? Lowering it down safely must have been tiring, too. I wonder how far the men traveled! The bible tells us that people came from every village in Israel, so they may have come a long way to see Jesus!”
2. Say, “We don’t have stretcher here today but we do have balloons. We’ll have a relay to see if you can keep a balloon up in the air as you go from one end of the room to the other and back again. You and a partner will toss it back and forth as you. You cannot hold it or catch it. You can only tap it. Think of the balloon as the man who was paralyzed on the stretcher. You really don’t want him to fall to the ground! If your balloon does touch the floor, you and your partner will head back to the starting line to start over.
3. Divide group into two teams. The object of the game is to have two kids from each team toss their balloon back and forth to each other as they run to the line at the opposite side of the room. They cannot hold it. They cannot catch it. They have to keep tapping it to keep it in the air as they run to one end of the room and back. If the balloon touches the floor, the team starts over. Each pair does the same until each pair has had a turn. First team with all players back wins.
4. Afterwards, ask, “It can be very hard to help someone. Can you think of a time when you were very tired but had to keep going? What might have been different if you had stopped? What might have been different if you had friends to help you?

**Closing: (for all ages)**

After cleaning up, gather children together.

1. Have children stand in a circle and link elbows. Say, “Look around this circle. Each of us is a unique masterpiece created by God. Together we are God’s people. When we share our time, talents, and the things we have, God can do great things through us to help others. Like the four friends, let’s not allow anything to keep us and our friends away from Jesus!”
2. Invite children to pray with you:
   “Dear God, Let us always be; People in community; Serving others, serving you; Showing love in all we do; Break the walls that might divide us; Help us see you here beside us. Amen.”