

Paralyzed No More

Nurses are trained to assess for physical needs, but how do you learn to identify non-physical needs in patients? Think about a time you noticed an emotional or spiritual need in a patient and discuss your assessment and intervention with your small group. See how Jesus addressed both physical and non-physical needs of a quadriplegic in this story from Luke's Gospel.

Read Luke 5:18-26 (NIV)

¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

A Nursing Assessment

- If this man was your patient, what might be your assessment of his condition and a plan for treatment?
- How did various people in this story respond to Jesus' intervention? What stands out to you about the friends of the paralyzed man?

Applying the Bible to Nursing (*Find [more questions.](#)*)

- What do you learn about nursing from the example of the friends in the story?

Putting Faith into Practice

- What connections do you see between physical health and spiritual health?
- How can you be like the friends in the story and bring your patients to Jesus? What are ways you can do this in the next week?

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