



## Messy Vintage

### Session 9

# Bringing friends to Jesus

## Bible reference

Luke 5:17-26

## How does this session help people grow in Christ?

Looking at the story of how the paralysed man was enabled to meet with Jesus prompts us to focus not only on the needs of others, but also to consider our part in their story. The four friends were persistent in finding a way to overcome obstacles in the total belief that Jesus was the one who would make a difference to their friend's life.

## Messy team theme

- Encourage team members to choose a strand of wool that represents someone they know who needs Jesus and to talk about their relationship with them.
- Encourage people to think of themselves as the mat holding those people before Jesus.



## Activity

**You will need: plastic canvas sheets size 7 mesh, cut into strips 12 holes wide by approx. 32 holes long (5 cm x 12 cm); twelve different coloured balls of wool; embroidery needles or plastic needles; scissors**

Cut wool into 20–22 cm lengths and weave through the plastic canvas to create a mat, leaving wool overhanging each end to form a tassel. Trim tassels to same length.

## Celebration

You might choose one of the following:

Tell the story from the paralysed man's perspective, whose only hope of getting to Jesus was through his friends. Can the people you have woven into your mat totally rely on you?

In groups of four, discuss issues that paralyse people in their community e.g. financial problems, difficult relationships, housing, etc. Out loud or in silence, pray over the situations discussed.

For the four friends to get the paralysed man to Jesus, they had to be innovative and work as a team. Discuss the value of teamwork and encourage people to speak of any involvement they have, or have had, in being part of a team helping others. Lots of opportunity here to speak of voluntary work both past and present.

After brief thoughts on the biblical account, invite people to share one person's name out aloud and then hold each of the other individual strands and silently pray for, or think about, each person they have woven into their mat. Encourage them to keep the 'prayer mat' as a reminder to pray regularly for those people.

## Song suggestions

Bind us together, Lord  
Father, I place into your hands  
Jesus Christ is waiting  
What a friend we have in Jesus  
Kumbaya  
Brother, sister, let me serve you  
I heard the voice of Jesus say  
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
When I needed a neighbour



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