



date

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Inspire (for parents)

Becoming a parent was something that for most of my life seemed a distant goal, an inevitable role I'd play one day after I'd participated in many other of life's experiences. Never could I have predicted the surprise announcement that my wife of only four months was pregnant with our first child!

As a new husband, and now a father-to-be, I suddenly felt propelled into a stage of life I had not envisioned. Why did this happen? How would I prepare for this? I instinctively knew that no class I attended or book I read could prepare me for the newfound sense of responsibility I'd feel as I watched my daughter arrive into this world. No instructional video could take away the anxiety of wondering what kind of dad I would be. I could learn how to feed and change her, but what I really wanted to know was, "Will I be enough?"

Now I am the father of two and my first baby girl is still under two years old. I still sometimes wonder, will I be enough?

It's in these moments that I have to take a breath, step back, and be reminded that God knows what I need. He knows me intimately because He made me. He knows my limits, He knows my fears, and He knows my dreams. He knows all of them better than I do. He knows them before I do. And He knows what my family needs too. He sees our futures and promises His care.

What a gift it has been to find myself a parent, not of my own design, but as a part of a family I never knew I needed so much. God knows what I need.

by Chad Colman

Getting Started

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12
(Healing of Man Lowered through Roof)

Main Point: God Knows What We Need

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church**. Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

Jesus shows He knows and can meet our needs. In the second chapter of Mark, after just returning from Capernaum, news traveled quickly about His arrival. Jesus began to teach God's Word and people gathered to see Him. Hearing of His arrival, a group of men brought their friend to be healed.

Jewish doctrine taught that sickness and sin were interconnected. There was no tangible or real way to prove or show that sin had indeed been removed. However, Jesus proved His authority and ability to forgive sins when He said the words, "Your sins are forgiven." Immediately after speaking these words to the paralytic man, Jesus told him to "get up and walk." This action confirmed the deity of Jesus by giving physical proof that He was able to forgive sins and heal the physical body.

The Jewish people believed that even the Messiah would not have the authority to forgive the sins of man. The Messiah was believed to be a man who would rescue them from the rule and oppression of foreign governments. He was not expected to be incarnate (God in flesh). They believed only God has the power to forgive someone's sin. Any other person claiming to have the ability to forgive sin is considered blasphemous (claiming attributes of God while not being deity).

Many people in authority did not understand Jesus to be the Son of God, who therefore had the authority to forgive sins. The most serious accusation that was later brought against Jesus during His trial was that of blasphemy. The punishment for blasphemy was death—a bit ironic considering Jesus' death provided the ultimate pardoning of our sins.

REMEMBER VERSE

Serve one another in love.
Galatians 5:13b

Support (for parents & kids)

> **JUST FOR FUN** this week, read this part of The Big God Story right before bed. Before you read, talk with your children about what it means to be paralyzed. See how long they can lie perfectly still without moving. Explain to them that what you are about to read is true and from the Bible. Then read together **Mark 2:1-12**. Ask your children what stood out to them. Ask them why they think Jesus forgave the man before He healed him. Talk about what each family member feels they need from Jesus.

When you're finished, pray together thanking God that because of Jesus, our sins can be forgiven. Thank God that He knows what we need better than we do, and ask Him to always help us trust Him to give us what is best for us.

Remind your children that what they just heard is part of The Big God Story, and they'll hear more about it in church this week.