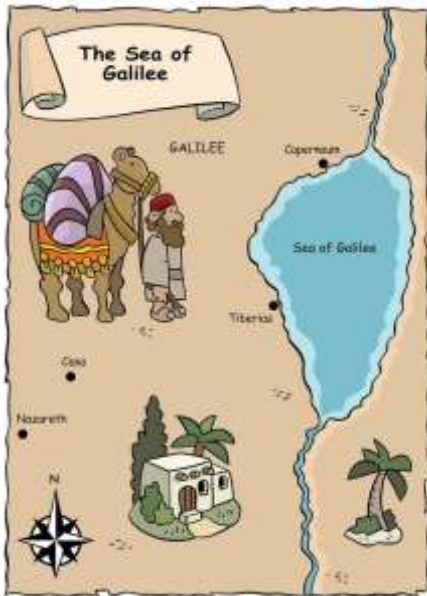


Jesus heals the paralysed man

Miracles, miracles, miracles....here is another miracle story from the Gospel of Mark, which is the one we are listening to on Sundays all through this year!



This is how it happened: Jesus was in the town of Capernaum which is a fishing village on the Sea of Galilee. Can you find it on the map? The news spread that he was there and so many people came to hear him that the house they were in was completely full and people were crowding all around it outside, listening to him at the door and through the windows.

4 people arrived carrying their friend who was paralysed, on a mat between them. They hoped to bring their friend to where Jesus was talking so that Jesus could make him well again. When they arrived at the house, they were hugely disappointed because they could see that because of the crowd they were not going to be able to get anywhere near Jesus with their friend.

But they loved their friend very much and they knew that getting close to Jesus was the answer, so they climbed up the stairs to the roof (the house had a flat roof with an outside stairs). Can you believe what they did next? They made a hole in the roof, big enough to lower their friend in to the room below, until he was lying at Jesus feet! Can you imagine what that must have been like? For Jesus looking up, for the man,



for his friends and for the other people watching all of this happen?

When Jesus saw how great their faith in him was, he said to the paralysed man, 'Young man, your sins are forgiven'. Then he told him to 'stand up, pick up his mat and walk'. And to everyone's amazement, the young man did just that.

For us to think about: Do we have as much faith in Jesus as this man's friends did? Are there problems we want to bring to Jesus for him to help with? Why don't you tell him about them now?