

as the people of the city heard that Jesus had come back, they crowded to the house. Soon it was quite filled and the crowd stood around the door and away out into the street, trying to hear the wonderful words of the "Mighty Worker" and to get him to cure their sickness.

Watch what is coming down the street! (Outline.) Four men are carrying a sick man on a bed or mattress. How can they hope to get through the crowd? They push their way till they get to the house, but they never will be able to get inside! Watch them. They carry the sick man around to the side of the house and up the stairs to the roof. See, they are making a hole in the roof big enough to let down the bed with the sick man on it. One man runs away and gets some bits of rope and they tie these to the corners of the mattress (show picture), and slowly the four men lower the bed through the hole in the roof (all look upward and make gesture) until the sick man is lying at Jesus' feet. When Jesus saw what faith they had in him, he said to the sick man, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Oh, what a fuss there was then! Describe the angry scribes (or teachers of the Jews). "This man is saying that he can forgive sins! What nonsense! No one can forgive sins

but God!" they are saying in their hearts, and their faces look very cross and scowling. Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said, "Is it easier to forgive this man's sins or to tell him to get up and take up his bed and walk? I'll show you that I have power to do both," said Jesus, the Mighty Worker. Then he turned to the sick man and said, "Arise, take up your bed, and walk." Picture the scene as the man obeys and walks away, cured of his disease. Describe the surprise of the people. They glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this before. Surely this man has power from God."

*Golden Text*—Repeat, "JESUS CAN FORGIVE SINS" (print). Jesus loved to forgive sins. He is called the friend of sinners.

*Forgiving Others*—Do you like to forgive those who do wrong or who harm you? Have you ever seen girls or boys "paying back" a playmate for something wrong he has done to them—giving them "tit-for-tat"? There is a better way than that.

"A little explained—a little endured,

A little forgiven—the quarrel is cured."

(Repeat.)

*What the Lesson Teaches Me*—I SHOULD BE LOVING.

### FROM THE PLATFORM

## THE CURE OF THE SINNER COMPLAINT OF THE SCRIBES

In our lesson to-day we have Jesus dealing with an individual and then with a group of individuals. Who was the individual? He was a paralytic. But he was something else. He was a SINNER (Print as above), and his sin had caused his sickness. What did Jesus propose to do for him? First and foremost to forgive his sin. Point out that that was what the man really needed. What evidence did Jesus give of his power to forgive the man's sin? Fill in on the board THE CURE OF THE sinner. What group of individuals objected to Jesus' proposal? The SCRIBES (Fill in). Ask for one of the scholars to explain who the scribes were. Now ask what their COMPLAINT (Fill in) against Jesus was. How did Jesus answer it? Do we all need forgiveness? What is it necessary for us to do in order to be forgiven?