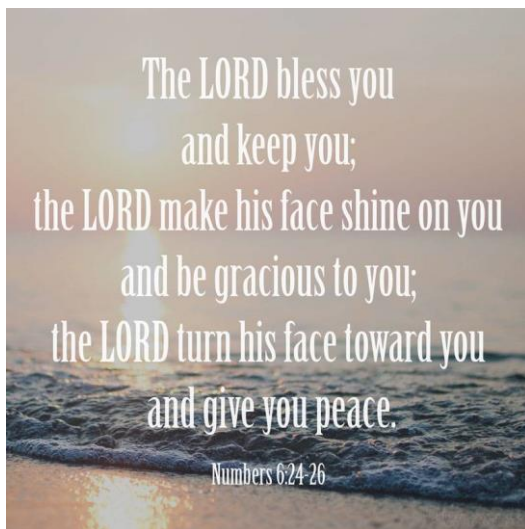


# Guided by a cloud 16 (Exodus 13:21-22)

This week I had one of those experiences where God just pops up out of the blue and blesses you. I was out on a bike travelling along a road I hadn't been on for a very long time. As the road started to rise I put some extra effort onto the pedals and my chain broke. Not really knowing where I was, I began to consider what possibilities I had and whether I had the equipment to fix the problem. I started to walk up the hill to stop in a safer place when a car pulled up alongside me and the driver asked what the problem was. When I explained, he said he was a bike mechanic and worked in a bike shop that was 100m up the road. When I got to the shop it turned out that they also did coffee and cakes. Twenty minutes later I was warmed by a very nice cup of coffee and was back on the road with my bike repaired at no cost!! This got me thinking about bible stories of people's encounters with Jesus and in particular, a favourite of mine, the story of the paralysed man.



## Worship time

[What a friend we have in Jesus](#)

[The power of your love](#)

[Light of the world](#)

## Read Mark 2:1-12

This story is obviously a little different to my own but the man was in need and others stepped in to assist him.

The four men carried their friend who was paralysed into the presence of Jesus. Jesus had healed people before—even people who were paralysed. The men believed Jesus came from God and that He could heal people. So their faith led to action. Because the crowds were pushing in on Jesus the men could not get their friend through the people. Not to be deterred they carried him on to the roof, made an opening and lowered him down to Jesus. They believed that Jesus could meet his need, that the presence of Jesus would make a difference to his life. Jesus saw the faith of the men and it was this faith that caused Jesus to respond.

This is a story of determination, faith and love. Sometimes we need other people's help to bring us in to the presence of Jesus and at other times we will be the ones bringing people into His presence. As we continue through these strange times we need to be aware of how we can bring others into the presence of God by showing the love that comes through faith. We also need to expect the unexpected and be open to experiencing and recognising God's love even in the smallest things.

**Pray:** O Lord, Open our eyes to your presence

Open our minds to your grace

Open our lips to your praises

Open our Hearts to your love

Open our lives to your healing

And be found among us. (David Adam)

*If God has 'popped' into your life in an unexpected way over the last few weeks and months it would be lovely if you wanted to share your experiences. It really is encouraging to hear how people have been blessed and it doesn't have to be anything huge.*