

Dignity at Every Age

Wednesday of Respect Life Week – January 2022

Helping Others

Grades 1-3

Goal: Students will explore the concepts of illness through the lens of the dignity of every person at every stage. Through stories, students will realize that the elderly and the sick have love to give and need to receive love.

Materials: Patch Adams ([video link](#))
A Week at Grandma's ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#))

Watch: The first video shows how Patch Adams cares for the sick because he makes them laugh when they could be feeling upset. The second video shows time with grandparents and how they love unconditionally. Both videos are examples of upholding the dignity of people at every stage and situation of life.

Patch Adams ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

Who is Patch Adams?

What does he do?

Why did he put on a clown nose and do funny things?

Is it important to make sick people happy and laugh?

What does laughter do to someone who is sick?

What else, besides making them laugh, did Patch Adams do for the patients?

Have you ever visited someone in the hospital or who was sick?

What did you do to make that person feel better?

A Week at Grandma's ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#))

Questions for Discussion

Why did the children stay with their grandparents?

Were they looking forward to staying with them?

What did they expect their visit to their grandparents' home to be like? What really happened as they stayed with their grandparents?

Was it better or worse than expected?

Have you ever spent time with your grandparents?

How do your grandparents show that they love you?

How do you show your grandparents that you love them?

Why is it important to show love and be kind to people who are older?

Even if your grandparents can't fish or play the harmonica, is it still good to spend time with them? Can you still learn from them?

What are your grandparents favorite foods or activities?

Activity: Have students think and write about a time when they or someone in their family was sick. Have them recall the family members who loved them by taking care of them in those moments. Ask students to write about how it felt when someone took care of them when they were sick and why it is important to care for others who are sick.

Prayer:

Loving God, bless all our grandparents
and those in our families who are older.

May they share their wisdom and faith with us.
May they continue to learn and grow with us each day.

Bless all those in our families who are sick. Give them courage to find joy in each day.

Allow us to find joy and blessing in visiting and showing love for our elderly, sick, and disabled people we
know.
Amen.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website.