



**Wednesday of Respect Life Week
Caring for Those in Need
Grades 1-3**

Theme: Caring for the Sick and Elderly

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

The Lesson: Have the children gather in a circle on the floor. Begin by asking whether any of them have ever been sick. If so, ask who has taken care of them. Why do they need to be taken care of in a special way when they are sick?

Scripture: Jesus Heals the Paralytic ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

What was wrong with the paralytic man?

Why did he need extra help?

Who helped him?

What happened when he met Jesus?

Why did Jesus cure him?

Does Jesus love the paralytic when he is paralyzed *and* when he can walk?

Does Jesus love us any differently whether we are sick or not?

Does Jesus love me even when I am not able to do something?

Videos: 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: Make cards for the sick and the elderly. Talk to the students about how sending someone a card communicates that they are loved and valued.

(Contact ArchCare: volunteer@archcare.org or Rosary Hill Home: srmjoseph@hawthorne-dominicans.org to send the cards to local residents.)

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.