



**Wednesday of Respect Life Week
Caring for Those in Need
Grades 4-6**

Theme: Caring for the Disabled, Sick and Elderly

Goal: Students will explore sickness and illness through the lens of the dignity of every person at every stage. Students will realize that the disabled, elderly and the sick not only have love to give, but also, need to receive love.

Like the men in the scripture passage (*Jesus Heals the Paralytic Man*) true compassion and love requires that we serve those in need, whether that means helping them or accompanying them through their suffering and making them feel better.

Materials: Bible
Patch Adams ([video link](#))
Mr. Rogers - It's You I Like video (Grade 4) ([video link](#))

Scripture: Jesus Heals the Paralytic Man (Luke 5:17-26)

Questions for Discussion

What was the problem with the paralytic man?

How did this happen?

Who had faith that Jesus could heal him? The man or the men who brought him to Jesus?

Is there a friend in your life who needs special help?

How can you help him/her?

The men in this story are true friends of the paralytic man. They were not deterred by obstacles. What are some examples of ways you have been a friend to others who needed help?

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

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

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

Videos: Patch Adams ([video link](#))
This clip from the iconic movie shows a doctor using his creativity and imagination to bring joy to the children in his hospital.

Questions for Discussion

What did Patch Adams accomplish?

How did he accomplish this?

Lead a class discussion about our personal responsibility to people in our families who might need a bit of extra help- those who are elderly, ill, or have special needs.

Ask them to offer examples of what can they do to make them feel better?

It's You I Like ([video link](#))

In this video Mr. Rogers introduces his neighbors to a boy named Jeff who needs an electric wheelchair to get around. Jeff is the kind of boy who many people would think has a less meaningful life because he can't do the things that other children can do. But we know that every life has value regardless of our ability. The value of our life is found in the fact that we were created by God and are infinitely loved, just as we are.

Questions for Discussion

How do you think Jeff felt when Mr. Rogers told him "It's you I like"?

How does being loved when we are weak or sick make us feel?

What makes a person valuable and important? Does our importance depend on what we can do?

Can we find joy in life even when we aren't able to do everything we would like to?

Prayer:

*Jesus, when you were on earth, people brought the sick to you and you healed them all.
Today I ask you to bless all those who are sick, weak and in pain.*

*For those who are helpless and who must lie in bed:
Bless your people, O Lord.*

*For those who must face life under some disability;
Bless your people, O Lord.*

*For those suffering from any kind of illness and for their caregivers:
Bless your people, O Lord.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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