

A LESSON ON HELPING OTHERS

GRADES PK-K -- Dignity at Every Age- Lesson I (Year I, Day 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: Paper, crayons/markers

Lesson: The story of Jesus healing the paralytic is an important story to tell to students because it demonstrates how we must help others. Even though the paralytic man's friends couldn't heal him, they found creative ways to help him. The story also shows how much Jesus loves and cares for the sick. Both the paralytic man's friends and Jesus promoted the dignity of the paralytic man.

Watch: [Jesus Heals the Paralytic](#) by RodTheNey

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?

Activity: Have students think 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 share 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.

Activity:

Have the students draw a picture of someone they know and love who is older or sick and needs more care. Does he use a cane or a walker? Does she get tired easily and need to take naps? Does he take special medicine or eat special foods? What do you love most about this person?

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.