

In Sickness and In Health

Treating the Sick and Elderly with Dignity

Grades 1-3 Lesson



Goal:

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

Materials:

Jesus Heals the Paralytic video—see website link

Patch Adams video—see website link

A Week at Grandma's animated narration—see website link

craft paper, markers, scissors, popsicle sticks for crafts

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: Watch Jesus Heals the Paralytic short video.

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?

Watch: *Patch Adams*

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?

Read: *A Week at Grandma's*

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?

Activity:

Craft Projects for the Holidays: Choose from any of the craft projects on the website, or create your own. Students can create a "Hugs for Grandparents" by tracing their outstretched arms and decorating themselves. Or, they can create some of the holiday-themed crafts to either share with their own grandparents, someone sick in their families, or they can take the crafts and visit a local assisted living facility or children's hospital. Visiting the sick or the elderly or the disabled is a great class or family activity that is also one of the corporal works of mercy.

Pray:

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 day by day.**

**Bless all those in our families who are sick.
Give them courage to find joy in each day.
May they greet you in Heaven when their suffering is over.**

**Allow us to find joy and blessing in visiting and showing love
for our elderly, sick, and disabled family members.
Amen.**

