

In Sickness and in Health Treating the Sick and Elderly with Dignity Grades 4-6 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:

Website Links

Scripture: Jesus Heals the Paralytic Man. Watch “Get Up and Walk” video.

Questions for Discussion:

What was the problem with the paralytic man?

How did this happen?

Whose idea was it to bring him to see Jesus? For what purpose?

Who had faith that Jesus could heal him? The man or his friends?

Is there a friend in your life who needs special help? How can you help him/her?

The friends in this story are true friends indeed—they were not deterred by obstacles.

What are some examples of heroic friendship that you have done?

Watch Video Clips

This lesson offers a look at the extraordinary lives of people who are often cast off by society—the elderly, the sick, or the disabled. Because they need a bit of extra help, our society sometimes treats them as burdens or tries to push them away.

But, like the friends in the scripture passage, true compassion and love requires that we serve those in need, whether that means helping them find a cure for their ailment or accompanying them through their suffering and making them feel better.

As students watch the videos, lead a class discussion about our personal responsibility to people in our families who might need a bit of extra help. Ask them to offer examples of people who are older, ill, or have special needs. What do they do to make them feel better?

Fight Song:

This light-hearted video shows that everyone—even celebrities—share the responsibility of making people feel better when they are sick. Why is it so important that celebrities visit kids in the hospital?

Together We are More:

Who is John Foppe? What is so special about him? What kinds of extra help does he need? Who helps him? What can he do for himself that is surprising? What did you learn from him about determination and courage?

Patch Adams:

This clip from the iconic movie shows a doctor using his creativity and imagination to bring joy to the children in his hospital. What does that accomplish?

Man of Steel:

JJ Hanson is fighting brain cancer with grace and courage. What in his background has prepared him to accept this challenge and never give up fighting for life. What does he have in his life worth fighting for? (JJ Hanson and his family will be speaking at OneLife LA in downtown LA on January 23, 2015!)

Pray:

A BLESSING FOR THE SICK

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 in sickness, in weakness and in pain.

For those who are helpless and who must lie in bed while others go out and in:
Bless your people, O Lord.

For those who must face life under some disability; those whose weakness
means that they must always be cared for:
Bless your people, O Lord.

For those suffering from debilitating or terminal illness and for their caregivers:
Bless your people, O Lord.

For those who are near the hour of death and in their final struggle:
Bless your people, O Lord.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

