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Jesus Heals the Sick , The Compassion of Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 8:1-17, Mark 1:40-45

Theme: Jesus cares about our bodies AND our souls

1st-3rd Grade (Ages 6-8)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: "Jesus Heals Us in Body and Soul" Today's Bible story tells us about a kind and loving Jesus who didn't just heal sick people, He also cared deeply for their feelings and even their hearts! In Matthew 8, Jesus walks into a crowd, sees a leper (a person who was sick and covered with sores), and makes him clean, like magic! But here's what's even more wonderful: Jesus didn't stop there. He also taught the leper to ask God for help too, because Jesus knows we need both physical healing and spiritual peace in our lives. For kids, this means learning that God isn't just a "healer" for body parts but also for hurt feelings, worries, and big questions we might have about God, friends, or life. Simple Application for Little Learners: Let's make this real! When we're feeling sad, scared, or achy (physically or emotionally), we can remember Jesus' example. He didn't just fix the body, He showed us how to trust Him fully. So today, we can practice two things: 1. Pray for healing (like the leper did) when we're hurt. 2. Tell someone (like a parent, teacher, or friend) if we're going through a tough time, because Jesus cares about our hearts too! Key Takeaway for Volunteers: Keep the lesson simple but heartfelt! Use gestures (e.g., patting someone's hand to show healing) and ask open-ended questions like, "How do you think Jesus felt when he healed that man?" (Hint: He felt joy because he loved us!) End with a prayer or a song about God's kindness, and remind kids: No matter how big or small the problem, Jesus sees us, and He wants us to come to Him with everything. Bonus Encouragement for Teachers: You're doing great by sharing this message! Jesus didn't just heal one person, He healed all of us. Let your energy shine today: be warm, patient, and full of wonder. If a child struggles to understand, use a story analogy (e.g., "God is like a doctor who fixes not just your broken leg but also your scared heart"). You're planting seeds of faith! Optional reflection: children can draw a picture of Jesus helping their friends, then share one way they can help someone else this week. This extra activity supports the lesson's theme and gives teachers a simple, lowprep option for extending the discussion.

Bible Story

Jesus Heals a Sick Man

One day, Jesus walked into a town called Capernaum. As he entered, a man fell down at his feet. This man was covered in a disease called leprosy, it made his skin turn white and hurtful. He had been told not to talk to anyone or live near others, because he could spread the sickness. But this man was so sad and afraid. He cried out, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean!"

Jesus felt sorry for him. He reached out and touched the man. Right away, the leprosy left his body, and his skin turned back to normal. The man was healed! He was so happy that he fell down again, bowed to Jesus, and thanked him. Then Jesus said, "Go and show yourself to the priest. God loves you, and you can be clean again!" (Mark 1:40-44)

This man couldn't keep his secret anymore. He left the town, telling everyone he met about Jesus. He wanted others to know that God's love and healing are always close, even when we feel alone. Jesus didn't just heal this man, he showed us how much He loves us all. No matter how sick or sad we feel, we can turn to Him, and He will take care of us.

Why This Story Matters: Jesus' kindness and healing teach us that God is always near to help us. When we feel afraid or hurt, we can trust Him to make things better. Just like the man in the story, we can tell others about Jesus when He saves us. By showing love to others, we share His goodness in the world!

Key Verse

Matthew 8:17 , 'He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.'

God Cares for Us Like a Little Brother or Sister You know how sometimes you get a little sick, maybe you have a tiny cough or a little ache in your tummy? Or maybe you're just feeling tired because you had a lot of energy playing? God is like a very kind little brother or sister who notices all those little things. When you're not feeling well, it might feel hard, but God isn't far away, He's right next to you, just like a parent holding your hand when you fall. This Bible verse tells us that God doesn't just sit by and watch us get sick. He takes care of us, just like a loving family member would, so we don't have to feel alone when we're not okay. Imagine you're playing outside and your friend trips and falls. You wouldn't just let them cry and hurt themselves, you'd help them up, give them a hug, or even walk them to the doctor if they needed it. God does the same thing for us, but in a bigger way! When you feel sick or tired, He's like the best friend who is always there to pick you up, make you feel better, and remind you that you're important. The verse says He "bears our diseases," which means He carries our pain and sickness gently, so we don't have to carry it alone. That's why when you're feeling down or in trouble, you can pray to Him: "God, I trust You. Help me feel better!" and know He'll take care of you. Sometimes, when we're little, we forget how strong and loving God is, but we can remember that He always keeps us safe. If you ever feel worried or scared, like maybe you'll get hurt, or you won't be able to play because you're sick, you can hold onto this verse. God isn't just waiting for you to ask for help; He's already there, ready to help you feel better, to heal you, and to give you strength. You don't have to be brave all alone; God is your superhero who fights the sickness and the sadness for you. So the next time you're feeling not-so-well, take a deep breath and say, "Thank You, God, for being my friend who takes care of me!" You can even try making a little reminder for yourself! Draw a heart and write, "God Cares for Me" inside it, and keep it where you'll see it every day, maybe on your mirror or in your lunchbox. Every time you look at it, you'll remember that God is always watching over you, like a gentle sunbeam that warms your heart. And just like how sunshine makes everything feel brighter, knowing God loves you can make you feel happier, safer, and full of hope. So keep trusting in Him, and remember: no matter what, He's got your back! --- Simple Application for Kids: - Pray together: Say, "God, thank You for taking care of me like a friend would. Help me feel better soon!" - Draw or act it out: Pretend to "carry" a stuffed animal (or yourself) on your back like God carries sicknesses. - Share with someone: Tell a sibling or friend, "God loves us and wants to help us feel better!"

Activities

Activity 1:

A quick matching game where children pair Bible stories of Jesus healing with pictures, reinforcing how God cares for everyone.

1. Fold & Cut Hands: Ask students to fold a paper plate in half and cut it into three fingers and a thumb (teacher helps with scissors).
2. Decorate: Let children color their hands with crayons, adding a kind face or "healing hands" design.
3. Glue & Share: Glue the hands to paper, then read the Bible verse aloud: "Jesus healed many people of sickness, pain, and evil spirits" (Mark 1:40, 41).
4. Discussion: Ask, "How can we show compassion like Jesus?" (Students might say sharing, praying, or helping others.)
2. "Healing Story Match-Up" Game
6. Prep Pictures: Teacher cuts out 3, 4 simple images (e.g., a blind man walking, a leper touching Jesus, a sick child healed).
7. Match & Glue: Hand each child a Bible verse and a set of pictures. Ask them to match the story to the picture.
8. Read Together: Read the passage aloud, pointing to the pictures as they match.
9. Reflect: Ask, "Who did Jesus help today? How can we help others?" (Encourage acts like giving hugs or prayers.)
10. Both activities use simple supplies, active participation, and Bible connection to teach compassion! Would you like adjustments for specific themes?

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for early elementary children based on the lesson "Jesus Heals the Sick, the Compassion of Jesus" (from Matthew 8:1-17 and Mark 1:40-45):
- What Did You Notice About the People in the Bible Story?
- In the story, Jesus saw a sick man, a leper, who was hurting and afraid because of his illness. He didn't just say, "Don't worry", He touched him! What other things do you notice about how Jesus acted toward people who were hurting or different? How can we show kindness to people who look different, feel sad, or need help just like Jesus did?
- (This question encourages them to reflect on Jesus' kindness and how they can apply it in their own lives by noticing others who might need compassion.)
- What Would Have Happened If Jesus Hadn't Touched the Leper?
- In the Bible story, the leper was told to stay away from people because of his illness. But Jesus didn't just tell him to go away, He reached out, touched him, and healed him. If Jesus hadn't touched him, what do you think might have happened to the man's pain or his friends? How does it make you feel when someone in our lives (like a friend or family member) is hurting or sad? What can you do to help them feel better, like Jesus helped the leper?
- (This question helps them understand the importance of action over just words and encourages them to think about how they can be a friend to someone who is hurting.)
- Have You Ever Felt Like You Were Too Scared or Different to Ask for Help?
- In the Bible story, the leper was scared to come near Jesus because of his illness. Maybe you've felt like you're too small, too nervous, or too different to talk to someone for help, like a teacher, a parent, or even Jesus Himself. What is one thing you've wanted to ask for help with (maybe it was a big question or a small problem) but were too afraid to ask? How can we be brave like Jesus, who helped even when people were afraid?
- (This question invites them to share personal experiences (if they feel comfortable) and helps them see that Jesus wants to help them too, even if they feel scared.)

- How Can We Show Compassion Like Jesus Today?
- Jesus healed people because He cared about them. Sometimes we see someone who is sad, hurt, or sick and just walk away, or even ignore them. How can we show kindness like Jesus? Maybe it's by:
 - Giving someone a hug or a smile when they're sad.
 - Helping a friend who is feeling left out.
 - Praying for someone who is sick or hurting.
 - Sharing a toy or book with a classmate who needs it.
- What is one small way you can show love and help someone today, just like Jesus did in the story?
- (This question encourages them to brainstorm practical ways to apply Jesus' compassion in their daily lives.)
- These questions are designed to be open-ended, engaging, and age-appropriate while keeping the focus on the Bible story and its lessons.

Prayer Focus

Prayer Focus: "Jesus Heals with Love" Dear God, Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to heal the sick and take care of everyone who needed help. Just like Jesus walked on water, healed the sick, and made everyone feel better, we want to love and help others with kindness. Help us to feel brave and gentle when we see someone who is hurting, just like Jesus did when He helped the sick in Matthew 8. Fill us with Your compassion so we can be kind to our friends, family, and even strangers. Amen. --- First Paragraph: God, You sent Jesus to the earth to heal those who were sick and sad, like the man with leprosy who asked for mercy. Just like Jesus touched the sick man's hand and made him whole, help us to reach out to others who might be feeling alone or in pain. When someone looks hurt or sick, teach us to speak kind words and show love, just as Jesus did. Amen. --- Second Paragraph: Jesus healed many people, including a woman who had been sick for twelve years, and He made her well again. Help us to be like Jesus and believe that God can heal and comfort others through us. When we see someone who isn't feeling good, remind us to pray for them, just like Jesus did for everyone He met. Let us be a kind and caring group who helps one another. Amen. --- Third Paragraph: Dear Lord, You show us how much You love us by healing the sick. Help us to share Your kindness and love with those around us. When we see someone who is sick or hurting, give us the courage to be gentle and kind, just like Jesus was. Let us help others feel better, even if it's just by giving a smile or a hug of comfort. Amen. --- Application for Class: "Today, let's remind each other: If Jesus could heal the sick, we can show love and care to those who need it! When someone feels sad or unwell, let's ask God to help us be kind and caring, just like Jesus did." (Pause for a moment of reflection or sharing.)

>> Missions Spotlight

In many parts of the developing world, access to healthcare is limited. Missionaries who run clinics and hospitals , from the Congo to Bangladesh , follow Jesus' example of healing the sick AND sharing the Gospel. Medical missions open doors that nothing else can.

-> To the Cross

Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and made the lame walk. Every healing was a sign that He came to fix what sin broke. But the greatest healing happened at the cross , where Jesus healed our sin-sick souls and made us right with God forever.