

Jesus Cares



Bible verses:
 Matthew 8:1-4;
 John 4:46-54



Aim:
 To see how Jesus
 cared for everyone



Today's fruit:
 Faithfulness



Memory verse

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

(John 3:16 NIV)



Start it

Invite the group to sit in a circle. Explain that you are going to say lots of different things, and if you say one of their favourite things, they need to put their thumbs up and say, 'That's my favourite!' Use things like: strawberries are my favourite fruit / Snow is my favourite weather / Christmas is my favourite day etc. Afterwards explain that when it came to people, Jesus didn't have favourites – he loved and cared for everyone.



Sing it

'For God so Loved the World' (John 3:16)
 by The Rizers (2:45)

'King of Me' (Official Music Video) by
 Rend Co. Kids (2:19)



Share it

For this section you will need two toy figures. Open your Bible at Matthew 8 and hold up the first toy figure.

Say:

There was a man that Jesus met who was poorly – he had a skin disease called leprosy. It meant that people didn't want to be near him, so he wanted Jesus to make him well again.

(Put that figure down and pick up a different one – turn to John 4).

Say:

There was another person Jesus met who was very important – he worked for the king. He had a big and scary problem – his son was so poorly that he was going to die. The royal official asked Jesus to make his son better again – he believed Jesus could heal his son.

(Pick up both figures).

Say:

I wonder if Jesus had a favourite, or if he helped both people? I wonder if he cared about one more than the other? Jesus healed the person with the poorly skin, and he also healed the son of the royal official – he cared for both.

Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Draw an outline (or draw around a person) on a big sheet of paper. In the centre, write 'Jesus loves us all'. Allow the group to write their names / draw themselves or their friends, and then decorate it together.
- **Play:** Using scales and a collection of different objects, allow the children to guess, measure and order the objects. Are any of them equal?
- **Pray:** Sit in a circle with the two figures from earlier standing on your open Bible and use actions to pray:
Dear God, thank you for your word (hands together, open like a book). Thank you for loving us all (hands on heart). Please help us to love and care for everyone too (stretch out hands either side, placing hands on each other's shoulders).
- **Try:** As a group, talk about a new challenge inviting everyone to be a 'heart helper' this week. A 'heart helper' is someone who uses kind hands, kind words and kind choices to show Jesus' love to others.

Jesus Heals



Bible verses:
Mark 2:1-12



Aim:
To think about the motive of the man's friends and consider what it might look like for us to want to bring our friends to Jesus



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Memory verse

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

(John 3:16 NIV)



Start it

Create a simple obstacle course around the room using chairs, cushions, cones or tape lines, and let each one of the group take turns in completing it. Next, pair them up and ask them to complete it while holding hands. Ask them how they found it. Say that in today's Bible story, a group of friends worked together when they tried to bring someone to Jesus, even when things got in their way.



Share it

You could watch the clip below (stopping at 5:11); or alternatively you can re-create this story yourself with some card, split pins and enthusiasm! Your group will love seeing this happen in the room.

Watch:

Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man by Ignite Kids (15:06, stop at 5:11)



Sing it

'For God so Loved the World' (John 3:16)
by The Rizers (2:45)

'King of Me' (Official Music Video) by Rend Co. Kids (2:19)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Help the group to make their own 'story teller' with card and split pins. You may wish to pre-cut the card into strips and create small holes for the split pins.
- **Play:** Allow the group to build their own houses with blocks or something similar. The challenge is to be able to create a hole in the roof without it falling down!
- **Pray:** Place the story card straight on a flat mat in the centre of your circle. Invite the children to think of someone they know who they would like to bring to Jesus, or who is poorly and needs healing. When

they have thought of someone, they can place their hands on the mat as you say a prayer for all the people in our minds and in our hearts.

- **Try:** Ask the group to draw their friends – they can do this however they want to. You may like to recap the Bible story while they are drawing, and point out what wonderful gift friendship is!

Jesus and the Pharisees


Bible verses:

Matthew 15:1-11;
12:1-8


Aim:

To discover why the religious leaders became angry with Jesus and what he wanted people to understand about God


Today's fruit:

Kindness



Memory verse

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

(John 3:16 *NIV*)



Start it

Before the session, get a simple, old, battered box and a nice-looking gift bag. In the box place a tasty snack you can all enjoy together (being mindful of allergies), and nothing at all in the gift bag. Hold them in such a way that the children don't know what's inside them. Ask which one looks better or more exciting. After a while allow them to look first inside the bag, then the box. Religious leaders were often angry with Jesus because he did not follow their rules and traditions in the same way they did. Jesus wanted people to understand that God cared about what was in people's hearts, not how they looked.



Share it

Ask the group what are some rules that we have to follow, and talk about why they are important (they keep us safe/healthy etc). Open your Bible to Matthew 12, and explain that lots of religious people got angry with Jesus because he didn't follow all the rules of their Law (like not picking grain to eat on their holy day – this was seen as work and so was against the religious Law). For a long time, people had followed hundreds of laws, but Jesus was trying to show them that following laws wasn't what it meant to worship God. Real worship to God was loving him and loving other people, being kind and putting God first.



Sing it

'For God so Loved the World' (John 3:16)
by The Rizers (2:45)

'King of Me' (Official Music Video) by Rend Co. Kids (2:19)

Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Using pieces of paper with 'Love God, Love Others' written on them, help the children to make the paper look like old scrolls. You can use cold coffee or tea to stain the paper, create crinkles and tears, or colour it in – get as creative as you want to!
- **Play:** Ask what does a red/green traffic light mean? Why is it important that we follow those rules? Play a fun game of red-light/green-light, where children stop or go depending on what colour is shouted out or displayed.
- **Pray:** Sit together in a circle and say, 'I wonder what it looks like to love God and love others?' Leave some space for reflection and answers. If it's quiet, that's OK, but they can share ideas if they wish. Finish this short time with a prayer that God would help us to treat people well and keep focusing on him.
- **Try:** Together, create some actions to help remember the memory verse.

Jesus Forgives



Bible verses:

Matthew 9:9-13:
Luke 7:36-39, 44-50



Aim:

To recognise that if we come to Jesus, he forgives us for the wrong things we do



Today's fruit:

Love



Memory verse

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

(John 3:16 NIV)



Start it

Set up a 'Guess the smell' activity using a selection of scented items – for example vinegar, perfume, lemons, coffee, oranges or washing-up liquid (check for allergies beforehand). Invite the children to smell each item without looking at it. Ask them what their favourite / least favourite smells were. In today's story, someone brings expensive perfume to Jesus and pours it over his feet, and the smell of the perfume fills the room.



Share it

Watch:

Jesus and the Sinful Woman by Saddleback Kids (3:15)



Sing it

'For God so Loved the World' (John 3:16) by The Rizers (2:45)

'King of Me' (Official Music Video) by Rend Co. Kids (2:19)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Have some different (safe) things for children to make their own 'perfume'. You can use recycled plastic bottles, and they can add things like water, food colouring or paint, lemon juice etc. (Ensure if they take them home that the children know it's only pretend perfume, and their responsible adult looks after it and knows what it is!)

- **Play:** Have some deep trays or bowls with some water and small strips of cloth. Allow the children to play with some waterproof/plastic figurine toys, and wash their feet.
- **Pray:** Sit together in a circle (check for any allergies/asthma beforehand). Explain what is going to happen, then ask everyone to close their eyes, and carefully spray a nice smell into the room. Pray that, like the woman, we would always know we can come to Jesus, and that no matter what happens, we can say sorry and know that he will always love us.
- **Try:** Watch this fun music video about our sense of smell!
'I Have 5 Senses' (Jack Hartmann Sense of Smell)