

Jesus Heals A Crippled Hand

Luke 6:6-11

MEMORY VERSE

JAMES 5:15a

And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many small prizes (pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.) as the number of children in your class.

(Optional) props and costume pieces for a "Good Samaritan" skit.

As many sheets of blank paper as the number of children in your class. A large paper bag with the words, "He cares for you" printed on it.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

A Burden Too Great to Bare

Create an impossible task for your students to do. You could, for example, lie on the floor and tell your students that one by one they need to lift you and carry you to the other side of the room (this will only be impossible for younger students). Tell the class that the students that can accomplish the task will be rewarded with a snack (this will give some of them the incentive to try).

After giving several students the opportunity to try the task, explain that the task is impossible. Illustrate that the rules made up by the Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' day were also impossible for the people. Tell them that the story you will study today will illustrate this.

Have a volunteer pass out a small prize to each member of the class for being such good sports.

LESSON TIME!

Who can tell me what Jesus did last week in our lesson to help someone? (He healed the paralytic man lowered in from the roof by his friends). Were all the people in that house friends of Jesus? (No, there were also enemies of Jesus there.) This week we see another time Jesus came into the ordinary and did the extraordinary. **Jesus cares about our needs.**

Remember when we learned that God had been silent for 400 years, from the time of the prophets in the Old Testament to John the Baptist. There were religious leaders during that whole time who began to treat the people cruelly. They would come up with all kinds of rules for the people in addition to what the Bible said and told them they had to do these things to be really holy. These religious leaders, called Scribes and Pharisees, had been watching Jesus and they were jealous of Him.

God had been silent for 400 years; then, He chose to manifest His work through one single man from Galilee, not through the religious leaders. God had come to Israel as a man, Jesus. Instead of recognizing God's work through Jesus and becoming excited over the great and miraculous works Jesus performed, they became jealous of Him. Let's look at where their jealousy took them.

LUKE 6:6-7

Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered.

So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him.

Picture it! Jesus had a good habit of going to God's house to worship on the Sabbath. He also taught from God's word in the Synagogue. This particular Sabbath, there was a man there who had a crippled, withered hand. There were also lots of other people; it was always crowded on the Sabbath. The Scribes and Pharisees were there, too. Remember they were jealous of Jesus. When they saw Jesus arrive, they watched Him with malice, jealousy, and hatred.

They were always looking for a way to get Him into trouble, so the people would quit following Him and return to following them. They had noticed the man with the crippled hand, and they anxiously waited for Jesus to notice him because they knew Jesus would care deeply for the man and desire to heal him. Jesus always notices those in need, because **Jesus cares about our needs.**

What were the Pharisees hoping for? How did they wish to trap Jesus? Well, they had a rule that you couldn't do work on the Sabbath. They had added to God's Law many burdensome rules and traditions that they expected everyone to obey. God had made the Sabbath a special day of rest, a time to come before His presence and worship Him and fellowship with Him, not a burdensome day of following lots of strict rules.

To the Lord's Day of rest and worship, The Pharisees had added a set of rules too hard to bare. By adding so many strict rules, they had defeated the purpose of the Sabbath--to focus on God. Everyone was too distracted by trying to follow all the rules. One of the ridiculous rules was that you could not heal on the Sabbath, because healing was too much like work.

Here they hoped to trap Jesus. They wanted Him to heal the man, not because they cared about him, but because they could say that Jesus worked on the Sabbath. He broke the rule. They wanted to get Jesus into trouble.

London Bridge

Play the "London Bridge" game by having the children pass under the raised arms of you and your aide or another student, while singing "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

Every so often let your arms fall down around one of the students and sing the "Take the Key and Lock Him Up" verse.

Illustrate that you were creating a trap for each of the students playing the game, just like the Pharisees tried to do with Jesus.

LUKE 6:8-9

But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, "Arise and stand here." And he arose and stood.

Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?"

Jesus did something right away that proved He was God. He read their minds. He knew exactly what they wanted. He knew the Scribes and Pharisees wanted Him to heal the man's withered arm, so they could accuse Him of breaking their man-made rules. That didn't stop Jesus.

He went right to the man and He asked the man to stand up. The man did as Jesus asked. He must have heard about this wonderful Jesus, and he knew that **Jesus cares about our needs**. In spite of feeling singled out and probably self-conscious, he stood with Jesus. Then Jesus turned and talked to the Scribes and Pharisees. He asked them a startling question. He did not just ask if they thought it was lawful to heal someone on the Sabbath; He asked them if it was lawful to save life or destroy life on the Sabbath.

Those are strong opposites: save or destroy. The Pharisees didn't see ignoring this man's need of healing as destroying him. Jesus was trying to show them that in the presence of someone who has a great need, you only have two choices; you do good to him or you harm him. Ignoring him is doing him harm. **Jesus cares about our needs.**

We are always choosing to do something--to save or to destroy. We must do good to people. If we choose to do nothing when someone has a need, it is the same as doing harm to him. Jesus is showing us a greater rule than the Pharisees had; those who break the rule of God's Sabbath are those who would leave a man in agony instead of trying to help him. Jesus helped him because **Jesus cares about our needs.**

The Good Samaritan

Ask a couple of volunteers to re-enact the story of the Good Samaritan.

Show the children that those who passed by on the other side of the road actually contributed to the beaten man's ailments, but the Samaritan who chose to help him, contributed to his healing.

LUKE 6:10

And looking around at them all, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

Let's take a close look at this man. He's standing there in front of everyone. Everyone is staring at his withered hand...watching, waiting. Jesus then turned and gently said "Stretch out your hand." The Bible tells us the man stretched out his hand. Wow! He didn't say, "Oh Jesus, everybody's looking at me, and anyway, you know I can't stretch it out. It won't open. It's all crippled and

curled up." Instead, this man shows great faith and trust in Jesus. He knew that **Jesus cares about our needs**.

He trusted that Jesus was able to meet his need. Jesus is able to heal. This man with the withered hand obeyed in faith. He stretched out his hand that normally wouldn't stretch or move and it was made well! It was as perfect as his other good hand. That's faith. When something seems impossible, but Jesus asks us to do it, we obey because we trust Him. He makes possible what seems impossible. Wow! I bet everybody in the whole synagogue was rejoicing and excited! Let's see:

LUKE 6:11

But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

What? A man gets healed so perfectly, right there in front of them, and they get enraged? That means they were so mad that they could barely see straight! These men were so filled up with thinking about themselves, they didn't care about the man or his withered hand; they didn't care about the crowd watching; they didn't care that Jesus was doing miracles. They just cared that Jesus was attracting more people to Himself than they were. They knew that **Jesus cares about our needs**.

Instead of being happy about the fact that Jesus does care, they were mad and jealous. It did not make sense. It is illogical. Jesus is always logical. He is tender and compassionate and loving. He always does good when there is a need. He never ignores our needs. He comes and He says, "Stretch forth your need towards Me and let Me touch it and heal it." We can be like the man with the crippled hand, and by faith, stretch our need to Jesus for Him to touch and heal, knowing that **Jesus cares about our needs**.

What kind of needs do we have for Jesus to touch and heal? It may not be a crippled hand, but perhaps it's something like being afraid of the dark, crippling us with fear. Maybe we feel like we don't know how to make friends and we're crippled with shyness. Maybe we fight with our brothers and sisters and we're crippled with anger. Maybe we struggle with obeying our parents and we feel crippled by the lack of self-control.

Jesus tells us that we can stretch out that thing, whatever it is, and trust Him to help us and heal us. He will, because **Jesus cares about our needs**. No matter how big or small, how noticeable or hidden it is, He sees and He cares. He's just waiting for us to stretch out our withered hands so He can help us. He won't let any enemy or crowd stop Him from working His love and power in our lives. Nothing can stop Jesus from doing His work when we, by faith, receive His help and stand with Him. Remember **Jesus cares about our needs**.

1 Peter 5:6-7 tells us , "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

I Cast All My Cares Upon You...

Have the children write on a piece of paper an area of their lives they need to "cast upon Him." Have the younger children draw a picture that represents this area of their lives. Don't have the children sign the sheets of paper so as to encourage confidentiality.

Pass a big paper Bag with the words printed on it "He cares for You." Have the children put their "cares" in the bag.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer, requesting that the Lord heal the things in our lives that we stretch out to Him, thanking Him that we can cast all of our cares upon Him. If there are children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them the opportunity to do so.