

Lesson 26: *What do we mean by ecumenicity?*

Stewardship Sunday

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

General Concept: *Ecumenicity means promoting better understanding, relationship and cooperation with various religious denominations and different faith communities.*

Biblical References: Ephesians 2:19-22; Galatians 3:26-29

Age Level Concepts

- Our church makes friends with other churches
- We support our church's efforts in making friends with other churches

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to

- Tell why our church makes friends with other churches
- Say the value of having friends inside and outside the church
- Express appreciation in the church's effort to make friends with other churches
- Resolve to support church's effort in making friends

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket

Biblical Background

Ephesians 2: 19-22

In the ancient world of the Jew was separated from the Gentile by racial, religious, cultural and social barriers. If Christ could bring these two together, there was, and is, no gulf too great for him to bridge. And Jesus did. His death on the cross is the one means of peace with God for all men without distinction. And all who belong to him have a common bond which is deeper and stronger than any of their former differences- of race, color or status or sex of background. Jew and Gentile are one in Christ. (Eerdmans Concise Bible Handbook)

Galatians 3:26-29

Anyone willing to exchange Christian freedom for the Jewish law is a fool. The Jews talk about making the Gentiles sons of Abraham through the rite of circumcision. But Gentile Christians are already Abrahams' sons and heirs- because they share their faith. God accepted Abraham centuries before the law was given through Moses. Now, by faith in him, we are all God's children- regardless of race and status or sex. (Eerdmans Concise Bible Handbook)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song “Jesus, Our Lord, was Friend to All” Children Praise God, 165
Jesus, Our Lord, was Friend to All
And in all hearts we hear his call
To love and serve and seek to be,
A friend in word and deed as he.

Opening Prayer

Great and mighty God, we are thankful for your presence here with us today. We pray that you will teach us new lessons that will inspire us to know more about making friends with others. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”

Getting Ready

Guide questions for getting ready. Allow them to share one by one.

- a. Who among you have friends from other churches? Can you name them?
- b. Why do you consider them as your friends? Are you happy being friends with them?
- c. What activities do you and your other friends usually do together?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Write the scripture readings in Manila paper or cartolina. Then group the children into two groups and name the first group as **UNITED** and the other group as **ACCEPTED**.

- a. Group **UNITED** will read Galatians 3:26-29 (CEV Version)
“All of you are God’s children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes. Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other. Whether you are Jew or a Greek, a slave and a free person, a man and a woman. So if you belong to Christ, you are part of Abraham’s family and you will be given what God has promised.”
- b. Group **ACCEPTED** will read Ephesians 2:19-22
“You Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God. You are like a building with the apostles and prophets as the foundation and with Christ as the most important stone. Christ is the one who holds the building together and makes it grow into a holy temple for the Lord. And you are part of that building Christ has built as a place for God’s own Spirit to live.”

Lessons Learned

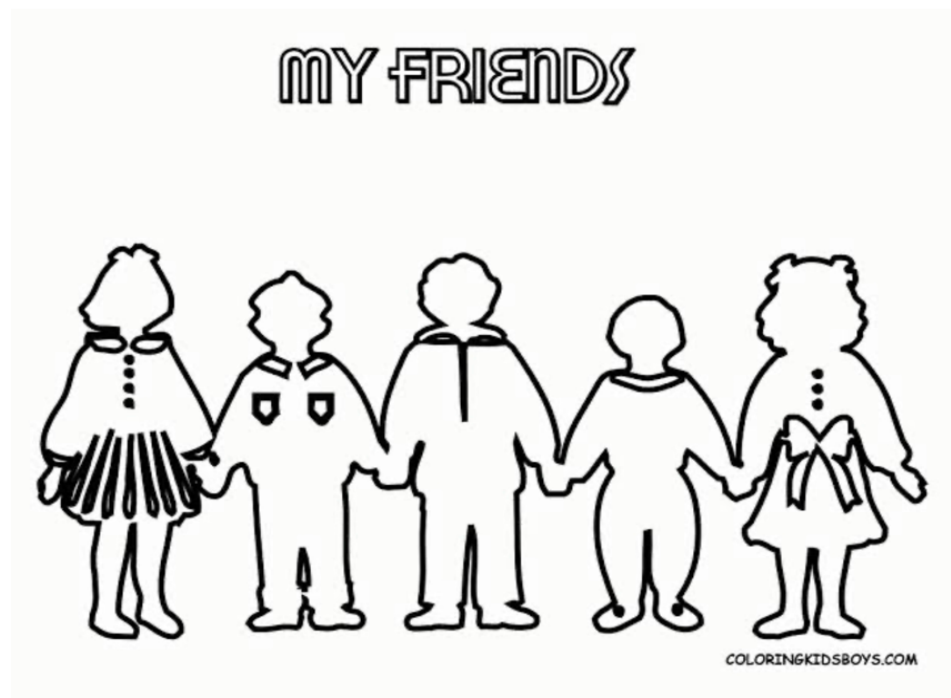
Ask the following questions for reflection.

1. What did you feel when you heard that you are children of God?
2. According to the two biblical references, why should we make friends even with those who do not belong to our group? Why is it important?

3. Present the following and discuss briefly.
 - a. Jesus wants us to accept people as they are, and treat them nicely. Likewise in relating with others as friends, we should be like Jesus: befriending and accepting everyone.
 - b. As UCCP, we accept persons as they are because we consider them as brothers and sisters. Jesus call them friends. Jesus considered us his friends, that we too may know how to befriend others.
 - c. UCCP has a commitment to ecumenism (friendship), grounded upon the belief that the UCCP is part of the universal Church of Christ. The UCCP our church, is undertaking partnership, fellowship and dialogue with other church bodies and faith communions.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse. Galatians 3:26 “All of you are God’s children because of your faith in Jesus Christ.”
2. Print out the image below and distribute to the children. Let the color and decorate it. Tell them to write their names below and the church group where they belong. Write at the lower part, “I will support church’s effort in making friends with other churches!”



Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Song

”I Want to be Your Friend” Children Praise God, 163
I want to be your friend a little bit more (2X)

A little, a little bit, a little bit more.

Closing Prayer (to be led by the teacher)

Lesson 27: How do we express our ecumenicity?

Family Sunday
Human Rights Sunday
Second Sunday of Advent
December 06, 2020

General Concept: We express our ecumenicity through relating, participating and working together with other Christian churches and faith communities towards the restoration of the whole creation and establishment of God's kingdom.

Biblical References: Mark 10:13-16

Age Level Concepts

- Our church study together with other churches in VCS
- We love learning together with other churches in VCS

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to

- Tell their experience of studying together with children from other churches in VCS
- Express how they feel about their experience with other children from other churches
- Pray for the friendship our church has with other churches

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket

Biblical Background

Mark 10:13-16

Jesus blesses the children. To enter God's kingdom we must all become, not childish, but childlike- receiving him with humble, loving trust. The biblical passage tells us how Jesus cares for the children. Even the old ones reacted about Jesus treatment but he rebuked them. Jesus told them that children are gift and blessing to us. Jesus showing the right attitude to treat children. Children are very important in the kingdom of God. (Eerdmans Concise Bible Handbook)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song "Kumusta ka" Children Praise God, 68

Kumusta ka, halina't magsaya

Pumalakpak, pumalakpak

Ituro ang paa
Padyak sa kanan, padyak sa kaliwa
Umikot ka umikot ka humanap ng iba.

“Moshi Moshi”
Moshi-moshi, Olah-olah
Hello, kumusta ka
Moshi-moshi, Olah-olah
Hello, kumusta ka
Moshi, Olah, hello, kumusta ka
Moshi, olah, hello, kumusta ka
Moshi-Moshi, olah, olah
Hello, kumusta ka.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you again for gathering us today. We celebrate and bring glory to your name as we study and learn words of wisdom from You. Be with us today now and forever. Amen!

Getting Ready

1. Prepare slides or pictures during your previous Vacation Church School. Post them for all learners to see.
2. Allow the children to talk about some of their memorable experiences during VCS. Acknowledge their joy, excitement and appreciation as they relate their stories.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Present the following biblical passage. Be creative in presenting the text. You may use stick puppet with voice modulation.

“Jesus Blesses the Children”
Mark 10:13-16

Some people brought children to Jesus for to place his hands on them. But the disciples scolded the people.

When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples,
“Let the children come to me, do not stop them because the Kingdom of God is for them.”

Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

Lessons Learned

Ask the following questions for discussion.

1. Who are the character of the story?
2. What happened to the children? What were the reactions of the disciples?
3. What was the reaction of Jesus?
4. Did Jesus blessed the children?

Present the following statements. Prepare an emoticon that is smiling and angry.

Explain the statements to the learners. After which, ask them to choose an emoticon that expresses their feelings.

- Our church during vacation time (April-May) launched Vacation Church School.
- All children of the community are invited and welcome to attend.
- Welcoming all children even from other churches is what Jesus meant when he told his disciples to allow children to come to him.
- All children belong to God's Kingdom.
- Vacation Church School is a venue where children learn to pray, play, paint, and to read the Bible.
- Children from different church groups/ denominations are allowed to study the word of God and to learn about Jesus.

SHOW AND TELL. Divide the class into three (3) groups. Let them dramatize what they usually do in Vacation Church School. (Scenes during arrival, class time, snack time, playing, drawing and painting, etc.) Give each group 3 minutes to present.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse.
"Let the children come to me. Do not stop them." Mark 10:14
2. Print out the following coloring paper. Let them color it and decorate. Let them write their names. Allow them to express their creativity.



Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Song

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children all the children of the world
Red and yellow; black and white, they are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn and study your word.
Thank you for allowing us to learn and study together with our friends from other
churches through the Vacation Church School. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lesson 28: What is the context of UCCP's pastoral and prophetic witness?

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

General Concept: The Filipino people continues to struggle for sovereignty and genuine peace.

Biblical References: Matthew 9:35-39

Age Level Concepts

- Our church cares for our country.

- Our country is in pain.
- We care for our country.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to

- Mention what they have
- Give examples of how people are in pain
- Cite ways of caring our country

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket

Biblical Background

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus' Charge to the Twelve

The choice and training of the twelve was a vital part of Jesus' mission. The task of spreading the good news about the Kingdom would rest with them after his death. Now he sends them out for the first time, with power to heal. He gives them instructions and warns them of the kind of reception they are alike to get, both now and in the future. They are to expect hardship; trust in God's care and fear no one. (Eerdmans Concise Bible Handbook)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song

“Kung Ikaw Ay Masaya”

Kung ikaw ay masaya pumalakpak ka (2X)

Kung ikaw ay masaya buhay mo ay sisigla

Kung ikaw ay masaya, pumalakpakka

.....kumembot ka

.....pumadyak ka

..... umikot ka

“Oh, What A Mighty God We Serve”

Oh, what a mighty God we serve (4X)

Oh, let us sing and praise the LOrd (4x)

Opening Prayer (To be led by the teacher)

Getting Ready

Prepare pictures of people suffering and in pain because of war, disaster, environmental destruction, malnourished children, people in prison, suffering children, etc.





Call the children's attention to the pictures you have pasted on the board. Let them examine the pictures and let them mention what they saw. Then ask:

1. How do you feel upon seeing the pictures?
2. Why do you think these are happening today?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read carefully to the children Matthew 9:35-38.

35 Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness.

36 As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled of pity for them because they were worried and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.

37 So he said to his disciples, “The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in.

38 Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest.

Lessons Learned

Ask the following questions.

1. What kind of suffering and pain did the people experience in the towns and villages?
2. How did Jesus feel upon seeing the situation of the people?
3. What did Jesus plan to do with them?
4. Why did Jesus need more workers?

Let the learners look back at the pictures, then ask:

5. What kind of suffering and pain did our people experience today?
6. How do you feel upon knowing that there are people who are suffering and in pain?
7. What can we do to ease their suffering and pain?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Present the following song. Make it as action song. Teach them and let them emulate the meaning of the song.

“Help Somebody Today” Children Praise God, 190
Look around you, find someone in need, Help somebody today,
Help somebody today, somebody along life’s way,
Let sadness be ended, the friendless be friended,
Oh, help somebody today.

Many need kindness, let’s show Jesus’ way- Help somebody today,
Patience and courage be ours day by day help somebody today,

God’s Spirit helps us do the right help somebody today
Praise be to Jesus our Lord and our light. Help somebody today

- Teach the following memory verse. Matthew 9:36 “..he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd”

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Song “Help Somebody Today” Children Praise God, 190

Closing Prayer

Loving and Caring God, thank you for bringing us the spirit of loving and caring for our country. Give us courage Lord to do our task. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

Lesson 29: What is the context of the indigenous faith communities?

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

General Concept: The indigenous faith communities continue to struggle for self-determination and defense for their ancestral lands.

Biblical References: Luke 10:25-37

Age Level Concepts

- Our church cares for the tribal people.
- Tribal people are in pain.
- We care for the well-being of the tribal people

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Tell that our church cares for the tribal people.
- Express their feelings on the situation of the tribal people
- Name ways to show love and care for the well-being of tribal people

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, pictures of tribal Filipinos

Biblical Background

Luke 10:25-27

A Jewish teacher of the law came to Jesus to test him with a question about eternal life. His question showed that he thought of eternal life as something to be obtained by some special act. Jesus' reply showed that obtaining eternal life is inseparably linked with the way people live their daily lives. If they do not put God before all things and their neighbour before themselves, they can have no assurance of eternal life (**Luke 10:25-28**).

The teacher was disappointed with this answer and, in an attempt to excuse his own failings, asked how anyone could know who was or was not his neighbour (Luke 10:29). In reply Jesus told a story in which a traveller was beaten, robbed, and left to die. Two Jews, one a priest and the other a Levite, deliberately passed him by, but a Samaritan stopped and helped him (Luke 10:30-35). Jesus then forced the questioner to answer his own question. The example that he had to follow was not that of the religious purists, but that of the despised foreigner. If a person loves his neighbour as himself, he will act kindly towards anyone that he happens to meet, even enemies (Luke 10:36-37). (Donald C. Fleming, Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song "The More We Get Together"

The more we get together, together, together

The more we get together, the happier we'll be

Cause your friends are my friends

And my friends are your friends

The more we get together, the happier we'll be

****clap

****sway

****dance

Opening Prayer

Most gracious God, we worship you today with thanksgiving. We pray for your Holy Spirit to help us understand our lesson so that we would know more how to love others especially the tribal people. This we ask in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

1. Form the class into a circle.
2. Tell the class to think of good word that describes one's self.
3. You may start the ball rolling (option: you may use a real ball) and say "I am _____ (adjective)" (Ex. I Am Beautiful)
4. Tell the one who holds the Ball to pass it to another child and he/she will do the same.
5. Do this until all learners have been able to tell about themselves.

Tell the children that we are created unique and special. Though we may look different from each other but God loves and cares for everyone. We have neighbors also who may look different from us in color, language, way of life but we also consider them as our brothers and sisters for they are also God's children.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Tell the story of a Good Samaritan.

A man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho was attacked by robbers; stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him, half dead. How does it feel for the man being robbed?

A priest going down on the same road saw the man. He passed by on the other side. What does a priest do?

A Levite, came to the place and saw the man. He passed by the other side too. What kind of people are the Levites?

A Samaritan also came down the same road and he saw the beaten and robbed man. He took pity on him. He didn't pass by the other side. Instead he went on him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Was the Samaritan's bandaging the man's wound enough?

The Samaritan didn't stop helping the man. He put the man on his donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. Is this help enough for the Samaritan?

No! Because the Samaritan came back the next day and paid the innkeeper. He even promised to return and will pay any extra expenses. What can you say about the Samaritan action?

(Tell the children that during that time, Jews do not talk or relate to Samaritans because they treat them as sinners and dirty. That's why the Samaritan who helped the stripped, beaten and left for dead man was amazing!)







Lessons Learned

Lesson 1- The Samaritans were being rejected by the Jews because for them they are sinful. The priest and the Levite (considered to be wise and religious) who happened to pass by an injured man, looked the other way and did not help him. Here is a Samaritan, a rejected person showed mercy and care for the man who was robbed and injured. The story tells us that anybody even those who do not belong to our group, family or race is also capable to helping others. More so, Jesus is challenging us to do the same to those who needs our help even if they are different from us.

Lesson 2- (Show them pictures of tribal Filipinos) Discuss briefly about the situation of tribal Filipinos or you can invite one in your area if possible). They are in pain and in struggle and rejected like the robbed man. We are challenge to be like the Samaritan who will accept and love and care the tribal Filipinos and others.



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A Network
Is condemn killing of 6th grader by alamara, cafgu in Davao ...
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Lesson 3- As a church, we care for the well-being of the tribal people. We open our doors as sanctuaries or place where they can find refuge and help in times of need. we believe that their suffering as a community is also our suffering. We are one with them in their call for respect and defense of their land.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse. Luke 10:27 “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”
2. Picture Reflection
 - Ask each learner to choose from among the pictures shown during class and say how they feel about it.
 - Ask: “If you come across/meet indigenous/tribal children, what would Jesus want you to do?”

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Song

”We are One in the Bond of Love”

We are one in the bond of Love

We are one in the bond of Love

Let us join our spirit with the Spirit of God

We are one in the bond of love.

Closing Prayer (Ask a learner to lead the class in prayer)

Thank you Dear Lord for another day of learning. Thank you because today I’ve learned to show my love and care for the tribal Filipinos. I learned to accept others for

who and what they are. Thank you for teaching us to show our care and love to others and be loved too. Bless us O Lord always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lesson 30: How do we understand our pastoral witness?

First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020

General Concept: *Pastoral witness means being one with the people in their struggles and aspirations in whatever situations they are in.*

Biblical References: Mark 2:1-12

Age Level Concepts

- Our church listens to the stories of people in pain
- Our church cares for people in pain.
- We help people in pain.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to

- Tell that our church listen to the stories of people in pain
- Express how our church cares for people in pain
- Pray that the work of the church in helping people in pain will continue

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket

Biblical Background

Mark 2:1-12

It is easy enough simply to tell a man his sins are forgiven. But by healing him Jesus visibly demonstrates his power in both physical and spiritual realms. When he says a word, something really happens. The house would have an outside staircase leading to a flat roof, giving extra living-space. The roof would be made of tiles or lath and plaster-not difficult to break.

Sick people come to Jesus because of their faith that they will be healed. His presence before them brought healing. The man restored from being paralytic. Jesus has all the power to heal and restore people.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song "Yes, I want to be Like Jesus"

(Tune: "If You Are Happy and You Know It")

If you want to be like Jesus, help a friend (twice).

To people who are needy, do reach out and give your help

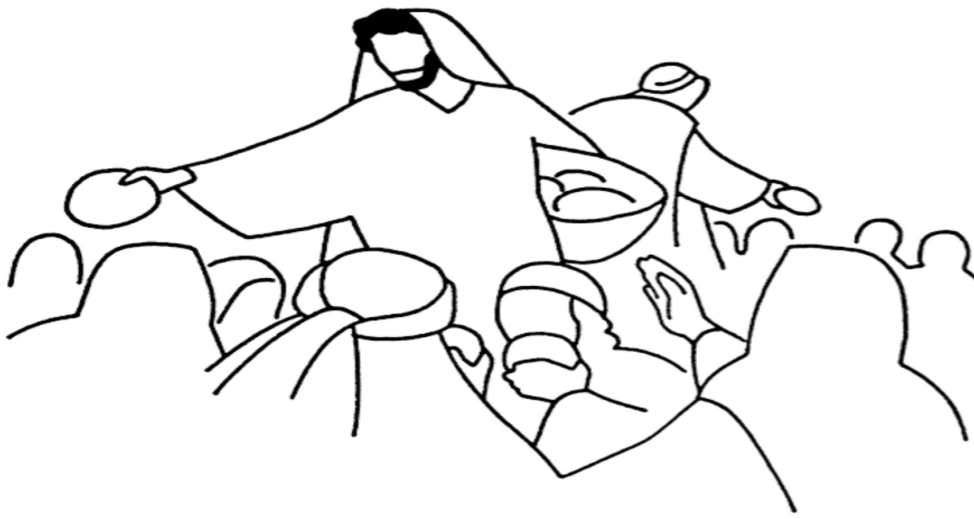
If you want to be like Jesus, help your friend.
(Replace the word help with hug or love.)

Opening Prayer

We thank you our parent God for gathering us again to learn more about you. May your Spirit be with us and grant us wisdom to understand and apply our lesson for this day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

1. Before teaching the song, prepare pictures of what Jesus did (healing the sick, making blind see, giving food to the hungry, blessing children). Tell the class to look at the pictures displayed at the classroom walls. Ask: "What do you see on the wall?"







Teach the song "Jesus Went about Doing Good" (by Lois Horton Young, 1954)
Jesus went about doing good, the Bible tells me so.
He heals the sick and heals the blind
To little children He was kind. He gives some hungry people food
He says, "Be always kind and good."
Jesus went about doing good, the Bible tells me so.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Tell the story.

"The Paralyzed Man"

Mark 2:1-12

"Have you hear about the Teacher from Nazareth? They say he can cure all kinds of illness."

In those days, when only the rich can afford a doctor, the news spread fast. Wherever Jesus went, sick people came to him- and he made them well.

He cured the blind.
He cured the deaf.
He cured the lame.

There was no illness of mind or body that Jesus could not cure. God gave him special power to heal. And when they saw what he could do, people began to believe what Jesus said.

There was one man who was paralyzed. His friends were sure Jesus could cure him. But he couldn't move. So four of his friends picked him up and carried him to Jesus on his bed-mat.

There was a great crowd outside the house where Jesus was teaching. No one could get in. So the four friends carried him up the outside stairs to the flat roof. Then they broke through the layer of matting and plaster over the wooden beams, and lowered their friends down. Jesus looked up at the four men. How loving they were, and what faith they had!

"Your sins are forgiven," he said to the man. "Only God can forgive sins? I said it so that you would know I have God's power to do both."

Then he said to the man, "Get up, pick up your mat, and go home." And to the delight of his friends, he did!

(Adapted from The Children's Story Bible
By Pat Alexander and illustrated by Carolyn Cox p 189-190)

Lessons Learned

Ask the following questions for discussion.

1. Who are the characters of the story?
2. What was the illness of the man?
3. Who carried him to Jesus?
4. How did Jesus respond to the man's need for healing?
5. How does it feel being sick?
6. What have you learned from the story?

Teacher's Input

- a. Allow the children's sharing, process it. Discuss the story one by one. The paralytic man was in pain and suffering from his sickness for many years. His friends felt his need to be healed. So they make ways to be able to help out and bring their friend to Jesus despite the difficulty. Friends ought to help one another especially in times of pain and need. Jesus was teaching the people by making them see how the compassion, love and faith can move the difficult odds.
- b. Jesus demonstrated a way of life that is full of compassion, mercy, care and concern for the well-being of people. Jesus demonstrated a life that truly listens to the longings, pain, aspirations and hopes of people. His life and works pointed to us towards the Kingdom- where there is healing, caring, abundance and peace.

- c. As a church -a community of believers, we are to emulate this kind of life Jesus has shown to his disciples before. The church cannot turn a blind eye or deaf ear from the pain and suffering of the world. It is the church's mission to do something about the pain and suffering of the people.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Teach the memory verse. Mark 2:11, "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home."

Creative Activity: Love Card.

Let the learners make their own card that says, "Thank you Jesus for helping people in pain. I will do the same."

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Song "The Love of Jesus"

The love of Jesus sweet and marvelous (thrice), O..o.. Wonderful love...
Higher than the sky above, deeper than the ocean
Wider than the universe, O..o.. Wonderful love.

"I'm Part of You" (Tune: "His Banner Over Me")

I'm part of you and you're part of me together in God's family (thrice).
We're living together in God's household.

Closing Prayer (to be led by the teacher)