

Bible Point ▶

Jesus cares.

Bible Verse

Jesus cares (adapted from 1 Peter 5:7).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- recognize that Jesus cares for them,
 - understand they can say thank you to Jesus, and
 - express their thanks that Jesus cares.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- We are thankful that Jesus cares.

Luke
10:25-37



We are not told the end of the good Samaritan story. But do any of us have doubts that the Samaritan did indeed return to the inn and would have been willing to pay even more for the care of the injured man if it were needed? It is interesting to imagine the reaction of the Jewish man upon meeting his benefactor—he must have felt overwhelming gratitude, which may very likely have led to his lovingly reaching out to others as neighbors, much as he had been treated as a neighbor.

The Jewish man's gratitude, however, is not crucial to the point Jesus wished to make. We are not to reach out to others because they will thank us—we are to reach out to others because we want to follow the model of love that Jesus has shown to us. And while of course it is important to thank people who have helped us, it is to Jesus we owe the largest debt of gratitude. For it is Jesus who has shown us the way, and who daily makes it possible for us to follow that way. Toddlers and 2s need to hear more than polite thank-yous to people; they need to hear us thank Jesus for his great love.

Prayer

- Read Colossians 3:16-17.
- Imagine a life totally filled with the richness of Christ's message. What changes could you make in your own life to approach a life like this?
- How can you show the joy that spills from a heart that's thankful to God?
- Pray: Lord, help me model joy and thankfulness to these young children. Let them see you in me as I...

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins	
	Option 1: Pass It On —Pass toys to each other through a “window,” and say thank you.	Poster board; scissors; masking tape; stuffed animals, dolls, and other toys	
	Option 2: Sweet Hearts —Decorate thankful hearts.	Thankful heart pattern (p. 75), colored paper, scissors, permanent marker, newspaper or plastic tablecloth, glue sticks, salt shakers filled with sugar, hole punch, yarn or ribbon cut into 10-inch pieces	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	Jesus Cares —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story from Luke 10:25-37.		 
	The Good Samaritan —Sing a song about the good Samaritan.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Hearts from Option 2 (or thankful heart pattern (p. 75), colored paper, scissors), tape	
	Sing It Out —Sing a song about caring with Cuddles.	CD player	 
	Bible Craft —Make a Jesus puppet and a “self” puppet.	Jesus pattern (p. 91), friends patterns (p. 127), scissors, crayons, marker, tape, craft sticks or straws, 10-inch pieces of ribbon or yarn	
	Bible Game —Use puppets to learn that Jesus cares for each of them.	Jesus and self puppets from Bible Craft, large grocery sack	
Closing 	Love Surrounds —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Tortillas, American cheese, knife, plate, plastic wrap, apple juice, paper cups, napkins	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.



Let's pick up all our things.
 Let's pick up all our things.
 Let's pick up all our things
 And put them all away.

Let's pick up all our things.
 Let's pick up all our things.
 Let's pick up all our things.
 It's time to stop our play.

Everyone here can help.
 Everyone here can help.
 Everyone here can help.
 Let's put it all away.



Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

BIBLE VERSE



Say: **How do we know that Jesus cares? The Bible tells us in 1 Peter that ► Jesus cares.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let's sing about the Bible.** Using the CD (track 3), lead children in singing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



This is God's special book.
 Yes, it's God's book you see!
 I learn about all God has done,
 And his love for me!
 (Repeat.)
Bible!



Model Christ's love to your students by bending down to their level when you listen or speak to them. Be sure to make eye contact, hold a hand, pat a shoulder, and say each child's name sometime during the class. Take a few moments to find out how each child is feeling before directing him or her to the Arrival Activities.

■ Bible Story: Jesus Cares

SUPPLIES: none



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1



Hold the StoryBoard on your lap so children can see all three panels. Set the StoryBoard figures of the priest and the Levite in front of you.

Say: **We've been learning that ► Jesus cares. We've been learning about the good Samaritan, who helped a hurt man no one else would help. Let's see how well you remember the story.**



Once a man walked down a road. Who can find the road? Choose a child to point out the road. Mean robbers hurt the man. Who can find the robbers? Choose a child to point to the robbers. The robbers pushed the man down on rough rocks. Where are the rocks? Choose a child to touch the rocks. Then the robbers stole the man's money and ran away. Can someone find the moneybag with the stolen money? Have a child jingle the moneybag on Panel 1. The man lay by the road. He was hurt. Where was the man's owie? Choose a child to lift the fabric patch on the man's shirt and point to the injury. Let's pretend we fell down and are hurt. Lie down and say "Ow! Ow!" Pause. Wow! That sounds like you are hurt just like the man. He really needed someone to help him.

Panel 2



Say: **Oh, good! Here comes someone. It's the priest. Who can find the priest and hold him?** Choose a child to walk around the room, holding the priest figure.

Ask: • **Did the priest help the man?** Shake your head and lead children in saying a long, drawn-out "N-o-o-o."

• **Did the priest care for the man?** Shake your head and lead children in saying "N-o-o-o." Have the child set the figure down and return to his or her place.

Say: **The hurt man still lay on the ground.** Have the children lie on the floor and say, "Ow! Ow!" **Oh, the poor man!**

Ask: • **Does anyone care about the hurt man?** Lead children in saying the Bible Point, ► **"Jesus cares!"**

Say: **Oh, look! Here comes someone else! It's the Levite. Can someone hold up the Levite?** Have a child hold the Levite figure and walk around the room.

Ask: • **Did the Levite help the man?** Shake your head and say "N-o-o-o."

• **Did the Levite care for the man?** Shake your head and say "N-o-o-o."

Say: **The hurt man still lay on the ground.** Have the children lie on the floor and say, "Ow! Ow!" **The Levite walked right by the hurt man. The Levite didn't stop to help.** Have the child set the figure down and return to his or her place.

Ask: • **Does anyone care about the hurt man?** Lead children in saying the Bible Point, ► **"Jesus cares!"**



Panel 3



Say: **Wait—here comes someone else! It's the good Samaritan and his donkey! Can you find the donkey and give him a pat?** Choose a child to pat the donkey's fur. **Where's the good Samaritan?** Have a child touch the Samaritan. **The good Samaritan saw the hurt man.** Have the children lie on the floor and say, "Ow! Ow!"

Ask: • **Did the good Samaritan help the man?** Nod your head and say "Y-e-s."

• **Did the good Samaritan care for the man?** Nod your head and say "Y-e-s."

Say: **Yes! The good Samaritan stopped to help the hurt man. He got off his donkey and helped the hurt man. He put the man on his donkey and took him to a place where he could get well.**

The good Samaritan helped the man when no one else helped. Let's say thank you to the good Samaritan. Pause while children say thank you, and then ask:

- **Who cared for the hurt man?** (The good Samaritan; God; Jesus.)


BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: **The good Samaritan cared for the hurt man, and Jesus cared for the hurt man, too. ▶ *Jesus cares* for us all the time. We said thank you to the good Samaritan. Now let's say thank you to Jesus.** Lead children in saying, "Thank you, Jesus."

Let's sing a song about our story.



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.

■ *The Good Samaritan*

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD (track 6), lead the children in singing "The Good Samaritan" to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Have children lie on the floor during the first verse, walk in a circle during the second verse, and clap during the third.



**The man lay in the road.
The man lay in the road.
Oh me, oh my, don't pass me by.
The man lay in the road.**

**A priest walked right by.
A Levite walked right by.
Oh me, oh my, don't pass me by.
They both walked right by.**

**The good Samaritan helped.
The good Samaritan helped.
Hooray! Hooray! He saved the day!
The good Samaritan helped.**

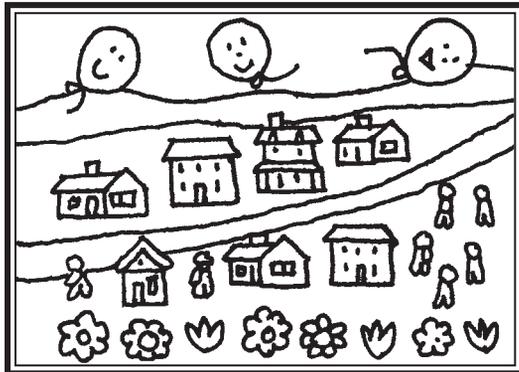

BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: ▶ ***Jesus cares* for us, and we are thankful that Jesus cares. Let's pray: Jesus, thank you for loving us and taking care of us. We love you, too. In your name, amen.**

Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: hearts from Option 2 (or thankful heart pattern (p. 75), colored paper, scissors), tape



If you chose not to do Option 2, before class photocopy the heart pattern onto several different colors of paper, and cut out one for each child and one for Cuddles.

Lead children to the bulletin board, and bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

Cuddles: (*Happily, in a soft, sing-song voice to self*) Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you... (*To the class*) Hi, everyone!

Teacher: Hello, Cuddles. What were you saying just now?

Cuddles: I was practicing my thank-yous. My mother gave me a big hug when I said thank you to her for breakfast today. She was happy and I was happy. I'm going to say thank you a lot!

Teacher: We've been practicing our thank-yous, too, Cuddles. We've been learning that we are thankful that Jesus cares. Your mother likes to hear you say thank you, and God likes to hear us say thank you, too. Would you like to help us with our bulletin board today, Cuddles?

Cuddles: Thank you for letting me help—I love helping you! What are we doing today?

Teacher: Today, we're putting big hearts all around the board. They show us how much Jesus cares. We're thankful that ► Jesus cares for us so much.

Help children tape their hearts from Option 2 at the bottom and sides of the bulletin board. Each time a child places a heart, lead him or her in saying, "I'm thankful that ► Jesus cares."

When you've finished, continue the puppet script.

Cuddles: (*Looking at the bulletin board*) Wow! That's a lot of beautiful thankful hearts up there. Can we sing the song you taught me last week?

Teacher: Of course, Cuddles. That's a wonderful idea.

Have Cuddles sing the following song with the class.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD (track 8), lead the children in singing “I Will Care” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



**Jesus cares for us,
And I'll care for you.
I can help and pray and care
Like Jesus wants me to.**

**Jesus cares for us,
And I'll care for you.
I can help and pray and care
Like Jesus wants me to.**



Have Cuddles say: **Thank you for singing that song with me, boys and girls!
I'm thankful that you care for me, and I'm thankful that ► Jesus cares!**

Set Cuddles out of sight.

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: Jesus pattern (p. 91), friends patterns (p. 127), scissors, crayons, marker, tape, craft sticks or straws, 10-inch pieces of ribbon or yarn

Before class, make photocopies of the Jesus and friends patterns and cut them out. There should be one Jesus figure per child, but enough of the friends that children can choose which one they would like to use in their craft to represent themselves.

Ask each child to choose a friend figure and to color that figure with colors similar to those the child is wearing. Write the child's name on the figure. Then have children each color a Jesus figure. Help children tape craft sticks to the backs of the figures. Then help each child tape one end of a ribbon to Jesus' hand and the other to the craft stick on the back of the “self” puppet. As children work, make comments such as “Look, Jesus is smiling at you. He really cares about you” and “Look at this big smile. You must be really thankful that ► Jesus cares.”



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: *Jesus and self puppets from previous activity, large grocery sack*

Have each child put the self half of the puppets into the grocery sack so they are hidden. Let the Jesus puppets hang out over the top of the sack.

Say: **Jesus cares for all of us, and we're thankful that ► Jesus cares. Let's see who Jesus cares for:**

Have a child pull one Jesus puppet so that the self puppet comes out of the sack. Bring the puppets to the child they belong to and say: **Jesus cares for** [name]. Lead the class in saying "Thank you, Jesus." Repeat this until every child has had a chance to pull a puppet pair out of the sack and has his or her own puppets back. Lead children in holding up the Jesus puppets and saying with you, "Jesus cares." Then lead children in holding up the self puppets and saying, "Thank you, Jesus."

Lead the children in the following song (not on the CD), to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Point at individual children when you sing "you."



SING

Jesus cares for you,
Jesus cares for you,
Jesus cares for you,
Jesus loves all children.



◀ BIBLE POINT

Closing

■ Love Surrounds

SUPPLIES: *tortillas, American cheese, knife, plate, plastic wrap, apple juice, paper cups, napkins*

Before class, place American cheese on a tortilla and roll it up. Slice the roll into segments, place them on a plate, and cover it with plastic wrap. Make enough for each child to have one. Set the plate aside and out of reach of children.

Have children wash their hands and gather at the snack table. Show children a slice of the tortilla roll and say: **This tortilla is wrapped around the cheese the way Jesus' love is wrapped around us. We're thankful that ► Jesus cares for us and loves us.** Pass out the snack and apple juice, gently prompting children to say thank you.



◀ BIBLE POINT



When everyone has been served, say: **You said thank you to me because I cared about you and gave you a snack. ► Jesus cares about us, too. He gives us everything we need. He is our forever friend, and we say thank you to him, too. Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for caring. Thank you for everything you give us. Thank you for always being with us. And thank you for loving us. In your name, amen.**



◀ BIBLE POINT

Remind children to take home their hearts and their puppets. Encourage them to use the puppets to show their families how to say thank you to Jesus.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Thanks for Caring*

Without the *CD*, lead children in singing “God Cares” (1 Peter 5:7) to the tune of “Looby Loo.” Sing it several times. After each repetition, have children shout, “Thank you, God!”



SING

Give all your cares to God.
Give God your worries, too.
Give all your cares to God.
God cares what happens to you.

■ *Owie Helps*

Before this activity, use a permanent marker to put big dots on stickie notes. Put the stickie notes all over your body, and invite children individually to care for you by getting rid of your “owies.” Say: [Name], **could you help me by taking the owie off my head?** Then thank the child for caring and for helping. Remind children that ► *Jesus cares* and helps us, too.

Pattern

Cut loosely around the pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outline.

