



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,
 - know that it's important to care for others, and
 - express their joy that Jesus cares.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- We can be happy that Jesus cares.

Luke
10:25-37



In today's passage, the Samaritan man's act of mercy turned a terrible situation into one of beauty. It brings God joy when his people perform acts of mercy from the heart, because when we do, we reflect God's character and bring him glory and honor. Having a sincere heart means delighting in mercy just as God delights in mercy. Even young children can be mean to others at times. It is important that they learn to love mercy instead.

Prayer

- Read Micah 6:8.
- What does it mean to love mercy?
- Do you delight to see acts of mercy done to others?
- Pray: Lord, help me to love mercy. Help me to show acts of mercy by...

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.













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.



Try one or more of the following techniques if children in your class experience separation anxiety.

- Allow the child to bring a security object from home.
- Invite one of the parents to help in the classroom for a couple of weeks.
- Have parents tell the child matter-of-factly when they will return then leave promptly.
- Have one of the adult helpers pick up the child and get him or her involved immediately in one of the Arrival Activities.

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: I Care About You —Use modeling dough to shape people they care about.	Place mats, modeling dough	
	Option 2: Happy Smiles —Make pictures with happy smiles.	Magazines, scissors, tape, paper, markers, box	
	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.		 
	I Will Care —Sing a song about caring.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Smiling-balloon patterns (p. 63), tape, yarn, scissors, crayons or markers	
	Sing It Out —Teach Cuddles a song about caring.	CD player	 
	Bible Craft —Make ball faces with big smiles.	Sponge balls, markers	
	Bible Game —Hold their ball faces up and down to represent smiles and frowns.	Ball faces from Bible Craft	
Closing	Smiling Snacks —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Apples, knife, napkins	



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

Arrival Activities

■ Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), tape or safety pins, marker



- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child's clothing.
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► Jesus cares.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won't be distracted by him during the next activity.

teacher tips

If you wish to provide soothing background music as the children arrive, play a CD of your choice.



◀ BIBLE POINT

■ Option 1: I Care About You

SUPPLIES: place mats, modeling dough

Set out four or five place mats, and place a small handful of modeling dough on each one. Invite children to share the modeling dough and to shape people they care about, such as their parents, teachers, brothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors. As children play, encourage them to tell about those people. Ask questions such as "What things can you do to help that person?" and "How do you feel when you care for that special person?" Remind children that ► Jesus cares for us and we can be happy he loves us so much.



■ Option 2: Happy Smiles

SUPPLIES: scissors, magazines, box, paper, tape, markers

Before this activity, cut large photographs of faces from magazines. Be sure to include people of a variety of ethnic origins and skin colors. Cut the mouths out of the pictures, and then place the face cutouts in a box.

Set out paper, tape, markers, and the box of face cutouts. Allow each child to choose a cutout and tape it to a sheet of paper; then help him or her draw a smile for the mouth. As children work, make comments such as "What a big smile! That person must be happy!" and "It makes me happy that ► Jesus cares about us all the time." Tell children they'll learn what made the hurt man happy in today's Bible story.

teacher tips

Use this recipe for smooth and pliable modeling dough. Bring 2 cups of water to a boil. Add ½ cup of salt and, if you desire, a drop of food coloring. Remove the pan from the heat. Add 2 tablespoons of cooking oil, 2 tablespoons of alum or cream of tartar, and 2 cups of flour. Return the pan to the heat, stirring until a soft lump of dough forms. Remove the dough from the pan, and knead the dough until it's cool and pliable. Store modeling dough in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing "Let's Pick Up All Our Things." Use the CD (track 2) and sing the song to the tune of "Looby Loo."



SING

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.

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

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 a song about the Bible.** Using the CD (track 3), lead the children in singing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



SING

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!

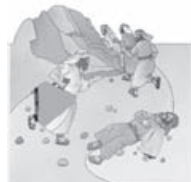
■ Bible Story: Jesus Cares

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. Set a cotton ball from Sensory Packet 1 beside you.

Say: **We've been learning that ▶ *Jesus cares*. We've been learning about the good Samaritan, who helped a hurt man**



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no one else would help. Let's play a game. I'll tell part of the story. When I ask a question, stand up if you know the answer.

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. The man needed someone to help him.

Panel 2



Say: **A priest came toward the man. Who can find the priest and hold him?** Choose a child to walk around the room, holding the priest figure. **The priest walked by and didn't stop to help the man.** Have the child set the figure down and return to his or her place.

Then a Levite came walking on the road. Can someone hold up the Levite? Have a child hold the Levite figure and walk around the room. **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: **Then a man came along, riding a donkey. Can you find the donkey and give him a pat?** Choose a child to pat the donkey's fur. **It was a man from Samaria. Where's the good Samaritan?** Have a child touch the Samaritan. **The good Samaritan stopped to help the hurt man. He wiped the man's owie. Will someone dab the man's owie with a cotton**

ball? Choose a child to use the cotton ball to wipe the man's wound. **Oh, that must feel lots better, don't you think?**

The good Samaritan saved the day! He helped the man when no one else helped. Let's clap for the good Samaritan. Pause while children clap, and then ask:

- **How do you think the man feels now?** (Better; he's happy.)
- **How do you feel when you help someone?** (Happy; nice; good.)

Say: **When we care for people, it makes us happy and it makes them happy, too. I'm glad to know that ► *Jesus cares* for us all the time. I'm also happy that we can care for others like the good Samaritan did. Let's sing a song about caring for people.**



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



I Will Care

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.



BIBLE POINT

Say: ► *Jesus cares* for us, and he wants us to care for other people, too. We can show our mommies and daddies and friends we care by helping and praying and giving them lots of hugs and kisses and love. It makes us happy when we show people we care.

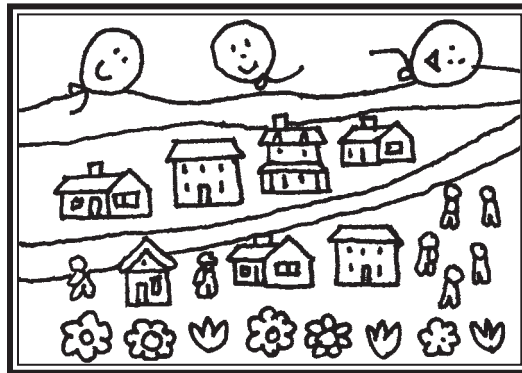


Remember that almost everything is new to a toddler or a 2-year-old. Come to your lesson with enthusiasm so children can experience the wonder of learning how Jesus cares!

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: smiling-balloon patterns (p. 63), crayons or markers, scissors, yarn, tape



Before class, photocopy the smiling-balloon patterns. Color the balloons with bright markers, and then cut them out. Cut 4-inch lengths of yarn, and tape a length of yarn to the end of each balloon.



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

- **Cuddles:** Hi, boys and girls. I'm so happy to be here with you!
- **Teacher:** We've been talking about being happy, Cuddles. And I can tell you're happy because you have a big smile today.
- **Cuddles:** I like to be happy. It makes me...uh...*happy!* (*Giggles.*)

- **Teacher:** We're happy because we know that ► Jesus cares. We're also happy because we can care for others, too. Would you like to help us, Cuddles?
- **Cuddles:** I care for all of you. And, yes, I'd like to help. Helping makes me happy. What are we going to do?
- **Teacher:** We're going to add some big smiles to our picture to show how happy we are that ► Jesus cares for us all the time.

Let each child choose the color of balloon that makes him or her happy. Help children tape the balloons to the houses or helpers on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a balloon, lead him or her in saying, "I'm happy because ► Jesus cares."

When you've finished, continue the puppet script.
- **Cuddles:** (Looking at the bulletin board.) Wow! Look at all the happy colors.
- **Teacher:** And look at all the happy smiles on the boys and girls, Cuddles. Children, show Cuddles your happiest smiles.
- **Cuddles:** Smiles are so nice. And it's so nice that ► Jesus cares for us. I'm so happy that I'd like to sing.
- **Teacher:** We can do that. Children, let's teach Cuddles our happy caring song.

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.


BIBLE POINT ▶

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Have Cuddles say: **Thanks for teaching me that fun song, boys and girls. I'm so happy to know that ▶ Jesus cares!**

Set Cuddles out of sight.

Say: **That song made me happy. Let's do something special to show how happy we are that ▶ Jesus cares about our feelings.**

I'm so happy that I think it would be fun to play a laughing game together. Show me how you like to giggle and laugh. Let each of the children show you his or her laugh.

I'm going to do some funny laughs in a rhyme. I'll laugh first, and then we'll all laugh together!

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. (*Laugh in an alto voice like a woman.*) (*Repeat with the kids.*)

Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho. (*Laugh in a deep voice like a man.*) (*Repeat with the kids.*)

Jesus cares about the people we know. (*Repeat with the kids.*)

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. (*Laugh in an alto voice like a woman.*) (*Repeat with the kids.*)

Te, hee, hee, hee, hee, hee, hee. (*Laugh in a soprano voice like a little girl.*) (*Repeat with the kids.*)

Jesus always cares for me. (*Repeat with the kids.*)

Say: **When we laugh, it makes others happy. ▶ Jesus cares when we feel happy, and he cares when we feel sad, too. Jesus always loves us and always wants to take care of us. We can be happy that ▶ Jesus cares for us.**

Ask: • **What makes you happy?** (Getting hugs; when Mommy fixes my owies; playing with my dog.)

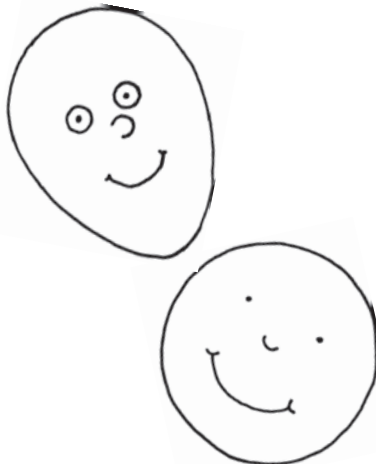
• **What are some ways we care for others and make them happy?** (Giving hugs; bringing things to people when they ask; smiling; helping.)

• **How can you help someone feel happy today?** (I can hug my mom; I can play with my sister.)


BIBLE POINT ▶

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Say: **We can be happy that ▶ Jesus cares about our feelings. Jesus wants us to care about others' feelings, too. Let's try to do that this week! Right now, let's make happy balls to show how glad we are that ▶ Jesus cares.**



■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: sponge balls, markers

Before class, set out a sponge ball for each child in the class, plus a few extras.

Set out markers, and gather children at a table. Hand each child a ball, and say: **Let's make our own smiling ball faces to look like the balloons we put on the bulletin board. They'll remind us what big smiles we have when we know that ▶ Jesus cares.**

Help children use markers to draw eyes, noses, and big smiles on their balls. As children work, remind them that ▶ Jesus cares and we make others happy when we care for them.

Say: **Your happy ball faces look so cute with their happy smiles. Let's use our balls to play a game.**

Bible Game

SUPPLIES: ball faces from previous activity

Gather children in the middle of the room with their ball faces. Say: **Let's play a game with our happy ball faces. When I say, "Smiles bring us up," hold your happy ball faces high in the air. When I say, "Frowns bring us down," hold your happy ball faces on the floor.**

Alternate calling smiles and frowns. If you have older toddlers in your class, let them take turns being the caller. When you've finished, say: **Now give your happy ball faces a gentle, caring hug.** Pause.

We're all wearing smiles because we know that ▶ *Jesus cares* and he loves us. When we help other people as the good Samaritan did, we smile, too. Now let's enjoy some delicious happy-smile snacks.



Closing

Smiling Snacks

SUPPLIES: apples, knife, napkins



Before class, peel apples and slice them into apple "smiles."

Have children wash their hands and gather at the snack table. Say: **Put your happy ball faces under your chairs.** Hold an apple slice in front of your mouth.

Ask: • **What does this apple look like?** (A smile; a mouth.)



Say: **This is an apple smile. Even when I eat, I can smile because I know that ▶ *Jesus cares*. He cares for people all over the world. One important way we know Jesus cares is because he died on the cross for us. Then he came back to life and went to live with God in heaven. When we believe in Jesus, we can live in heaven someday, too! Let's say a prayer for everyone in the world and thank God that ▶ *Jesus cares* for everyone. Pass around the *globe cutout* and pray: **Dear God, we thank you for Jesus. Thank you for loving all people. In Jesus' name, amen.****



Hand each child a napkin and three apple smiles.

Remind children to take their happy ball faces home. Encourage them to tell their families why they're smiling and happy.



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.

■ *Ball Bop 'n' Sing*

Without using the *CD*, lead children in singing “I Will Care” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Let them bop their balls up in the air as they sing. Remind them that loving Jesus makes them happy and so does knowing that ► Jesus cares.



SING

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.

■ *Smiley Dots*

Before this activity, cut potatoes in half so the ends make circles. Help children use markers to draw simple smiley faces on paper. Then dab the round potato ends on paint-soaked paper toweling and stamp circles over the smiley faces.

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

