

Lesson 9 / January 31, 2010

Who Cares? Jesus Does!

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 9 Focus:

Jesus cares about my needs.

Lesson 9 Bible Basis:

Mark 1:29-31, 35-38;
Luke 19:1-10

Students will talk about caring for others and consider specific ways of showing care.

What does it mean to care for someone?

To care for someone can mean that you are fond of that person. But it also means to provide for someone's needs. When we use the word "caregiver," we combine both meanings, referring to a person who puts their love into action by helping people in need.

Who are some of the caregivers in our community? (*parents, nurses, pastors.*)

What are some of the ways they care for you? (*They give me food. They take care of me when I'm sick. They teach me right from wrong.*)

There is another meaning of the word *care*. CARE is the name of one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations. The letters in the name stand for "Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere." But their name is also a good description of what they do. They care for people, distributing food and other necessities to victims of war and natural disasters, such as the earthquake that struck Haiti a few weeks ago.

You may have heard of the term "care packages." The first CARE packages were parcels of food intended for U.S. soldiers in World War II. When the war ended, the Army didn't need them anymore, but there were thousands of people left homeless by the war who did. CARE arranged for this food to be sent to these people.

In Haiti, CARE is distributing clean water, high-protein biscuits and blankets to the people whose homes were destroyed by the devastating earthquake.

What are some of the needs that people have in Haiti?

What are some ways we can care for the people in Haiti even though we might not be able to go there ourselves? (*send donations, support organizations like CARE, pray for the people, etc.*)

Lesson 9
Memory Verse

My God will meet all of
your needs according
to his glorious riches in
Christ Jesus.
—Philippians 4:19

▶ Why is it important to care for those in need?

▶ What are some ways Jesus cares for us?

Caring for people is a way of putting God's love into action. Jesus was an expert at caring for people, especially those who were neglected by others. In our lesson today, we are going to look at the way Jesus cared for people and how He has called us to follow His example.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your Upper Elementary Teacher's Guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

To find out more about the emergency aid CARE is providing in Haiti, see <http://www.care.org/emergency/haitiearthquake/index.asp>

To learn what foods were in the first CARE packages, go to <http://www.care.org/about/history.asp>

Lesson 9 / January 31, 2010

Who Cares? Jesus Does!

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STEP 4

Lesson 9

Focus:

Jesus cares about my needs.

Lesson 9

Bible Basis:

Mark 1:29-31, 35-38;
Luke 19:1-10

Students will plan ways that they can care for people.

Supplies needed:





- index cards
- marker or pen

Before class, fill out a stack of index cards, using two cards per student. On one half of the cards, write a specific need that people have. This can be a physical need, such as hunger or sickness, or an emotional or spiritual need, such as fear or loneliness. These are the Need cards.

On the other half of the cards, write a way to care for each of those needs. For “Hunger” you could write “Provide food.” For “Loneliness” you could write “Be a friend.” These are the Care cards. You might want to use different colors for the two types of cards.

Earlier, we learned that Jesus cared for many different types of people. He still cares for us today. One of the ways He does this is by working through the people in our lives who take care of us. In the same way, when we take care of people, it is Jesus working through us. Let’s play a game that explores the many different ways we can care for people.

Hand one Need card and one Care card to each student, making sure that no student gets two cards that match. Each student is to go around the room and find the other student who has the Need card that goes with their Care card. When they do, the student with the Care card should give it to the one with the Need card. When all the cards have been matched up, ask the students to read what was written on their cards. Then ask them to answer the following questions.

-  **How is this activity similar to meeting needs in real life?** *(Everyone has needs. Some needs can only be met by other people. We must make an effort to find and care for those who are in need.)*
-  **How many of you know people who have some of the needs listed on these cards?** *(Have students just raise their hands but not answer out loud.)*
-  **What are some other needs that were not listed on these cards?**
-  **What are some things that keep us from caring for other people?** *(laziness, the person’s need is beyond our expertise, anger towards someone in need, fear that we can’t help them, etc.)*

Lesson 9
Memory Verse

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▶ **How can we be more effective at caring for others?**

Encourage students to think about who they can help this week. Remind them that caring for people is not a passive activity. It will require them to make an effort.

As you close in prayer, ask the Lord to give your students the courage and initiative to care for those in need.

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