

Jesus Cares About Our Lives

FOR THE TEACHER:

The story of Jesus healing Simon's mother-in-law further establishes the truth that Jesus, as the Son of God in human nature, upholds and thus controls the whole creation. We can help the kids see that Jesus is the source of all healing, whether it comes to us through the natural processes he designed (e.g. our body's immune system) or through the gifts of healing he gives to doctors and nurses or through Jesus' miraculous intervention. In Jesus the whole human race has its healing from sickness and death, either through recovery from illness or, ultimately, through our resurrection.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Bring in two plants, one that is healthy and doing well and one that is distressed and dying from lack of water. (You could also draw a picture, or have the kids draw pictures, of two plants.) Talk with the kids about what it takes to keep living things healthy (water, food, light) and how living things can be made better when they aren't doing well. Who is the source of life, light, food, and all that we need to live and be healthy? Jesus.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Mark 1:29-34. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

1:29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

1:30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

1:31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

1:32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

1:33 And the whole city was gathered around the door.

1:34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

**Who keeps all people and all creation in existence? Jesus.*

Is the virus that caused the woman's fever a part of creation? Yes. So, does Jesus keep the virus in existence? Yes.

Who is more powerful then: Jesus, or the virus? Jesus.

Why does Jesus allow viruses to exist and make us sick? Sickness and death are the result of people sinning.

** When did sin enter the world?* When Adam and Eve didn't trust our Father and ate the forbidden fruit.

So, if Adam and Eve hadn't sinned we wouldn't experience sickness and death.

**What will happen if you die?* I will be resurrected and live with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in heaven forever.

So, what would have happened if Simon's mother-in-law had died? She would have been resurrected in Jesus.

PRIMARY LESSON: Jesus has come to heal our illnesses and make sure we can live forever with him, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Whether Jesus heals us right now or later, at the resurrection, we can trust that he is going to someday heal all sickness and death.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Have the kids talk about a time in their lives when they were sick. With older kids it can be a discussion, have the younger kids stay more engaged by having them draw a picture of their experience. Talk about what made them sick (virus, injury, etc.) and who took care of them (mom, dad, doctor, etc.) Help them see that Jesus was taking care of them by working through others' lives.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to adopt us as your children and to heal us from sickness and death. Jesus, we are very happy that you care so much about our lives that you take care of us when we are sick and that someday we will be resurrected and live with you forever. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that our Father loves us and that Jesus is always with us and watching out for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.