

References

John 11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 524-536



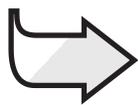
Memory Verse

“Carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that we share one another’s joys and sorrows.
Feel sad for the pain or loss others are experiencing.
Respond by finding ways to show we care.



The Message

God wants me to care about others.

The Day Jesus Cried

Monthly Theme

We treat each other as God treats us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Lazarus is ill. His sisters, Mary and Martha, send for Jesus. Before Jesus arrives at their home, Lazarus dies and is buried. He has been in the tomb for four days when Jesus arrives. Jesus weeps with the family, and they walk to the tomb. Jesus calls, “Lazarus, come forth.” Lazarus comes to life and rejoins his family.

This is a lesson about community.

Before Jesus comes again, people will experience sadness, death, and disappointment. There will be many opportunities for His children to show caring, empathy, and sympathy to one another during times of loss. God wants members of His family to openly show caring to one another as Jesus did when Lazarus died.

Teacher Enrichment

Normally in Palestine, because of the climate, burial followed death as quickly as possible. The finest spices and ointments were used to anoint the body. In the house of mourning there were set customs. As long as the body was in the house, the inhabitants were forbidden to eat meat or drink wine. No study was permitted. No food was to be prepared in the house or eaten in the presence of the body. All furniture was carried out or reversed and the mourners sat on the ground or on low stools. A week of deep mourning was followed by 30 days of light mourning. (See William Barclay, *The Gospel of John* [Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975], vol. 2, pp. 88, 89.)

“Had Christ been in the sickroom, Lazarus would not have died; for Satan would have had no power over him. Death could not have aimed his dart at Lazarus in the presence of the Life-giver. . . . He suffered the enemy to exercise his power, that He might drive him back, a conquered foe. He permitted Lazarus to pass under the dominion of death; and the suffering sisters saw their brother laid in the grave” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 528).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	<i>A. Birthday Traditions</i> <i>B. Friendship Circle</i>	cooked noodles, small pillow, snacks such as pretzels or crackers, party hats (optional), plates or napkins, Bible Bible
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> heart-shaped container none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, toilet paper, tape, sheet or blanket over a table to form a "tomb," folding cot or rug long strip of paper, marker, rubber ball or wadded paper, Bible Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>A. Carrying Burdens</i> <i>B. Put It to Work</i>	stones or bricks or books, basket or box, Bibles Bible
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>A. Care Basket</i> <i>B. Weep and Rejoice</i>	basket filled with books, color- ing books, games, activities, Bibles recent newspapers, paper, pens or pencils

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Give directions for the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity that is most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- cooked noodles
- small pillow
- pretzels or crackers
- party hats (optional)
- paper plates or napkins
- Bible

A. Birthday Traditions

Demonstrate how birthdays are celebrated in different parts of the world. Bring in some cooked noodles and give a noodle to each child. Say: **In China people eat long noodles on their birthday to symbolize long life.**

Give one child a small pillow and ask her to lie on the floor and pretend to sleep. Invite the others to gather around and “wake her up” by singing “Happy Birthday.” Say: **In Mexico the birthday person is serenaded awake with a special birthday song.**

Give another child the pillow and ask him to pretend to sleep. Have the others “wake him up” and begin feeding him snacks, such as pretzels or crackers. Say: **In Sweden your family would wake you up early and feed you lots of cake.**

Distribute party hats and plates or napkins to all the children. Give each a few of the snacks. Say: **In the United States it’s customary to have a party and invite friends.**

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you celebrate birthdays in your family?** Allow time. **Why do you look forward to birthdays?** (get presents, good food, have fun, play games, etc.) **What are some other special family times?** (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, etc.) **Being part of a family means that we share good times and bad. We like special celebrations, but sometimes sad things happen as well. What do we do when sad things happen?** (We help and care for one another.) **Let’s read Romans 12:15 together.** Allow time. **In today’s lesson, a family is sad because someone died. We are part of the family that lives in our home, and we are also a part of God’s family. Sometimes people in God’s family need help when sad things happen. Today’s message tells us:**



GOD WANTS ME TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- Bible

B. Friendship Circle

Seat the children in a small circle. (Large class: Form groups of six to eight.) Beginning with the teacher, go around the circle and have each person name something they like about the person to their right. As each child speaks, the teacher should add another affirmation, so each child will receive two statements of encouragement. If some children do not want to participate, ask adult helpers to either ask someone else to name something or name something themselves so no child goes without affirmation.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel when someone says nice things about you?** (good, happy, like it, etc.) **How do you feel when someone says unkind things about you?** (bad, sad, unhappy, angry with the person, etc.) **We are all part of God's family, and He wants us to care for one another. One way we do this is by saying kind words. Another way is to show that we care when bad things happen. In today's story, someone in a family dies and the others are sad. Let's read Romans 12:15 together to find out what Jesus would want us to do at such a time.** Allow time. **How do we do that? We show them that we care by what we do and say. Today's message says:**



GOD WANTS ME TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

- "His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 25)
- "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129)
- "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 133)
- "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 139)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Help the children identify caring in the story.



Offering

Point out that we show caring for others when we bring our offerings to help them learn about God.

You Need:

- heart-shaped container



Prayer

Try a popcorn prayer. Form a circle. Ask the children to close their eyes and say the names of people who need help. Have them do this like popcorn popping—speaking out from anywhere in the circle at any time. Also give them opportunity to add their personal requests in popcorn style. In closing, a teacher can thank God for others in our lives who care for us, and ask God to help us be aware of and help others who need our care.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- toilet paper
- tape
- sheet or blanket thrown over a table to form a “tomb”
- folding cot or rug

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Mary, Martha, Lazarus, disciples, messenger, Jesus

Props: Bible-times costumes, toilet paper and tape, “tomb” (sheet or blanket placed over a table), cot or rug for a bed

Settings: Bethany—the town and the tomb. Up front, to one side, Lazarus in bed, Mary and Martha sit beside him weeping; on the other side up front is the “tomb.” Jesus and a few disciples are grouped some distance from the tomb (near the door, on the other side of the room).

Each time the words *cry*, *weep*, *weeping*, or *wailing* are said, the children should wipe their eyes as if wiping tears away.

Read or tell the story.

[Point to Jesus and disciples.] One day when Jesus was with His disciples, teaching and healing people, a messenger came running from Bethany. *[Messenger runs from the class to Jesus.]* “Come quickly!” the messenger begs. “Your friend Lazarus is ill. Mary and Martha need You.”

“This sickness will glorify God,” Jesus tells the messenger. *[Messenger leaves.]* But Jesus did not hurry. He stayed where He was for two more days, and then began walking to Bethany.

[Point toward the sisters.] Meanwhile Mary and Martha sit anxiously beside Lazarus’ bed. How they wish that Jesus were there. But He does not come. And Lazarus dies. Sadly the sisters watch as Lazarus’ body is prepared for burial. *[Have Lazarus stand up so that the entire class can get involved wrapping him in toilet paper. They use tape to fasten their pieces of paper. Please make sure that they do not cover his nose, eyes, or mouth. As they work,*

explain that the people wound the body in cloth with sweet-smelling flowers and herbs and ointments. The whole class then follows the body to the tomb. Lazarus enters it, and the “stone” is rolled into place.]

Mary and Martha and the mourners return home. They **wail** and **weep** *[wipe eyes]* four more days for Lazarus. At last a messenger hurries to Martha. “Jesus is down the road,” he says. Martha runs to meet Jesus, leaving Mary with the mourners. Martha meets Jesus just outside Bethany.

“If You had been here my brother wouldn’t have died,” she says. “I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask. You are the Christ, the Son of God.” And with new hope in her heart she runs to call her sister.

“Jesus is here,” she tells Mary, “and He is asking for you.” Mary jumps up and runs to Jesus. She falls at His feet and sobs, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” Jesus looks at the two **weeping** women *[wipe eyes]*. He understands their burden of sadness; His loving heart cares so much for them that Jesus **weeps**, too *[wipe eyes]*.

Then together they walk over to the tomb and Jesus calls, “Lazarus, come forth.” Something stirs within the tomb and Lazarus walks out. Quickly the people unwind the grave clothes *[people remove paper]*. Jesus has lifted the heavy burden of sadness. All tears are gone, except tears of joy. Just as Jesus shared His friends’ burden, we can show caring when others are hurting.

Debriefing

Ask: **How many of you have been at a place where someone is very sick, or at a funeral?** Allow response time. **Did today’s Bible story remind you of that? How did Jesus show that He cared**

when He was with Lazarus' sad family and friends? (He came to visit them, cried with them, raised Lazarus to life.)

Jesus showed that He cared for Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. He wants us to follow His example and care for others. What can you do to show that you care for someone who is sad? (Visit them, offer to help them, pray with them, bring flowers, write notes, etc.) **Let's say our message together:**



GOD WANTS ME TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

Memory Verse

Read aloud
Galatians 6:2, first part. ("**Carry each other's burdens.**")

Write the memory verse in large letters on one long strip of paper. Have two children hold the paper strip so everyone can see it.

Point to the words as everyone reads the verse.

Throw out a ball and at the same time say the first word of the memory verse, "Carry." The person who catches the ball says the next word, "each," and

You Need:

- long strip of paper
- marker
- rubber ball or wadded paper to form a ball
- Bible

then throws the ball quickly to someone else who catches it and adds the next word. The object is to get through the verse without missing a word. Repeat until all know the verse.

Bible Study

Say: **The Bible has many verses that bring hope for someone who is sad or worried. Let's find some of these verses in our Bibles. Perhaps you can share some of these verses to encourage someone.**

Have adult helpers assist as needed. Have all the children find the same verse. (Large class: Form several small groups.) Have the verses read aloud:

Matthew 11:28	Psalms 68:19
1 Peter 5:7	Isaiah 41:10
Philippians 4:6, 7, 19	Revelation 21:4

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel when you hear encouraging words?** (hopeful, better, it helps, etc.) **How can you use these verses to encourage others?**
Remember our message:



GOD WANTS ME TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

Say that with me.

You Need:
• Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- stones or bricks or books
- basket or box
- Bibles

A. Carrying Burdens

Bring enough stones or bricks or books to make a heavy load for one child. Put a basket with a couple of the stones or bricks in a corner where the children can see it.

Ask one of the children to carry the basket over to you. Then talk about types of burdens: pain, sorrow, sickness, job loss, bad grades, broken relationship with a friend, not enough money, no food in the house.

As you mention these, put more stones into the basket. Ask the children to suggest more burdens people face and keep adding stones.

When it's too heavy for a child to carry, ask the child who carried it over to take it back to the corner. When they give up or say they can't, ask if someone else can. Then ask the students, **How could we help lighten our friend's load?**

Let the children figure out a way to carry it back with more help. Encourage each child to "carry" one of the "burdens."

Debriefing

Read Galatians 6:2 together. Ask: **Although you could help someone else carry a heavy load, can you actually bear another person's burden of pain, sorrow, or sickness? How can you bear some of the burdens you mentioned?** (sympathize, share scriptures of hope and resurrection, pray) **How does helping others make you feel?** Allow response time, then have the children say the message with you.



GOD WANTS ME TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

B. Put It to Work

Read aloud

Colossians 2:2, 3 and Psalm 68:19, then ask the children how they could react to the following situations:

1. The father of someone you know at school lost his job.
2. A new neighbor had a baby.
3. One of your parents' friends had surgery.
4. Your friend's grandmother died.

Debriefing

Ask: **Can we actually feel the pain and loss someone else experiences?**

Does Jesus? Read and discuss together 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 55:22; Matthew 11:28-30. Then have the children repeat the message with you.



GOD WANTS ME TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

You Need:

- Bible

A. Care Basket

Bring a basket to class labeled "Care Basket." It can be filled with books, coloring books, games, and activities for use by any child in your Sabbath School group who may be sick and not attending. The basket will be delivered to that person's house and returned the following Sabbath or whenever they are well or attending again.

Ask the children to bring additional supplies to fill the basket, and leave it in the Sabbath School room until it is needed.

You Need:

- basket labeled "Care Basket"
- books, coloring books, games, activities to put in "Care Basket"
- Bibles

Debriefing

Read Matthew 25:34–40 together. Ask: **How do you think Jesus would feel about our Care Basket? Can you think of any other activities that would help other people when they are sick or sad?** Allow response time. Then have the children say the message together.



GOD WANTS ME TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

B. Weep and Rejoice

Quotation: "He weeps with those that weep, and rejoices with those that rejoice" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 533).

Bring some recent newspapers to class. Read the above quotation aloud. Ask the children to look for items about people who are sad or happy.

Have the children make two headings, one that says "Rejoice" and one that says "Weep," and list the names of the people they found in the newspaper under one of the two headings. For example, someone in an accident would be sad ("Weep") and someone celebrating a wedding or anniversary would be happy ("Rejoice").

Debriefing

Ask the children what they could say or do to comfort or congratulate these people. Encourage them to look for people with whom they can weep or rejoice during the coming week. If appropriate, have the children select one person in the news and send them a note of encouragement. They could also send a note of encouragement to someone in the church family that is hurting or a note of congratulations to someone celebrating a joyful event. Have the children repeat the message with you.



GOD WANTS ME TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

Closing

In a closing prayer, pray for those whose names the children listed, or for someone in your church or class who is ill. Ask God to help the children always to care about others.

You Need:

- recent newspapers
- paper
- pens, pencils

The Day Jesus Cried

References

John 11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 524-536

Memory Verse

“Carry each other’s burdens”
(Galatians 6:2).

The Message

God wants me to care about others.

Has someone you loved died? Have you lost a friend or a pet?

One day Jesus visited some friends who shared bad news with Him. What do you think He did then?

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem. These two sisters and their brother were close friends of Jesus. He often stayed with them when He was in Bethany. They knew His power, so when Lazarus became sick, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus.

But Jesus did not hurry. He stayed where He was for two more days. Then He started for Bethany. By the time He got there, Lazarus had been dead for four days.

Jesus knew Lazarus would die. He planned to raise Lazarus from the dead. This would prove that He, Jesus, was the Son of God. But Lazarus’ poor sisters didn’t know about Jesus’ plan. All they knew was that Lazarus had been sick.

And they had sent for Jesus, and He hadn’t come. When Martha heard that Jesus was nearing the village, she went out to meet Him.

“If You had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died,” she said. But there was still a glimmer of hope in her. “I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask,” she added.

“I am the resurrection and the life,” said Jesus. “Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes,” said Martha. “I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God.” She had new hope in her heart, and she ran and got her sister.

“The Teacher is here,” she told Mary. “He is asking for you.”

Mary jumped up and hurried outside the village to meet Jesus. When she saw Him, she fell at His feet and cried the same thing Martha had. “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus looked at His two friends who were heartbroken and crying. His own tender heart was moved, and Jesus cried too. He shared Mary and Martha’s loss. He felt the sorrow they were feeling, and He cried with them.

We should treat others as Jesus did and feel what they are feeling. Just as Jesus shared His friends’ loss, we are to share one another’s joys and sorrows.

But Jesus was not only crying because He felt sorry for Mary and Martha. He was not crying because Lazarus had died, because He knew that he was going to raise him from the dead soon. Some people thought that’s why Jesus was crying, so they said, “See how he loved him!” But Jesus was crying because of them! Many of them would not accept Him as Savior and would eventually die without forgiveness of their sins and the hope of eternal life. It makes Jesus sad when people do not choose to trust Him.



We should show our care for others as Jesus did. We should tell others how much Jesus loves them and wants to give them the best life. Some people will choose Jesus, and others won't. We should be sad for those who will die without choosing God's way.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Go with your family to a cemetery or other quiet place outdoors. Read your lesson story together. Make believe that you are near Lazarus' burial place. Imagine that you were there when Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb.
- Read your memory verse to your family.

Sunday

- During family worship, read together John 11:1-44, each family member reading one verse at a time.
- Together, think of people you know who are sad. Choose one and plan how your family can show caring to them this week. Pray for them today.
- Sing together "Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 126).
- Teach the memory verse to your family.

Monday

- Begin an experiment with your family (to be finished later this week). Put a very ripe piece of fruit in a dark place and leave it there for four days. On Friday, look at it again.
- How long was Lazarus in the grave? Read John 11:17 to find out.
- On a big piece of paper, write your memory verse inside a circle. Make it look like the stone that covered Lazarus' tomb. Then read or say the memory verse to an adult. Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

Tuesday

- During family worship, draw a sad or crying face. Read John 11:35. Talk about the verse with your family. If Jesus can cry when He is sad, what does this teach you about crying today? Is it all right for grown-ups to cry too? Do you think Jesus has ever cried for you?
- Say your memory verse together, then thank Jesus for caring for you.

Wednesday

- With your family, talk about what you can do to show that you really care about each other. Write or draw your loving action on a card, and make a commitment to do this before Sabbath. Read together Galatians 6:10. Is this verse good for families too?

- Read the memory verse in a different way by inserting the names of the members of your family where it says "each other." Tell how you will carry someone's burden today.

Thursday

- Discuss with your family: What can Jesus' example teach us about carrying other people's burdens? Read together Matthew 11:28; Psalm 68:19. In your own words, tell what these texts mean.
- Name ways you could have lightened Martha and Mary's burden had you been there.
- Tell your memory verse to someone whose burden or troubles you would like to help carry.
- Sing together "Love Is in Your Hand" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 134). Then pray for that person.

Friday

- At the beginning of family worship, look at your piece of fruit from Monday. What does the fruit look like? Can it be restored? Read John 11:25 together. Who alone has the power to restore life?
- Now read together Romans 15:5. Practice saying words of encouragement as you role-play the following situations: a good friend moves away; a pet dies; being sick; bad grades at school; good grades at school; a friend gets something new.
- Report on the caring projects started during Sunday's family worship. Then pray for each person involved.