

# Life of Christ

## Jesus helps Peter's mother-in-law Matthew 8:14-15

**Younger Verse**

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

**Older Verse**

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

**Lesson Goals**

See how Peter had faith in Jesus to help  
Share how we can come to God with our needs  
Explain how we can "serve" God

**Welcome Time**

Have you ever been really sick and you had to stay home from school? It is not fun being sick and feeling lousy. Let's see how Jesus helps when someone is sick.

**Bible Story**

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

After Jesus helped the army man's helper (in last week's lesson), He walked with Peter and His friends to Peter's house. Back in that time and culture, parents lived with their grown children. So, Peter and his wife took care of his wife's mother.

One day, Jesus and His friends went to Peter's house. Jesus noticed that Peter's mother-in-law was sick. She was lying in bed with a fever. Normally a fever makes a person's head very hot and they get chills all over. If you have a fever, you feel miserable and can't do anything. That's probably how she felt. For the family, it was kind of scary too, because they did not have aspirin like we do to help a fever go away.

Jesus wanted to help her. He touched her hand and instantly, the fever was gone. She was well and she felt great!

How did she thank Jesus? She got up and waited on Him. That means that she probably gave Him and His friends something to eat and drink. She was grateful for help and wanted to show her gratitude for healing her sickness.

Jesus healed other people also. In fact, the Bible shares a verse quoted from the Old Testament before Jesus was born. It is from the book of Isaiah. God helped Isaiah write about Jesus even though Jesus was not born yet. Chapter 53 shares many things about Jesus. It says in verse 4 that Jesus

would help with our sicknesses and diseases.

Even before Jesus was born, God knew that He would help others and care for their needs.

Jesus did something even greater to help all of us. It even tells about it in Isaiah 53! In verse 5, it tells us that Jesus took our punishment and He died for our wrongs. It tells us that He did this to help us and to give us peace.

How can Jesus help us? He died on a cross to pay the punishment for the wrongs that we have done. He suffered for us. Then, Jesus died and they put Him in a cave-type grave. The best news is that three days later, Jesus came back to life. Because He is alive, we know that He can take away all our wrongs and clean out our life. This miracle shows us that if we believe in Jesus, one day, He will take us to heaven with Him. If we believe and ask Jesus to come into our heart, He will stay with us forever and help us live for Him. Do you want to know more about Jesus? Talk to us about it. He loves you and wants to be your very best friend.

We can learn several things from today's lesson. When Peter and his family needed help, they asked Jesus. When we need help, we should pray and ask Jesus to help us. Another thing we can learn is the importance of serving Jesus. Peter's mother-in-law got up and served or waited on Jesus. What does it mean to "serve" Jesus? We do things for Jesus and help Him. What are some ways we can "serve" Jesus? We can tell others about Him; we can obey Jesus when He asks us to do something; we can help others in need. Think about ways we can help Jesus this week.

**Learning Activities**

Help the kids see how much Jesus loves us and cares for us.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Play a fun game of tag. When someone is tagged, they must freeze. To "unfreeze" them, a person must say the memory verse out loud.

**Prayer Time**

Prayer is our way of talking to God about our needs and concerns. We saw how Jesus helped Peter's mother-in-law in today's lesson. He will help with our needs too. We must talk to Him and ask for help. Remember, He will answer in the best way. It may not be exactly what we think.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Share snacks together and clean up!

Planning for March 23rd  
Jesus calms the storm  
Matthew 8:23-27

Preschool Lesson  
For  
Jesus helps Peter's mother-in-law

Bring a thermometer to show the kids. If you do not have one, Use a picture.

Has your mother or grandmother ever put a thermometer in your mouth? What is it used for? We use a thermometer to see if someone is sick. It tells us if we have a fever. When a person has a fever, they are very hot, but sometimes have chills. When we are sick, we normally take medicine to make us feel better. In Jesus' time, they did not have all the medicines we have.

One day, Peter invited Jesus and His friends to come to his home. When they got there, someone was very sick. It was a relative of Peter. You see, Peter's wife had a mother who lived with them. Another name for her is a mother-in-law. Many times back then, family members lived with their children.

Everyone was sad because Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever. She must have felt very hot. She probably was bundled up with blankets. When Jesus saw her, He touched her hand. Instantly, she was well. She felt great!

She jumped up and ran to the kitchen. She made dinner and gave some to Jesus and His friends. She loved Jesus and wanted to do something special for Him.

Jesus loves us and cares for us too. He wants to help us when we are hurt or sad. We can pray and ask Him to help us. He listens to our prayers.

Sing, "God is so Good."

# Hands-on Activities For Jesus helps Peter's mother-in-law

For younger kids, make a doctor kit. Fold a piece of paper in half and tape useful things like cotton swabs, bandages, cotton balls in the "bag." Share how doctors help people feel better.

Make a thermometer out of a craft stick. Write a digital read-out on the end of the stick!

Jesus touched the woman and made her well. Play a game called "Who touched me." Blind-fold someone and let one person touch them. Let the person open their eyes and try to figure out who touched them.

Just like the woman help Jesus and His friends, we should serve Jesus by helping others. Ask the kids to think of ways to help others. Make a list and then DO one of the things on the list.

Just like the woman waited on Jesus. Let the kids have fun being waiters and waitresses. Bring little pads of paper and let them take turns coming to the kids and taking their order for snacks! Let them deliver the "order" too.

Take time to cook something together if you can. It is fun to work together and enjoy eating a finished product.