

Jesus Makes a Sick Man Well

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 17, ages 3-4

Lesson 17 Goal

- Your child will see Jesus' loving care demonstrated as he heals someone who is sick.

Key Points

- Jesus cares for people who are hurting.
- Jesus made sick people well.



Parent Reflection

In his book *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, Pope Saint John Paul II states that “God is always on the side of the suffering” (p. 63). This is clearly exhibited in the ministry of Jesus, who showed special concern for the suffering.

But Christ did not come solely, or even primarily, to alleviate physical suffering. The physical healings he worked pointed to his greater mission. As the *Catechism* states, “His healings were signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God. They announced a more radical healing: the victory over sin and death through his Passover” (CCC, 1505).

One word people often use to describe Jesus is “compassionate.” This is quite theologically correct, for the word *compassion* literally means “suffering with.” Knowing Jesus’ compassion for others, it’s ironic that we sometimes feel God is distant when we are going through difficult times. But God’s presence is not dependent upon our feelings. And when we suffer, he is right beside us.

Reflection Question

When have I recognized God’s presence in my own suffering, or in the suffering of others?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- stuffed animals or dolls
- doctor play kit

- Lesson 17 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Jesus, you are powerful. We praise you and love you. Amen.”*

Discovering

Jesus Helps a Sick Man. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus and the sick man.

Ask your child, “How do you think the man felt after Jesus healed him?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Jesus Heals. Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and

invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it. Discuss the question with your child.

2. Caring for the Animals (Dramatic Play).

Invite your child to show how to care for a sick or injured person by play-acting with stuffed animals or dolls and doctor play kits.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Martin de Porres.

Show your child the picture of Saint Martin de Porres on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Martin to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child: What can you do to help someone who is sick?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Martin de Porres using the Lesson 17 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“Dear Jesus, show us how to care. Help us to remember how good and kind you are. We will try to be just like you. Amen.”

Saint Martin de Porres

Be Compassionate toward Others

Martin knew what it was like to live with very little. Because of his skin color, he faced extra hardships. He lived among the poorest people in his country of Peru. And he loved those people.

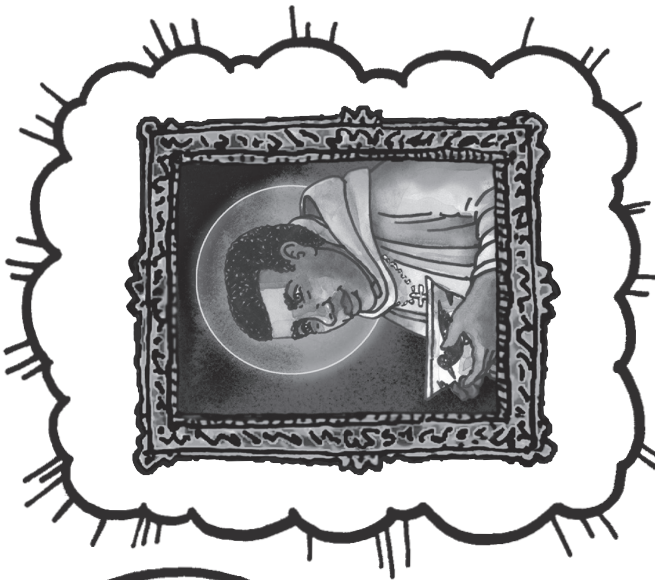
At a very young age, Martin learned how to offer healing to sick people. He learned how to give them medicine. He taught them to hope because he believed it would help them get better. Martin also believed in the power of prayer. He prayed for hours that he could build a brotherhood between people. That means that he really wanted people to love one another, and to treat each other like family. He prayed that he could be like a brother to the people that he helped.

When Martin was almost a teenager, he start-

ed to work in a priory. A priory is where a group of men live like brothers, and work together to serve God. Martin was given the job of collecting money for the poor. He did this very well! He was also given the job of working in the infirmary, which is like a hospital. People noticed that he really cared about the sick people.

When Martin grew up, he became a monk. As a monk, Martin decided to open a hospital for the city's poorest children. He also opened a home for children that had nowhere else to live. People shared the news that Martin was able to help people heal even when it seemed like they would never get better. They knew that he believed that God wanted us to take care of each other. And Martin really did.

DRAW



**Saint
Martin de
Porres,
pray for us!**