

GOD IS LOVE

**Special
Communities**

The elderly and disabled

Term 1

Year 4

Thinking Skills

Year 4 Love

<p style="text-align: center;">Special Communities 1</p> <p>What would you do if you lost your sight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How would people help you?• What equipment could help you?• What things could you no longer do?	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Communities 2</p> <p>What would you do if you lost your hearing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What new skills would you have to learn to communicate?• What equipment could help you?• What things could you no longer do?
<p style="text-align: center;">Special Communities 3</p> <p>What if you had a serious accident and could no longer walk?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What things would you find difficult to do?• What equipment could help you?• How could people help you?	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Communities 4</p> <p>Many years ago a man named Louis Braille invented a system of raised dots on a page that a blind person could feel and therefore read a book in 'Braille'. Think of how to improve the Braille system so that the person hears the text at the same time as touching the page.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Special Communities 5</p> <p>A student in your school can only walk using crutches. Make some improvements to the design of your school building to make it easier for the student on crutches to get around.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Communities 6</p> <p>Make some improvements to a walking stick, that would help an elderly person.</p>

Joni Eareckson

Biography

Reference: Irene Howatt, 2001, *Ten girls who changed the world*

Joni was born in 1949 in Maryland, U.S.A. She was the youngest of four daughters. Joni came from a Christian family. She knew about God and the Bible, but she didn't know how much God really loved her. When Joni was fifteen years old, she attended a Christian camp. It was then that she thought for herself about what the Lord Jesus had done for her, that He died on the cross for her. Before that, she believed in Jesus without thinking. But now a great flood of joy filled her as she realized that Jesus loved her so much that He died for her sins.

Her parents were very happy because they had prayed for their four girls since they were born.

As a teenager, she enjoyed riding horses, hiking, tennis, and swimming. One day, at the age of seventeen, Joni was swimming at the beach with her sister and a friend, Kathy and Butch. A big wave came and Joni went for a dive into the wave. Joni did not realize how shallow the water was. Joni did not surface. Kathy and Butch ran to find her.

Joni had not come up out of the water because she couldn't move, and she couldn't breathe. And still she couldn't rise. She could only hear a roaring noise above her head.

A wave came in and raised Joni a little from the sea-bed. Now Kathy and Butch could see her.

"Joni," she heard Kathy scream. Then Joni felt the strong arms of Kathy around her. Joni was filled with fear. Kathy's arms were around her, but she could feel nothing at all. Was her body there? She couldn't feel it.

Somehow, they got back to the shore.

"Can you feel that?" Kathy asked, touching her sister's leg.

"No," said Joni weakly.

"Or that?" Kathy's hand was moving up.

"No," said Joni again.

Then Kathy's fingers touched Joni's neck. Yes, Joni could feel something at the neck. But as she tried to reach out to hold Kathy's hand, nothing happened. She could not move her arms.

Then there was a screech of ambulance brakes. Joni found herself harnessed into a neck brace, lifted by the emergency team into the ambulance and, with siren wailing,

they left the beach for the hospital. Kathy sat beside her sister in the ambulance holding Joni's hand. Butch followed in the car. He prayed as he drove. Kathy wept all her tears to God. Joni was paralyzed from the neck down. She said the only words that came to her: "The Lord is my shepherd."

"Can you imagine what it is like for me," said Joni to Kathy the next day in the hospital. I can't wipe my nose or go to the toilet. I have to be fed, and washed and have my teeth cleaned."

Joni spent months in hospital with other patients who had broken necks. Although her family visited every day and did all they could to help, Joni was desperately sad. "I've got nothing to look forward to," she told her friends one day.

After her friends left, Joni prayed as she had never prayed before. "Nobody understands apart from you, Lord," she prayed. "I can only get through the days in this hospital if you help me. And I just can't imagine how I will get through life."

And God did help her. Joni had to spend the rest of her life in a wheel chair, but God used Joni's strong faith to help other disabled people. Although she could no longer do swimming and horse-riding, Joni set her mind to another skill. She became an artist, by learning how to paint with a brush between her teeth. Her paintings were very good and many people wanted to buy them.

After the accident, Joni thought that she would never get married, never work, never travel and never be happy again, but she was wrong. Joni did get married, and traveled the world to tell her story of how God had helped her to live a happy life, even though she was in a wheel chair. She worked by helping other disabled people and painting. Joni told people that whenever she started to feel sad about not being able to do things, she would count her blessings. That means, to think of all the good things that God has done for you.

There is a Bible verse that says, "We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him." (Romans 8:28)

God does not cause bad things to happen to people. But we live in a world where bad things sometimes do happen. But because God is very wise, He can turn the bad things to good when we pray.

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. (NLT)

Questions:

1. What good things did Joni do in her life with God's help?
2. What good things did God give her?
3. What is the name for the good things that God gives us? (starts with 'b')

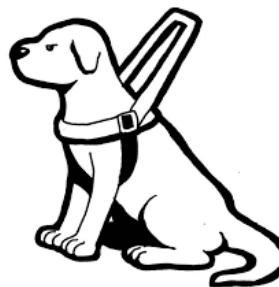
Help for the blind

Guide dogs

A guide dog helps its blind owner to get around safely and independently. It guides its owner in a straight line, unless told otherwise, avoiding obstacles – including those at the owner’s head height. It will stop at the point where a footpath meets a road, stop at steps, crossings and places that are visited regularly. It will guide its owner across the road, but it is the owner who decides where and when to cross safely.

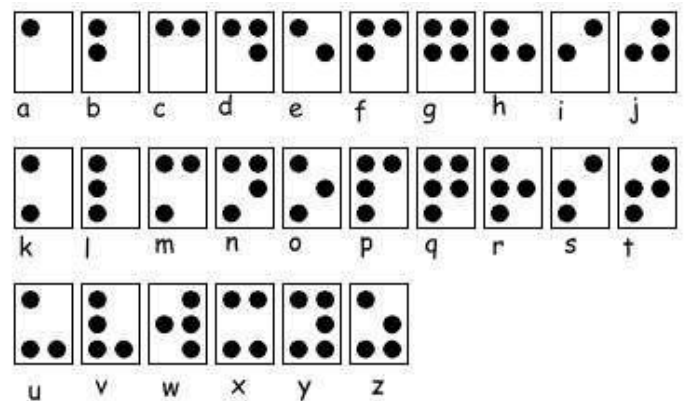
When guiding its owner:

1. What does a guide dog do when it comes to a road?
2. What would a guide dog do when there are people around?
3. What types of things would a guide dog help its owner avoid?
4. What else does the man in the picture have to help him find his way?



Braille books for the blind

Explain how a blind person could read a book using the Braille alphabet.



The Elderly 1

Student activities

As people grow older, they slow down and cannot react quickly.

1. *Think of an elderly person you know.*

- *Which daily jobs do they find difficult to do?*
- *When might they sometimes feel unsafe?*
- *What kind of help do they need?*
- *Do they have any physical problems?*

Moving around

Try moving your arm at the elbow. Try moving your hand at the wrist. The points where the body moves are called joints. They are like hinges. As we get older, the joints don't work as well. They can become stiff and it is hard to move around.

If they are about to trip over they react more slowly than younger people. They might fall. They might feel afraid of people rushing by them and might feel afraid that someone will bump into them.

2. *How would you move around an elderly person who cannot walk well? Be careful not to cause them to trip over.*

3. *What serious injury could happen to an elderly person if they trip over?*

The Elderly 2

Eating the right food

An elderly person needs to eat wisely. The body cannot break down and use as much sugar when we get old.

Muscles

An elderly person may not be able to exercise as much as younger people. Why?

An elderly person may therefore have less muscle. Protein foods can help to build muscle. Protein foods are meats, eggs, dairy products, nuts, seeds, lentils and chickpeas.

Bones

As people get older their bodies start to wear out. The body cannot mend itself as well as it used to. Bones get brittle and break easily and take a long time to mend.

Elderly people need to eat foods to help their bones stay strong. These foods are green leafy vegetables, fruits, vegetables, seeds and some dairy products.

Now that you know what foods an elderly person needs, and doesn't need, plan three healthy meals for an elderly person – breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The Elderly 3

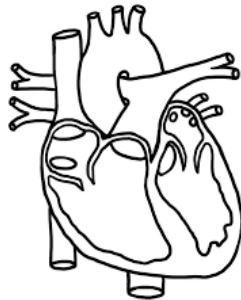
Heart

In an elderly person, the blood doesn't flow as quickly around the body. The arteries allow blood to flow around the body from the heart. But if they become blocked, it can cause a heart attack. To stop this from happening, an elderly person needs to eat good foods from nature. Junk foods can cause the arteries to gradually become blocked. This may start from when a person is much younger.

Teeth

Some elderly people have false teeth, or teeth missing, and can't chew as well as you can. This means they may not be able to eat hard foods like raw carrots or nuts.

1. Why should everyone eat good food from nature?
2. Why should we take good care of our teeth?
3. Draw a heart and colour the arteries red.
4. What would you do if someone you knew collapsed?



The Elderly 4

Hearing and eye sight

Most elderly people cannot see or hear as well as they used to.

When we speak to someone who cannot hear well we should talk to them close up and always look at them so they can see our lips.

1. What are some of the things they may not be able to do if they can't see well?
2. How would you feel if you couldn't hear well and there was loud music playing while someone was trying to talk to you?
3. How would you speak to an elderly person if they could not hear well?



The Elderly 5

God is patient, God is kind

The Bible says, "Love is patient, love is kind." (1 Corinthians 13:4).

Jesus was patient and kind with all people. Jesus was especially patient and kind with children. One day Jesus was going to teach about God, as He often did. But this day lots of children came up to Jesus. The disciples, (friends of Jesus), said, "Send these children away. They are being a nuisance." But Jesus said, "No, let the children come to me, because I love children, and children are part of the Kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:13-14)

Children can be God's servants by helping elderly people.

1. What could you do to help an elderly person?
2. Why should we be especially kind to elderly people?



The Elderly 6

Children have more energy than older people. Children are more active. A child might think it's boring to sit down quietly and have a chat with an elderly person. But remember, Jesus is patient with you, so He wants you to be patient with others. Some elderly people may be lonely or sad. Think about how much joy you could bring to an elderly person by spending time with them!

Elderly People can teach us many things

The Bible says, "Listen to your father, and when your mother is old show her your appreciation. (Proverbs 23:22 GNB)

Elderly people should be respected. They have a life time of experience to share with younger people. Grandparents can help their grandchildren to understand more about God.

2 Timothy 1:5 tells us about the faith of a grandmother called Lois.

1. Why would you need to show patience when helping an elderly person?
2. Why should we respect elderly people?

