

Special Communities: aged and disabled

God is a Humble Servant

God is Patient

Spiritual Awareness: Jesus showed compassion

Jesus showed compassion towards the blind, the deaf and the disabled. His healing ministry has a major focus upon these groups. Serving involves compassion. Compassion is more than feeling sorry for someone. It is reaching out and helping them. As God's servants, He expects us to reach out and help those who cannot do things as well as we can. Serving those who are slower or less able takes patience.

Our response to 'God is a Humble Servant'

Because God is a humble servant I will...

- follow the example of Jesus, the greatest servant
- be willing to help others
- consider the needs of others
- put others before myself
- let others go first
- not boast
- not think of myself as being more important than everyone else
- admit when I am wrong
- allow others to help me

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 3, (Patient): Patience is showing kindness and care

Themes for Christian Studies 3, (Servant): Jesus, the healing servant

Themes for Christian Studies 2.3 (Love) – story of Helen Keller

Biblical references

Bible stories and passages

2 Samuel 4 & 9 - King David showed kindness to the lame prince, Mephibosheth, and allowed him to live in his house.

Luke 6:6-10 - Jesus heals a paralyzed hand

Mark 10:46-52 - Blind Bartimaeus receives sight

John 9:1-34 - The man born blind

John 5:1-18 - The man at the pool

Matt 9; Mark 3:1-6; Matt 12:10; Luke 18:35-43 – Jesus showed kindness through healing disabled people.

Memory verses

1 Corinthians 13:4 - Love is patient and kind.

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another.

1 Thess 5:14 – Help the weak, be patient with everyone.

1 Peter 5:7 Leave all your worries with Him because He cares for you.

Key Questions

What is the meaning of disabled?

What are some of the problems that disabled people have?

How can we help them?

How would you like to be treated if you were disabled?

What do elderly people value most?

What are some things that old people can't do well?

How can we help old people?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- identify different types of disabilities
- identify the needs of the special community being studied
- describe community services and facilities available to aged and disabled people
- appreciate the needs of the aged and disabled, and show them respect and consideration
- meet people who are aged and / or disabled

Skills

- compare types of disabilities of the handicapped
- compare the lives of handicapped, disabled people with others
- classify areas in which we can help the elderly, e.g. safety, friendship, house management
- imagine how it would be to be elderly or disabled
- make inferences about facilities for special communities

Values

- appreciate the needs of disabled people
- show respect and consideration towards special communities.
- show kindness, patience, care, consideration
- offer friendship
- be willing to help

Activities

a) Aged

- List the changes that take place in a person's body as they grow older.
- Try on some glasses and explain how you feel.
- Listen to a story with volume turned right down; explain how you feel when it is difficult to hear.
- Describe the changes to bones, as they become more brittle. Explain what could happen in the case of a fall.
- Describe the changes to the skin as you grow older.
- Make a list of ways we can help elderly people e.g. speaking clearly; treating them carefully
- Visit a home for the aged. Make gifts and cards or provide entertainment.
- Interview an elderly person and find out the type of help required.

- Invite visitors who care for the aged.
- Interview an elderly person and find out the type of help they require.

b) Disabled

- List various types of disabilities, e.g. blind, deaf, quadriplegic, paraplegic.
- Discover the facilities for the disabled in your school or community.
- Study the life of a particular handicapped person, e.g. Helen Keller, (*Themes for Christian Studies 2, Love*)
- Learn about sign language for the deaf.
- Research the work of guide dogs, their training and characteristics.
- Discuss the servant qualities of guide dogs. Discuss the importance of obedience.
- Discover the facilities for the disabled in your community school.
- Read the story of Helen Keller (*Themes for Christian Studies, Love, 2.3*)
- Research the work of Louis Braille. Try reading some raised lettering while blindfolded.
- Conduct a trust walk to experience the feeling of being blind. Work in pairs, one person wearing a blindfold while the partner leads.

Assessment

1. Write a report on an interview with an elderly or disabled person.
2. What have I learned from the study of special communities...
 - about God?
 - about doing what God wants me to do?
 - about the Bible?

Learning Connections

English: Write about emotions – what makes you happy, sad. Write about the emotions an elderly or disabled person might experience.

Art: Make gifts and cards for an elderly person.

Additional Beacon Media resource

The Elderly – See **Science & Social Studies Student Activities**, and **Science & Social Studies Research Cards**