

LESSON PLAN

CARING FOR THE NEEDY

Luke 13-14

Lesson Memory Verse: Luke 14:13-14a - **“But when you make a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and you shall be blessed.”** (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold**.)

Lesson Aim: To help each child to be aware of the spiritual and physical needs of the poor.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention); If you had a horse, what would you have to do to take care of him? (Feed him, water him, brush him, exercise him, trim his hoofs, love him, etc.). Now let us pretend your horse is hungry and it is time to feed him, but when you go to the barn you see something terrible. You see that the far end of the barn is on fire! You know that your horse is tied up in the near end of the barn, but that it will only be a few minutes before the whole barn is in flames. What would you do to help your horse? Would you feed him in the burning barn so that he would not be hungry? Or, would you untie him and get him out of the burning barn first, and then feed him when he is safe from the fire?

What you would do for your horse will help you to know what you should do for your neighbors and friends, whether they are poor or rich. If your friends have not received Jesus Christ, they are going to be burned in the Lake of Fire. First, they need to be freed by Jesus Christ so they can escape this terrible fire, and then you can help them in other ways.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse is Luke 14:13-14a and it tells us that we should help the poor and those with physical problems. Jesus tells us to call these people to our feasts. When we help them, God will help us, that is, we will “be blessed” by Him. The poorest people on earth are those who are not saved from their sins by receiving Jesus. They will not go to Heaven. They will not be able to rule the earth with Jesus for a thousand years. They will not be able to live in the New Jerusalem, the city of gold that comes down from Heaven. They will not be able to live with God forever. The richest people on earth are those who will have all of these blessings. The best feast we can offer poor people is to tell them about these promises from God and tell them that Jesus Christ came to save them from the Lake of Fire. (Read Luke 4:4 and Rev 20:15; 21:8.) After you have clearly told them how to be saved, it is good to help the poor and those with physical problems in other ways.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today’s lesson will give us Jesus’ example on how we can give the best help to poor and needy people.

I. A Woman Loosed from Satan’s Bondage - Luke 13:10-17

While Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath, He saw a woman that had a disease that bent her back so she could not stand up straight. She had been bound by Satan with this disease for eighteen years. He called to her and said, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” Then He laid His hands on her and she was healed immediately. She stood up straight for the first time in eighteen years. Can you imagine how happy she was to have Jesus heal her back? But the ruler of the synagogue was not happy by what Jesus did. He criticized Jesus for healing her on the Sabbath. He said that there were six days for healing, but not on the Sabbath. That was a day for rest.

Jesus told the ruler that he was a hypocrite because he would unloose his donkey or his ox and lead it away to give it water. Since he would do that for an animal, it certainly would be right to unloose a woman that had been bound by Satan. Jesus was teaching the people that the leaders had made rules for the Sabbath day that God never intended. It was always right to do good works on the Sabbath. So Jesus did the right thing in healing this woman on the Sabbath day.

WE: We should be ready to free sinners from Satan’s hold on their lives. We can do this by telling them how Jesus can save them from his control. Satan is strong, but not as strong as Jesus by any means. Will you tell sinners how to be loosed from Satan? And do not be concerned if someone criticizes you for helping sinners when you give them the Gospel. After you have given them the Gospel, you may be able to help them in other ways where they need help. It is always right to do good works for others.

II. A Man Healed of Dropsy - Luke 14:1-6

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Jesus was invited to eat a meal with one of the chief Pharisees on the Sabbath day. This ruler was not a friend of Jesus. He had men watch to see what Jesus would do on the Sabbath. A sick man with dropsy was near the place where Jesus was eating. It may be that he was brought to the Pharisee's house, since they were going to watch what Jesus would do. Dropsy sounds like a disease, which causes the sick person to drop things, but that is not so. It is a disease that collects drops of fluid within the body until it becomes swollen with the fluid. When Jesus saw this poor man suffer with this disease, He was filled with compassion and wanted to heal him. He asked the lawyers and Pharisees that were watching what He would do, if they thought it was lawful to heal him on the Sabbath day. They would not answer Him, so Jesus healed the man and let him go. Then He asked those men, "Which of you shall have a donkey or an ox fall into a pit, and will not immediately pull it out on the Sabbath day?" These men who had come to trap Jesus could not answer Him. Jesus once again showed them that it is right to do good works on the Sabbath day, but they were very stubborn in their wrong beliefs and did not want to learn from Him.

WE: We must not be stubborn in our beliefs, but be willing to learn from Jesus and from the whole Bible, even though we have been taught otherwise.

III. Two Lessons on Humility - Luke 14:7-14

Jesus noticed that people were seeking the best places when invited to a meal. He told them a story to reveal their proud practice. If they are invited to a wedding banquet, they should not choose the best place in the banquet hall, because the host may want to put a more esteemed guest in that place. If that would happen, then you would be shamed in front of all the guests to take a lesser place. Instead, it would be better to take the least desirable place and have the host come and put you in a much better place. Then you will be held in honor by the other guests. This was a lesson on humility, which is necessary to help the poor and the sick.

Then Jesus had another lesson on humility for one of the chief Pharisees. He told the Pharisee that he should invite the poor and those with physical problems to his feasts rather than those who are rich because they could not repay him. If he would do this for those who could not repay him, God would repay him at the resurrection of the just (true believers). No one in this life can repay a person better than God, even if that person were the richest man on earth.

WE: We need to be humble before we will be willing to help the poor and helpless people. Then God will help us. He loves to help humble people, but will resist those that are proud. God promises to reward us more than any earthly friend.

IV. The Parable of the Great Supper - Luke 14:15-24

Jesus told a story about a man that invited his friends to a great supper, but they all made silly excuses for not coming. This is like people that make silly excuses for not receiving Jesus as their Savior; they will be kept out of the great banquet that God will prepare for those in His Kingdom on earth.

Their excuses made the man angry and he told his servant to bring in the poor and those who have physical problems that make it impossible for them to work. The servant did that, but there was still room for more guests. So the man sent out his servant with orders to compel people to come to his great supper. He wanted his hall to be filled with people. This is like God who seriously desires sinners to be saved and come to the great banquet that He will prepare for those who have received His Son as their Savior.

WE: We are foolish if we do not accept God's invitation to His great banquet. God invites all sinners to come to this banquet. Those who come are those who have received Jesus as their Savior. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, we become His servants to find other sinners to come to God's great banquet. We must go so far as to compel or strongly urge people to come. Are we ready to do this work?

BE (for Action): Ask the children who are saved if they are willing to share the message of salvation with those who are not saved. If they want to help the poor, this is the first thing they should do. Ask them to pray for God's help to do this work for Him.