

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

FALL 2022

Unit 1, Session 2

CONNECTION POINT:

Don't play favorites.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: We've made a lot of advances in medicine and technology, but we've made no advancement in human relations. We claim that all people are created equal, but prejudice and preferential treatment of others is still prevalent. Whether the distinctions we make are racial, socio-economic, religious, or political, we are drawn to treat individuals and groups differently simply because they are different or can do nothing for us. We need to see people as God sees them.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Live It Out: Review the Bible story with your child. Find other Bible stories about helping other people know about Jesus. Thank God we can learn about Jesus.

Jesus was staying in the town of Capernaum. Many people came to the house where Jesus was teaching. They wanted to see Jesus and hear Him talk about God.

Four men brought their friend who could not walk. They carried him on a mat. The house was so crowded they could not carry him inside to see Jesus, so they carried him up onto the roof. They made a hole in the roof and lowered their friend through the hole.

Jesus saw that they believed He could help the man. He told the man, "Get up. Take your mat and go home."

The man stood up, picked up his mat, and went home, thanking God.

The people were so surprised. They thanked God and said, "We have never seen anything like this!"

KIDS

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Live It Out: After reviewing the Bible story, help your child memorize Luke 18:16. Help your child understand that she can help others know about Jesus, the Messiah.

Four men carried their paralyzed friend on a mat. The men wanted Jesus to heal their friend. They could not get past the crowd to get into the house, so they climbed on top of the roof. They made a hole in the roof and lowered the man on the mat down to Jesus. Jesus saw that the men had faith in Him to heal their friend. He told the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven.

Some religious leaders questioned how Jesus could forgive sins. Jesus knew what the leaders were thinking. He asked them which was easier—to forgive sins or to make a paralyzed man walk. Jesus told the paralyzed man to stand up, pick up his mat, and go home. Immediately the man walked out in front of everyone. The crowd was amazed and praised God.

STUDENTS

Scripture: James 2:1-13

- What are some consequences of showing favoritism in the church?
- List some ways we overlook the poor in the church today.
- How is favoritism contrary to loving others in ways that reflect God?

Live It Out: All people are created in God's image and have immeasurable value. Further, God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins because of His love for all people. We must never discriminate, and further, must work diligently to show the love of Christ and share the gospel with all people so that they would know God's blessings.

Jesus lived out the Great Commandment—love God and love others—perfectly. This included His seeing all people as having equal value, and He never showed discrimination—against the poor or sick, against women, against those despised by society. He never discriminated against anyone. Every day this week, pray that God would help you to be more like Jesus, particularly in the area of treating, in real ways, all people as having equal value.