



## World Day of Prayer Children's Program

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Zimbabwe

March 6, 2020

**“Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk”**

### **Objective**

For children to see Jesus' love, compassion and caring, and be encouraged to show love and compassion to others.

Age group: 3-12 years

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for your gift of life, peace, good health, protection and for your love. Thanks for being compassionate to us. Be with us as we learn from your word.

Help us to see, help us to understand. Help us to apply what we learn today from you. Above all, help us to grow in knowing you. Amen.

**Song: Jesus loves me, yes I know.** Anna Bartlett Warner (1859). Public domain.

Jesus loves me, yes I know  
For the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to him belong  
I am weak but he is strong

Chorus

Yes Jesus loves me (x3)  
The Bible tells me so

### **Bible Story**

Reading of the Bible: Jesus heals by the pool - John 5: 2-9a.

Choose one of the three suggestions below to tell the Bible story and to talk about it according to your group age and interest. The Bible story narrative should conclude with a conversation and activity about the meaning of Jesus' action today. See the Conclusion session below.

The facilitator may use the Bible Study material for its self-preparation before giving the lesson to the children.

#### 1. Free narrative of the Bible story:

Jesus performed another miracle in Bethesda, a pool by the sheep market which had five porches. Many people with different disabilities - the blind, lame and paralyzed - lay there waiting for the movement of water by an Angel. The first to step in after the troubling of the water got healed.

One of the men, a lame man, who had been sick for thirty-eight years, was seen by Jesus, and Jesus knew he had been ill for a long time. Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be made well?” and the man answered, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me. Jesus said to him, “Rise! Take your mat and walk.” Immediately the man was made well and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Talking about the story: Form groups with the children based on their age and let them answer some of the questions below. Adapt the questions to their understanding level. After the group conversation, invite them to share specially the two last questions.

1. Which kind of people were at the pool? (v. 3)
2. Who then came to the pool? (v. 6)
3. Which question did Jesus ask? (v. 6)
4. How did Jesus react when he saw the lame man? (v. 6)
5. For how long had the man been ill? (v. 5)
6. When Jesus asked the lame man, what did the man say? (v. 7)
7. What then happened after the man answered Jesus? (vs. 8-9)
8. What are the three things Jesus told the lame man to do? (v. 8)
9. What three things did you learn from what Jesus did?
10. If you were Jesus, what would you do in seeing the lame man lying by the pool?

## 2. Dramatize the Bible story

The narrator explains that the children are to dramatize Jesus healing the lame man by the pool, based on John 5: 2-9a. In some Bible versions, there is an explanation about the healing happening to the ones who first entered the pool after the water had been stirred up by an angel (verse 4).

Prepare the scenery with props and ask for volunteers to play the roles of the story’s characters. There should be a mat, sign of a pool, an Angel to disturb the water (optional), children with different disabilities - the blind, the lame, the paralyzed - and Jesus. Three others children with cards bearing the attributes of Jesus (compassionate, love, caring).

**Narrator:** (*crying in agony to terrible pain*) Oh-oo Please help! Anyone to help?

**Jesus:** (*approaching the lame man*) Do you want to be made well?

**Child (lame man):** Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am trying to get in, someone else steps in ahead of me.

**Jesus:** Rise, take your mat and walk

**Child:** (*as he walked with a mat in his hand celebrating*) Our Lord is a mighty healer, Jesus is a healer, indeed he is great! I am healed! I am healed!

**Child 1:** (*raising card written - compassionate*) Indeed, Jesus is compassionate.

**Child 2:** (*raising card written - love*) Jesus is full of love.

**Child 3:** (*raising card written - caring*) Jesus really takes care of us.

**Narrator:** Let’s go and do likewise!

Talking about the story: Prepare the cards with the words below. Place the cards in a box, reshuffle and let the children pick one each. You may need to adapt some of the words according to the age group. Let each child explain the meaning of the word and create a complete sentence with the word. If the group is too big, form small groups to do the activity. Motivate a conversation with the children based on their shared sentence and the meaning of

Jesus' action. The conversation may be used to introduce an art activity, like drawing the story or continuing the dramatization based on the sentences created by the children.

Words: Love, Peace, Reconciliation, Compassionate, Forgiveness, Relations, Development, Acceptance, Caring, Friendly, Love, Sharing, Harmony, Restore, Praising.

### 3. Draw the Bible story

Pin on the wall the Bible story illustrations, which are contributions from two students from Glen View 1 Secondary School, in Harare, Zimbabwe, who are also WDP participants. The illustrations were drawn by Ndevashe Jecha and Tatenda Mandishona, they are both 17 year-old girls.

Ndevashe Jecha –“I am the first born in a family of three. My father passed away, so I live with my mother and siblings. I love doing art and would like to pursue it as a hobby. My ambition is to be a biochemist and find a cure for AIDS. I enjoy attending the World Day of Prayer Zimbabwe services and being an usher.”

Tatenda Mandishona – “I live with both my parents and my two siblings. I like learning about science. I would like to be a doctor and have my own art studio. I love ushering at the World Day of prayer Zimbabwe worship service.”

Invite the children to choose one of the drawings, and ask them to share what they see in the picture. Motivate them to create the sequence of the story and the meaning of Jesus' action today. You may use questions 9 and 10 (see above) to talk about the application of the Bible story today. Finish the conversation reading the Bible text.

**Conclusion** (Use the conclusion below for each of the three suggestions of Bible story narrative)

To conclude the conversation and sharing, invite the children to repeat a few times, with great joy and creative gestures: “Rise! take your mat and walk” (John 5:8). Let's go and love one another and help others as demonstrated by Jesus.

**Song: Isu Tinofara.** Words by Sylvia Marowa, liaison of WDP Zimbabwe. ©WDPIC.  
Composed for WDP 2020 Zimbabwe program. Used by permission.

Isu Tinofara eheee

Isu Tinofara (x2)

Jesu vati tora

Simuka tora nhowo ufambe eheee

Simuka tora Nhowo ufambe (x2)

We are so happy eheee

We're so happy (x2)

Jesus said

Rise, take your mat and walk ehee

Rise, take your mat and walk (x2)

#### 4. Playing for love, peace and reconciliation

Use the game song Mingle Mingle to talk about the focus of the program on love, peace and reconciliation.

##### Song

Leader: Mingle Mingle

Children: Mingle

Repeat the two song lines 3 times

Activity: Children are running up and about mingling, following the leaders instructions. They should not move in groups but individually. If the leader calls out a number (for example 4) it means the children should stand into groups of 4 and after a little while, those not in groups are asked to go out of the game. The leader continues to do so until there are very few children left.

Talking points about the relevance or teaching: Love, peace and reconciliation

- There is a true mix up despite color, height, structure, class etc.
- They are doing it together in joy and peace.
- If ever some had not liked each other before, they are made to reconcile.
- They learn that they need each other to fill up the required number, which shows that in life despite any differences people need each other.

#### 5. Talking about Zimbabwe

Population diversity: Form a group of children to play the role of the students in school.

**Narrator** : At a high school in Zimbabwe, a new Ndebele - speaking pupil (Child 1) has just got start school. She is walking down the corridor meeting a group of 4 older Shona-speaking girls. Shona is the major indigenous language spoken in Zimbabwe whereas Ndebele is the second one.

**Child 1** : (*smiling*) linjani Girls?

**Child 2** : (*from the group*) E-ei what are you saying?

**Child 3** : (*from the group*) We don't understand you, can you speak in Shona?

**Child 1** : Oh no. I am from Matebeleland. I speak Ndebele.

**Child 2** : What?? We are in Harare my dear, if you don't speak Shona we are not going to talk to you.

**Child 4**: Oh no, you have to understand that we are all Zimbabweans. Remember in our country we have 10 provinces from which 16 languages are spoken (show the map and list of languages), but we all fall under the same umbrella which is Zimbabwe, we are one nation. All these are Zimbabwean languages let us learn from each other.

**Narrator**: They all understood each other and the two apologized and they became friends. Love, peace reconciliation are evident - no discrimination in any way even in the way we use our languages. We are all one and God's children. How do you want to show love and compassion? (*Let the children suggest what actions they would like to take as they leave the program*)

Animals: The main five animals found in Zimbabwe are elephants, lions, leopards, buffalos, and rhinoceroses. Search pictures of those animals in magazines, journals or the internet. Show the pictures of each animal and invite the children to name them. You may also have

placards with the names and ask the children to match the card with the picture. Invite the children to draw the animals.

Culture: Mat made out of reed or sisal is a very common craft in Zimbabwe. Bring some materials to guide the children in the making of a small mat. It can be made by weaving the reed, or recycling papers or plastics. Or even, let the children draw mats and color them to be taken home.

### **Prayer**

Thank you, God of Joy for being compassionate to us and for healing us. Help us to depend on you for everything as we grow in reading your word and prayer. We thank you for always meeting us and our parents as well as our country in every point. Amen.

*This material is part of the worship service and educational resource for the  
2020 WDP annual celebration.*

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