



OVERVIEW

Middler	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Title	Jesus Cares and Heals	The Woman at the Well	A Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet	Peter Walks on Water	Jesus Washes Feet
References	Mark 1:40—2:13	John 4:3—42	Luke 7:36—50	Matt. 14:22—33	John 13:1—17
Focus	The God of the universe cares about our needs.	The God of the universe knows me and loves me.	The God of the universe can forgive sin.	Look to the God of the universe to help you do the things He tells you to do.	Jesus demonstrated His love by service and by His sacrificial death.
Bible Verse	“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).	“God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).	“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee” (Ps. 86:5).	“My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth” (Ps. 121:2).	“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son. . . . If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” (1 John 4:10, 11).
Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astronaut Race • Rocket Repair 101 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocket Fuel • Ice Cube Relay • Catch a Falling Star 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toss a Planet • Moon Rock Toss • Comets Away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocket, Astronaut, or Planet • Blast Off Relay • Teamwork Volleyball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread the Good News • Launch! • Wash Your Feet Balloon Toss
Snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banana Rockets • Popping Payload Cupcakes • Space Yogurt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocket Ship Kabobs • Crescent Moons • Rocket Ship Popsicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebula Snow Cones • Asteroids • Bag of Nebulas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starry Sky Cookies • Space Clouds • Cheese Puff Suns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outer Space Cupcakes • Space-Shaped Fruit • Deep Space Trail Mix
Crafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-D Galaxy • Cosmic Sand Art • Ringed Planet Toss • Mini Astro the Monkey • Blast Off Bulletin Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magic Scratch Space Sticker Scene • Rocket Photo Frame • Space Spiral • Space Shake-Up • Glow Star, Glow Planet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaceship Sand Art • Astro the Monkey • 3-2-1 Blow! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blast Off Rocket • Good News Bracelet • Bank Bot • Galaxy Spinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star Sun Catchers • Star Banks • Turbo Rocket • Rocket Me!

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MIDDLER TEACHER BOOK



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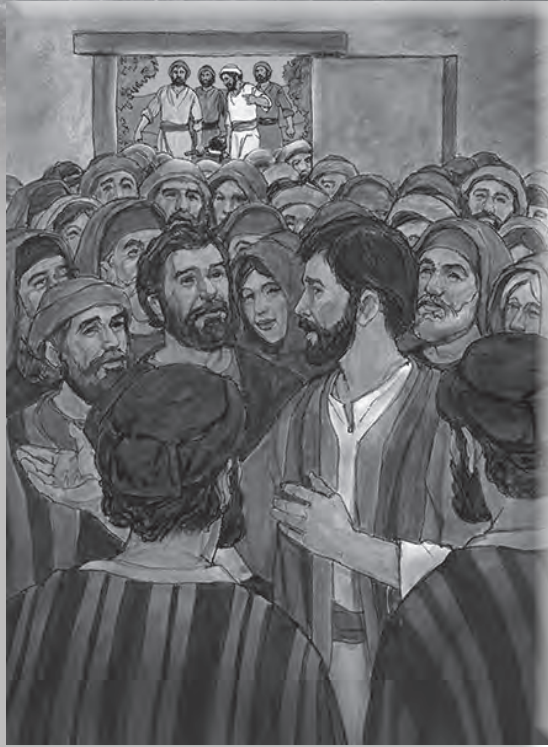
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JESUS CARES AND HEALS



Mark 1:40—2:13



MEMORY VERSE

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).

EXTRA CREDIT VERSES

Matt. 6:31–33; Phil. 4:6, 7, 19

TOPIC

God’s care

THEME

The God of the universe cares about our needs.

MISSION OBJECTIVE

Students will take their needs to God in prayer because He cares for them.





- Greet students with enthusiasm. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (31333) and To the Edge passes (31334).
- Open the class time with prayer.

Option 1: Science Station—That’s Gravity

Materials

- Tennis balls; golf balls; feathers; metal cookie sheets.

ASK: Which object will fall faster, the golf ball or the tennis ball? Will height make a difference? Have students vote by a show of hands. **ACTIVITY:** Divide students into small groups. Give each group a tennis ball, a golf ball, and a cookie sheet. Students take turns dropping the two balls onto the cookie sheet at the same time and then repeat the experiment dropping the golf ball and a feather. **ASK:** Which object hit the tray first?

The tennis ball and the golf ball hit the tray at the same time because the Earth’s gravitational pull pulls these objects at the same speed. The golf ball hits the tray before the feather because air pressure pushes against the feather.

ASK: If we were to try this experiment in outer space, what do you think would happen?

Objects in space float because there is no gravity. You might think this would be cool, but think about trying to eat while your food is floating around! Some activities would be difficult in space.

God created the Earth and provides everything we need to live here—including gravity! God also loves and cares for us. Jesus is God the Son. He came to Earth and showed God’s love and compassion to people while He was on Earth.

Option 2: Orbits and Gravity

Materials

- Marbles; stiff foam plates with rim; *optional*: laptop.

Before class: Locate an image of *Voyager 1* on the Internet. Either print it or have it ready to display on a laptop.

ACTIVITY: Students place a marble on the floor and give it a gentle push.

ASK: In what direction does the marble move? (*In a straight line.*) **AC-**

TIVITY: Students place the marble on the plate and gently move the plate, causing the marble to orbit faster and faster around the plate’s edge. At some point the marble will fly off the plate.

When the speed of the marble became great enough to overcome gravity, the marble went up over the rim of the plate.

DISPLAY: Show *Voyager 1* image.

In 1977 NASA launched *Voyager 1*. In September 2013, *Voyager 1* became fast enough to overcome gravity and shoot off into deep space. It was the first man-made object to leave our solar system. It is exploring space and will send data back to Earth! God had a special plan and design for the universe. He has a special plan for you too! And He cares about your needs. We will explore some Bible stories that demonstrate God's plan and His love.

Option 3: Science Station—Why Stars Twinkle

Materials

- Aluminum foil; flashlights; scissors; glass bowls; water; black or blue construction paper; optional: blankets.

ASK: Why do stars seem to twinkle? **ACTIVITY:** Working in small groups, students cut four or five 1-inch foil stars and place them on construction paper. Each group fills its glass bowl about two-thirds full of water and places it on top of its stars. Darken the room or work under a blanket. Students shine a flashlight from above the bowl, tap the bowl, and observe how the stars twinkle.

Starlight passes through wind in our atmosphere, and the wind bends the light, making it look like it is twinkling. But in our experiment, the light was bent by water. By bending a star's light, scientists can find out how warm that star is and what elements are in it. The bent light is the star's spectrum. It is like a fingerprint for the star.

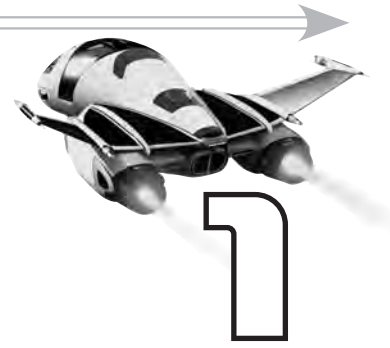
It takes a lot of careful planning and work to learn about just one star, but God knows all there is to know about every star in the billions of galaxies. More importantly, God knows everything about us because He cares for us. We will see two examples of Jesus' loving care for people in our Bible account for today.



For years astronauts have been going on missions in space. Some have spent a long time on a space station, doing research and conducting experiments. Even now astronauts are living on a space station. Imagine you were preparing to go on a space mission and it was the day of the launch.

ASK: How do you think you would feel? How do you think you would feel after you had been on a space station for several months with only a few other astronauts? (*Lonely, bored, afraid, isolated.*)

We can only imagine how it would feel to be in outer space for a long time. In the Bible we can read about some people who were also very lonely, extremely faraway from others, and really scared. In some ways we are a lot like those people.





EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

Teacher Tip ►

Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible. Help students locate the passage in their Bibles or display the passage on PowerPoint.

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (31307); copies of script; old, torn clothes for leper; PowerPoint or poster of Mark 2:12.

Before class: Make copies of the script. Assign parts to student volunteers. Enlist an adult worker to be Jesus.

We are going to perform a short play that will show us what happened to one very lonely person in Jesus' day who was separated from other people.

Characters: Narrator, leper, three villagers, Jesus.

Narrator: In Bible times, the disease called leprosy was very serious. It affected a person's skin, nerves, and eyes. People thought it was contagious, that they could get it from someone else, and there was no cure. Because of this, there were rules for people who had leprosy (Lev. 13; 14). They had to shout, "Unclean" so people would know they had leprosy and would stay away from them. They had to live outside any city or village and could not be with their families or friends. Let's imagine what their lives might have been like.

Villagers: Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!

Villager 1: He has done many miracles. I wonder what He will do here!

Villager 2: I can't wait to see Him perform a miracle!

Villager 3: I won't believe it unless I see it.

Leper: Unclean! Unclean! Did you say Jesus is coming?

Villagers: Get away from us!

Leper: Did you say Jesus is coming?

Villager 1: (*Annoyed.*) Yes, yes. Now go away. You aren't supposed to be here.

Villager 2: The law says you are not supposed to be near us and we are not supposed to be talking to you. You will make us all sick.

Leper: I just want to see Jesus. I know He can heal me.

Villager 3: He is not going to heal you. Now go back where you belong!

(Jesus enters.)

Leper: (*With excitement.*) There He is! There's Jesus! (*Leper runs and kneels down in front of Jesus.*) If You are willing, You can make me clean.

Jesus: (*Reaches out His hand and touches the leper.*) I am willing. Be cleansed.

Leper: (*Extremely excited.*) You touched me! I am clean! I am clean!

Villager 1: He touched a leper!

Villager 2: He healed him!

Villager 3: That was a miracle! I believe!

Narrator: Jesus gave the man a warning and sent him away.

Jesus: Don't tell anyone.

That leper had a big problem and so do you and I. We have all done things that are wrong. The Bible word for the wrong things we do is "sin." Jesus cared about the leper, and He loves and cares for you, too, no matter what you have done. He wants to forgive your sins. Jesus loves everyone!

After the leper told everyone that Jesus had healed him, Jesus could hardly go anywhere without crowds of people following Him. He went into the village of Capernaum and entered a small house. When people heard He was there, they immediately came and squished and crammed into the house until there was no more room. It was packed!

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1.

Some men heard that Jesus was in town and wanted to bring their friend to be healed. He could not walk, so they carried him on his bed. When they came to the house where Jesus was, they could not get in. But the friends did not give up!

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2.

They went up to the roof and took pieces off. Then they let their friend down through the opening. Wow! The people must have been surprised to see this.

ASK: How do you think the man felt? **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven." When the religious leaders heard this, they said, "Who but God can forgive sins?"

ASK: Why do you think the religious leaders were upset?

They were angry that Jesus was claiming to be God. But Jesus turned to them and asked them if it was easier to forgive sins or to heal someone. Then Jesus turned to the man and said, "Stand up, pick up your bed, and go to your house." Jesus did this so everyone there would know that He had not only the power to heal, but also the power to forgive sins.

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4.

Immediately the man stood up, picked up the bed, and went out. The people were amazed!



Lesson 1 Visual 1



Lesson 1 Visual 2



Lesson 1 Visual 2



Lesson 1 Visual 4

DISPLAY: (*Show the end of Mark 2:12, the words the people said.*) **ACTIVITY:** Invite students to stand and read the words together. **ASK:** How did Jesus show that He loved and cared for the two men who were healed? How do you know that Jesus loves and cares for you?



Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (31336).

Jesus showed His love for the paralyzed man by healing him and forgiving his sins. Jesus showed His love for the leper when He touched him and healed him. God showed His love for you by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross to take the punishment for your sins.

ACTIVITY: Use the salvation poster to share the gospel. Invite students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask students who want to learn more about becoming a member of God's family to look up at you. Assign workers to students who have responded.

If you already are a member of God's family, remember how much God loves you and cares for you and wants to help you with your needs and problems. You can pray and ask for His help anytime.



Option 1: News Conference

Materials

- Bibles; paper; pencils; two old microphones; *optional*: costumes; video recording equipment.

Before class: Enlist the help of adults to play the part of the leper and the paralytic.

When astronauts return from a space mission, they hold a news conference and answer questions about their recent adventure. We will be holding a news conference with the leper and paralytic man from our Bible lesson to understand how they may have felt.

ACTIVITY: Working together, groups will use their Bibles to develop five questions to ask the leper or paralytic. Arrange the room in a news conference setting with a table at the front with chairs for the leper and the

paralytic, a microphone at the front, and one microphone to be passed to those asking questions. If desired, record the news conference to play back later.

Option 2: What's Inside?

Materials

- Two eggs; two bowls; butter knife; salvation poster (31336).

Before class: Hard-boil an egg. Refrigerate it so it is the same temperature as the raw egg.

ACTIVITY: Hold up the raw egg and the hard-boiled egg. Have students vote on which egg they think is hard-boiled by moving to one side of the room or the other. Invite a volunteer to touch the eggs and give an assessment on which egg is hard-boiled. Again, allow students to move if they change their votes. Another volunteer spins both eggs on a table and gives an assessment of which is hard-boiled. Again, allow students to move if they change their votes. What is the only way to tell for sure which egg is hard-boiled? (*Break them open.*) **ACTIVITY:** Break each egg into a bowl. Cut apart the hard-boiled egg to show the cooked yolk.

When you spin a raw egg, it bobbles because the yolk is bumping around in the sloshy egg white. Other than this test, it's nearly impossible to tell what's on the inside. The change that happens inside when the egg is cooked is unnoticeable but very important.

ASK: What happened on the inside to the man who could not walk? (*He was forgiven.*) What does it mean to be forgiven? How does a person get their sins forgiven? (*Use salvation poster to lead students through the answer.*)



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).

You matter to God and He wants to help you. If you pray and ask Him to help you, He will.

Option 1: Star Search

Materials

- Star shapes; marker.

Before class: Write one word from the verse on each star, including the reference. Make several sets of stars. Place the stars around the room.



◀ Teacher Tip

Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.

ACTIVITY: Groups of students find the stars and work together to assemble the verse. Groups may need to trade stars with each other to get all the words.

Option 2: Casting and Recasting

Materials

- Latex-free balloons; masking tape; permanent marker; timer.

Before class: Use masking tape to mark a dividing line. Inflate balloons and write a word from 1 Peter 5:7 on each one. Include the reference. Add five extra balloons with no words. Assign a point value to each balloon ranging from 10 points to 100 points. Write the point value on top of each balloon.

ACTIVITY: Students arrange the balloons so the words of the verse are in order. Read the verse through twice and explain it. **ASK:** What does it mean to cast all our care on God? (*It means praying about our needs and trusting Him to help us.*)

ACTIVITY: Organize two teams—Prayer Warriors and Worriers. Give all the balloons to the Prayer Warriors. At your signal, they try to bat their balloons to the other side of the line without crossing the line. The Worriers bat the balloons back without crossing the line. After two minutes, call time. Add up the points on the balloons on each side. The team with the fewest points wins. Play as many rounds as time permits.

When you have a need, pray. God cares about you and your needs.



Space Rocks

Materials

- Permanent markers; small rocks.

Every year material falls from space to Earth. Most of this ends up being dust particles, but some pieces of asteroids do make it to Earth's surface as small rocks called meteorites. We are going to use rocks to remind us that the God of the universe cares about our needs!

ACTIVITY: Students write their names and the Bible reference 1 Peter 5:7 on their rocks.

Carry the rock around with you, in a pocket or backpack. Whenever you see or feel the rock, remember that God loves you, and ask Him to help you with your problems.