

Lesson 7.16 - Jesus Heals Part I – Everyone is Valued

Topic: Becoming Peacemakers
Sub-topics: Everyone is Valued
3C. All are Equal and Valued
3F. Spritual Gifts: Evangelism and Service

Class: Standard VII (7th Grade)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** When asked who Jesus ministered to, students will know that He ministered to everyone—even those who were ignored by society.

Attitude: Students will want to follow Jesus' example and bring others peace by reaching out to those who are ignored.

Materials:
Chalkboard and chalk
Journals

References: Matthew 8

Memory Verse: I John 4:11

Teacher Activities

Introduction: *Optional: Open with Worship song and prayer.*

Ask students why society excludes certain people. Do they know someone who is excluded?

Bible Story: Ask students to listen as verses from Matthew 8 are read. After each passage, ask students who Jesus ministered to and write it on the board.

Application: *Discussion.* Why does society seek to exclude those who are different from us?

Evaluation: Ask students how the discussion groups are working. Is everyone participating? Are we showing each person we value them by listening to their answers?

Student Activities

Introduction: Students share answers to the introductory questions without mentioning names. . (Say, "Someone" instead of the name.)

Bible Story: Jesus went about healing and ministering to all kinds of people. Identify the different kinds of people Jesus ministered to.

Application: Participate in class discussion.

Small Group Discussion.

Who, in our community, is marginalized? How can we reach out to them?

Journal: Is there something you could do to reach out to someone who is ignored?

Evaluation: Were students able to list ways to minister to outcasts in their community? Are students being respectful to each other?

Extension Activities: *Worship.* If you have time, continue starting lessons with worship.

Cards. Make a greeting card for the students to sign for someone in need of ministry (Examples: A get well card for a sick child, a thank for someone who serves the school, a card to encourage someone who is lonely or ignored)

Notes for Teacher

The last two lessons were from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where Jesus talked about walking in love and compassion. In this lesson, Jesus demonstrates compassion for all people. After Jesus came down from the mountain after preaching the sermon on the mountain, he was immediately faced with the needs of the world. He ministered to many people that were ignored or not valued by society. Peacemakers look for ways to help others—even those that might not be important in the eyes of the world.

Key Concept: Every person is valued and loved by God. As peacemakers, we will value others and seek to help those who are ignored by the world.

Introduction: Ask students who they know that is marginalized; someone who is ignored or shunned by other people or not allowed to have any power or influence.

Bible Story: We cannot live the Christian life merely on “mountain top experiences” away from the reality of the world. As Christians when we are faced with living our faith daily in the world, we need to recognize the opportunities we have for peacemaking. Jesus did not shun those who were marginalized by the society; he took the time to stop and minister to them

Bible Reading. Have student leaders read the following passages. After each passage ask, **Who did Jesus minister to?** (Write it on the board.) Discuss why it would be unusual for someone to help this person.

- Matthew 8:1-3 - The leper –Lepers were shunned by society as unclean because of the flesh eating disease. It was contagious.
- Matthew 8:5-7, 13 - Roman Centurion's servant- even though the Romans were the political oppressor and servants might not be considered important people.
- Matthew 8:14-15 – Peter's Mother-in-law- Some societies do not value women as highly as men
- Matthew 8:28-31 – Men possessed by demons – these were men that were feared and outcasts from their society because of their violent behavior.

The ministry of Jesus broke through the religious and social walls that excluded certain people. The life of a peacemaker means looking past exterior walls to the hearts of people and calling them to faith. A peacemaker reconciles people to God and to each other.

Application: *Discussion.*

- **Are there some people who are valued more than others?**
- **Why does society seek to exclude those who are different from us?** This is a good time to discuss the fact that we sometimes value those who are like us more than those who are different (the same family, tribe, race, school, nation) but God calls us to value everyone even those that are sometimes ignored or not valued.
- **When have you felt ignored? Who reached out to you?**
- **How does it help to know that Jesus loves each person?** (Knowing that God loves us should help us feel valued and knowing He loves others should cause us to value them, also.)

Small Group Discussion.

Who, in our community, is marginalized (ignored and denied power and influence)?

How can we reach out to them?

Journal: Write a personal reflection (what does this lesson mean for you?)