

Lesson 11: Peace - Jesus Heals with Touch

Welcome to our second-to-last Via Transformativa Peace lesson! Next week (June 14), we'll offer a healing story from the Hasidic Jewish tradition. Then, on Sunday, June 21, we'll move into Via Positiva.

Introduction

Today's very rich story involves Jesus bringing peace -- twice -- in a somewhat similar way. The "outer story" involves Jairus, a synagogue leader, whose daughter is dying. He arrives and asks Jesus to come to his house and heal her. Along the way, Jesus is touched by a woman who had been sick with "hemorrhaging" for 12 years. In both cases, poor health resulted in suffering and a lack of peace. And in both cases, Jesus brought peace through his healing touch.

Our introduction focuses on two different aspects of the story:

- 1) **Being Sick.** It's hard to feel peaceful when you are sick, even when you have people - like parents, grandparents, and medical professionals - to care for you. Ask the kids to think back to a time when they were sick. Were they feeling peaceful? Then, ask them to imagine what it would be like to be sick for 12 years! That's longer than some of them have been alive! Or, ask them what it might feel like to be so sick that no one could help you! Sad? Scared? Lonely?

This is also a great time to check in about the anxiety surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic or about sick people you might know. You can also check in about death - especially if they've known a person or a pet who has died.

- 2) **Role of Women During Biblical Times.** Another aspect of this story that we often share revolves around life for women during Biblical times. It was not exactly like it is today. Women had very specific roles - like getting water from the village well, cooking, keeping house, and having/raising children. If a woman were sick, it would have been very difficult for her and her family to survive.

Also, people didn't know as much about health/medicine back then. People were often afraid they would catch diseases from someone else, even if we now know those diseases are not contagious. This was especially true for diseases afflicting women.

Story - Jesus Heals with Touch

This story appears in 3 out of the 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The Matthew version is somewhat sparse, so these links take you to New Revised Standard version of [Mark 5:21-43](#) and [Luke 8:40-56](#). As always, feel free to use your own family Bible or other translations.

Here are two links to video versions.

[Animated Story](#)

[Story with Real People](#)

Thought Questions

In addition to the introduction, here are a couple of other ideas that might be interesting to explore with your kids.

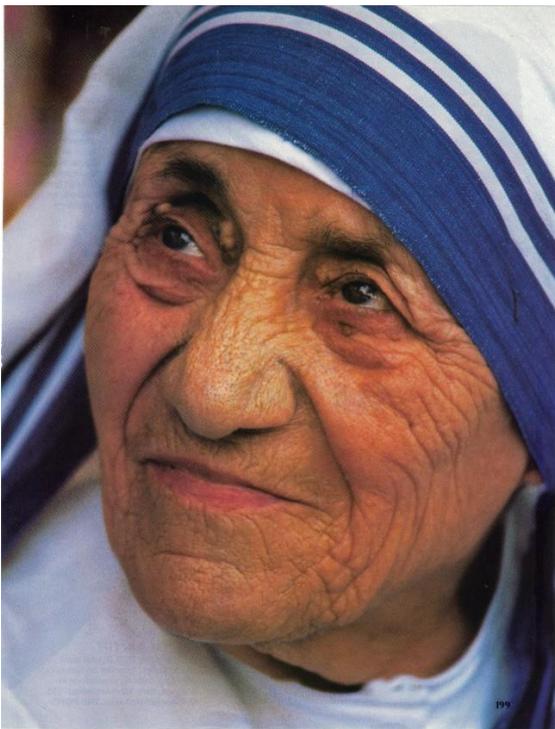
- 1) Human touch is very powerful. As result, it can also be healing and/or bring peace. Do you think you've ever brought peace to a person or an animal just by touching them - maybe by holding a hand or giving a hug?
- 2) At the end of the story, Jesus tells everyone to keep quiet about what happened. Why do you think he did that? (There are no right or wrong answers here. We just let the kids think about it. Maybe he didn't want to brag or show off. Maybe he didn't want to be over-loaded with healing requests. Maybe he was afraid that other leaders would be jealous of his abilities to heal. Who knows?!)

Other Healers

It's easy to label the Jesus story as a "fairy tale" or "miracle myth." But, there are many modern-day healers who bring peace to the world. One prime example is Mother Teresa, who won the

Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work with the sick and the poor. Below, you'll find a few fast-facts to share, along with images of her and the Nobel Peace Prize. A world map can also be fun.

- ❖ Mother Teresa grew up in a place called Yugoslavia. Nowadays, that region of the world is roughly where Slovakia and Croatia are.
- ❖ Mother Teresa then moved to Ireland to become a nun in the Catholic Church. Nuns are women who dedicate their lives to serving God.
- ❖ After becoming a nun, Mother Teresa moved to India. She was a teacher before deciding to spend her life helping those who were sick.
- ❖ Today, there are over 4,000 nuns all over the world who are part of Mother Teresa's order. They maintain her commitment to sharing peace with those who are ailing in some way.



Handprint Crafts

Since much of this lesson plan focuses on touch as a powerful healer, we'll share two of the handprint crafts we do.

Handprint Peace Dove

A dove is often used as a symbol of peace, so this craft uses a handprint to make a dove.



Simply place a hand on a sheet of paper with the fingers held together and the thumb sticking out.

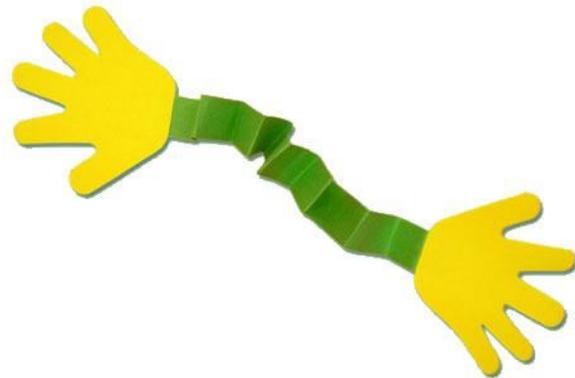
Trace around it. Add an eye, a beak, a wing, and any other desired features.

Cut it out, hang it from a string, and fly it around the room!

Healing Hug

For this craft, first trace around both hands. Cut them out. If it's too frustrating to cut in and out of the fingers, just cut around them.

Then, take a long strip of paper that measures about 1" wide. It can be as long as you like. Accordion-fold the paper back and forth. Then, attach each end of the folded strip to one of the hands.



Power-of-Hands Activities

We also like to play a few hand games, which further emphasizes the power of our hands and the potential power of touch.

Younger Kids

Get in a circle and hold hands. One person starts by squeezing the hand of the person to their right. That person, then passes the squeeze along until it gets all the way around the circle. If you have only a few people, try going around the circle 3 times. Or, try going around to the right and then around to the left.

Older Kids

Use your hands to draw a letter on someone else's back. See if they can guess what letter you are drawing. Once you get good at that, try drawing 3 letters that form a word.

All Ages

Our hands are also very good at identifying objects. Put a few household objects into a pillow case. Then, stick a hand in and see if you guess what the objects are!