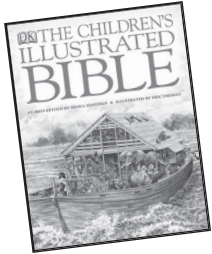


Ordinary Time, Proper 15



The Children's Illustrated Bible
page 230

Jesus went to a new town and a mother told Jesus, "My daughter is very sick." Jesus said, "I was sent to help only the lost sheep of Israel (the Jews). Should I throw the children's food to the dogs?" He meant should the blessings he brought be given to those who weren't Jews. The mother said, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Jesus was surprised, "You have great faith!" he told her. So Jesus healed her daughter instantly.

—Matthew 15:21–28 adapted



☐ Jesus Blesses Everyone

Gather kids around a table that looks as if someone has eaten cookies on it and only crumbs are left. Very noticeably, brush the crumbs onto the floor. Then share the scripture story from Matthew 15:21–28, and show drawings of Jesus eating with others from *The Illustrated Children's Bible*, page 230 (this scripture story is not in this book). Discuss:

1. Why did Jesus ignore the mother when she asked him to heal her daughter? Does this sound like Jesus to you?
2. What example did the mother give Jesus?
3. Would you be happy knowing the crumbs on this table were all the snack you received today?

The mother only asked for crumbs. She knew that just the crumbs would be enough. She believed in Jesus even though he was not the same type of believer that she was. Jesus was impressed with her great faith and healed her daughter.

Ask the children to join you in a progressive story about claiming God's mercy. Begin a story about someone or something receiving God's mercy, such as "Once upon a time there was a little puppy who had hurt his paw ..."

Remember to only start the story, then ask one of the children to pick up where you left off. Continue on this way until all the children have had a chance to tell a part of the story. The story should show the puppy receiving mercy from someone.

☐ Blessing Others

Today's story is about the blessings Jesus shared with someone who had a different faith than he did. Ask kids:

1. Do you have friends of different religious backgrounds? Who are they?
2. What do they believe? How is that different than what you believe?
3. Jesus was able to share his gift of healing. What can you share with someone who believes differently than you?

Make Puppy Chow using the recipe here. Pour into reclosable plastic bags—two or three for each child in class. Ask them to write a friend's name on the bag with permanent marker, someone they identified as believing differently than they. Invite them to share this gift with their friend, and discuss other blessings they can share.

Puppy Chow

- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup butter
- 6 ounces chocolate chips
- 10 cups crispy square cereal
- 2 cups powdered sugar

Over medium heat, melt peanut butter, butter, and chocolate chips in saucepan. Pour cereal into large bowl, and pour melted mixture over, stirring slightly. Then pour the whole mixture into a sack filled with powdered sugar. Shake until the cereal is coated. Pour onto wax paper to cool. Serves 12.



Jesus told a mother, "You have great faith!" because she believed even leftover blessings would heal her daughter. So Jesus healed her daughter instantly.

—Matthew 15:27-28 adapted

Mercy means:

- blessings
- love
- grace
- forgiveness

Jesus loves everyone!

Circle who Jesus loves in the list below.

- Pharisees
- sick people
- rich people
- poor people
- women
- children
- men
- tax collectors
- fishermen
- your family
- you
- people around the world

Make a list of people you know Jesus loves.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____