

Ordinary Time, Proper 21



The Children's Illustrated Bible

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call on the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. So confess your sins to one another, so you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

—James 5:13–16 adapted

Healing for Kids

It is the right of every child to be guaranteed a *healthy life*: health care, safe water, healthy food, and to be protected from disease. If children get sick or are hurt, they should be seen by good doctors and treated so they can get well. Kids should get vaccinations to protect them from preventable diseases. If kids are disabled, they should be given special care and treatment. Kids must also be protected from HIV and AIDS. If a mother or father dies of HIV or AIDS, children are often left homeless, parentless, and in orphanages.

On an empty table, ask kids to collect items they would find in a doctor's office or a healthy person's home. Have a box of various items for them to choose from. This might include healthy food and water, items from a toy medical kit, toy medicine, vaccines (shots), dolls dressed as doctors or nurses.

Give each kid an item from the toy medical kit, and have them tell how it has helped them or reminds them of a healing, a blessing, or someone who has received a blessing with that item. Then give each kid a bandage and have them create a drawing of someone that has been healed or cared for. They are to glue the item to the picture. Have them share their pictures with one another when done.



Praying with God

Read James 5:13–18. Discuss: James tells us that great things can happen when we pray *with* God, rather than *to* God. Praying *with* God is like working on the same team together. Instead of praying for what we want or need, we are praying with God and working together as a team for the things that are really needed.

What do you think God wants to say to us right now? What does God want us to have or want us to do? Give each kid a sheet of paper and have them write a short letter to themselves from God. Invite kids to be quiet, think prayerfully, and listen to God talking inside of them.

When kids are done, have them start praying for those things God wants for them. This may be done aloud, one at a time, sharing with one another, or privately. Kids may want to write down their prayer back to God. This is what it means to pray *with* God!

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Circle the kids below who are making healthy choices.

