



Hurting

Jesus showed us that he really was the Son of God through miracles. His miracles weren't just good for a show. He poured his love and compassion on those who needed it most. In this series, we'll look at stories of healing, hope, and compassion.

Big Idea: We can share God's love by helping those who are hurting.

Key Verse: ³ ... [God] is the Father who gives tender love. All comfort comes from him. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles. Now we can comfort others when they are in trouble. | 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIRV)

1. HANGOUT

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

- Discuss:
 - Share a story about a time when you got hurt. Who helped you? How did they help you?
 - Have you ever had an experience when you were hurt emotionally instead of physically? [e.g., a relative died; someone was really sick; etc.] Who helped you? How did they help you?

2. HEAR

Supplies:

- Bibles

Instructions:

- Look up and read Luke 5:17-26, today's God Story.
- Discuss:
 - Think about the men who carried the paralyzed man in this passage. Do you think they were good friends? Why or why not?
 - Consider the effort that these guys made to get to Jesus. Have you ever made a huge effort for a friend? If so, what did you do?

- What do you think would have happened to the paralyzed man if his friends didn't help him? What could happen if no one is willing to help someone who needs it?
- What advice would you give to a friend who's trying to help someone they know who's hurting—physically or emotionally? What would *you* do?

3. HUDDLE

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Share your own age-appropriate examples to get the ball rolling. Remember that you set the tone during these discussions. The Jr. High students will rise to the occasion if they're taken seriously!

Instructions:

- Discuss:
 - Think of an example of someone experiencing God's love through someone else's kindness or help. Have you ever experienced God's love through someone else's kindness and help? How did it feel to experience God's love in this way?
 - The friends in today's God Story did something very practical—they took their paralyzed friend to Jesus. They didn't perform the miracle; they just helped him get there. Sometimes, we don't know how to help others, especially when someone is hurting on the "inside." We may feel as if we can't do anything, but there are things we can do! What are some ideas? [e.g., be a good friend; hang out together; pray for them]
 - Who is someone you know who's hurting? What can you do to help?
- After sharing your answers, wrap up by praying together for everything that was discussed.