

SEKUCo lives out the Gospel in its Mission – educating teachers and other professionals to improve the quality of life for special needs children and adults. This resource can be used in a variety of ways: in youth groups, adult forums and Bible studies. It could also be the basis for a skit by all ages.

JESUS' CONCERN FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

Throughout the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John there are accounts of the healing miracles of Jesus. There are more than twenty-five accounts of Jesus' interest and concern for people with special needs, and his response of miraculous healing of them.

For group study and discussion the following is a list of examples from the Gospel of Mark. It is important to note that most of the healing stories in Mark are also found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, sometimes in different emphasis.

In your group study and discussion you will want to take note of the variety of people with special needs whom Jesus healed, and also the variety of situations in which they lived.

Mark 2:3 Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

4 And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

. . . **10b** he said to the paralytic--

11 "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home."

12 And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 3:1 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand.

2 They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him.

3 And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward."

4 Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent.

5 He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Mark 7: 32 They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.

33 He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.

34 Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

35 And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Mark 10:13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you."

50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."

52 Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.