



FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME ...

Sunday School Lesson

Lutherans For **Life**
www.lutheransforlife.org

“From Age to Age the Same” Life Sunday School Lesson

Lesson Objectives:

1. The students will recognize that age, appearance, and ability vary from person to person.
2. The students will acknowledge that Jesus died on the cross for all people, no matter their age, appearance, or ability.

Note to Teacher:

This plan is very flexible. Do the parts that fit your group the best. You will be given options for different ages, energy levels, etc. Mix and match what you would like to do and don't worry about the rest.

Helpful Materials:

- Bible story books (such as Arch® books)
- Copies of the reproducible pictures included with this lesson—*use as many or as few as you choose*
- Coloring tools (crayons, markers, etc.)
- Bibles for students who can read
- Magazines or printed pictures from the internet that focus on faces of people from a variety of backgrounds—and/or use the provided reproducibles
- Paper and glue sticks
- Scissors

Suggested Songs:

- “Father Welcomes”
- “God Loves Me Dearly”
- “Jesus Loves Me”

Catechism Tie-ins:

All three articles of the Apostles Creed

Suggested Memory Verses:

- For older students: Isaiah 46:3-4 or 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- For younger students: John 3:16
- For very young students: Memorize parts of the song “Jesus Loves Me” and sing them.

Lesson Introduction

FOR OLDER STUDENTS, you may write this on the board before they come in the room: “Jesus came for all people except” Let students think for a bit. Then, either start the conversation or ask them to go up to the board silently and write in all the correct answers. You may also wish to post the reproducible pictures on the board to prompt more ideas and discussion.

FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS, you may use the reproducible pictures to start a conversation. Show them each picture and have them describe whom they see in that picture. Then ask, “Whom does God love?” (They will probably answer “everyone.”) Hold up each picture again and ask them if God loves the people in each picture.

FOR VERY YOUNG STUDENTS, show the reproducible pictures to them and ask them what they see. Help them describe the people in each picture, and explain it if they’re not sure what they’re seeing. Lead a conversation that emphasizes God’s love for that individual. Example: student says, “I see a really old grandpa.” You say, “Does God love really old grandpas?” Be specific and repeat what they say as much as it makes sense.

FOR ALL STUDENTS: Notice where they pause or have reservations. You may not choose to correct them at this point, but lead them to the point where they realize the answer as you go through the rest of the lesson. (For older students with the board activity, tell them that they can erase their own answer if they decide later that it isn’t correct.) Some students may not realize that God loves all people the same. We are here to help them come to that conclusion.

Core of the Lesson

FOR OLDER STUDENTS, use the following Bible stories as you have time (or choose the ones that best fit your group). Students or teacher may read as the other students follow along in their Bibles. First, read one Bible story, then ask students to summarize it or retell it in their own words.

FOR MORE ACTIVE STUDENTS, ask them to act it out while you read it or as other students retell the story. Follow the story and summary with a discussion. In that discussion, use questions such as the ones listed below to lead students to see that although society may decide that some people are not worth as much as others, God sees us all as valuable. He has created each of us and sent Jesus to die for us. We are special in His eyes.

FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS, depending on their ability to read, or to sit and listen, choose to use your Bible and/or the Arch® books suggested below. First, read the Bible story, then ask students to act out or retell the story in their own words (maybe both). Follow with a discussion based on the questions below (choose the most appropriate and let the conversation flow). If you get time, choose another story.

FOR VERY YOUNG STUDENTS, go right to the Arch® books or another suitable Bible story book. Choose a story (if you get time, choose another story). As you read the story, have the students either act it out or make up actions with their hands. (The stories from Mark 2, Mark 10, and Luke 17—see reference list—are especially easy for very young students to pantomime.) Find parts of the story for them to repeat. When finished, ask some of the questions below, but tailor them to your students. You may want to ask students to say the story in their own words as you show them the pictures in the story book. That can be a good way to review the story.

Discussion Questions

Feel free to use your own and let the discussion flow naturally.

- Who were the main people in this story?
- Who seemed to need the most help? Why? What help did he or she need?
- Who was being ignored by other people? Why?
- Do you think other people thought that person was more or less important than themselves? How do you know (or why)?
- How did people at Jesus's time treat the people in the story we just read?
- How do you think that person might be treated in our country today?
- How do you think that person might be treated if he/she was in our class today?
- Does Jesus stay away from those people? Why not?
- What does Jesus think about people like that?
- How does Jesus treat people like that?
- Did God create that person?
- Did God send Jesus to die for that person?
- Is there something about you that makes you feel like that person?
- Does God see you as special, too?

References

- Mark 2:1-12 (paralyzed man lowered through the roof)
- Matthew 15:21-28 (Canaanite woman begging – compared to a dog at a table)
- Luke 18:35-43 (Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus)
- John 5:1-18 (Healing at pool of Bethesda)
- Mark 10:13-16 (Jesus blesses children)
- Luke 17:11-19 (10 lepers)

Corresponding Arch[®] Books (www.cph.org)

- *Down through the Roof* (Burkart)
- *Jesus and the Canaanite Woman* (Vo)
- *Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus* (Grebing)
- *Jesus Heals the Man at the Pool* (Clark)
- *Jesus Blesses the Children* (Truitt)
- *The Thankful Leper* (Hinkle)

Key Point

After Bible stories and discussion, be sure that you have emphasized that God created each person who has ever lived, including the children in the room right now. And, Jesus came to earth for each of those people, too. He died on the cross and rose from the dead for each one of us. We can all be part of God's family. He wants us to be!

Questions for Very Young Students

For very young students, you may want to ask some questions they can all answer as yes or no:

- Did God create (use the word “made” if they don’t know “create”) the person from our story (name or describe the person)? Yes!
- Did God create me? Yes!
- Did God create you? Yes! *(If time, say each child’s name)*
- Did God create everyone? Yes!
- Did God send Jesus to help (person from the story)? Yes!
- Did God send Jesus to help me? Yes!
- Did God send Jesus to help you? Yes! *(If time, say each child’s name)*
- Did God send Jesus to help everyone? Yes!

- Can I be too old for Jesus to love me? No!
- Can I be too little for Jesus to love me? No!
- Can I be too sick for Jesus to love me? No!
- Can I be too rich for Jesus to love me? No!
- Can I be too naughty for Jesus to love me? No!
- (Keep going as long as you can think of things!)

- Does Jesus want _____ to be in His family? *(Fill in the blank with anything above.)*

- *Finish with:* Does Jesus want everyone to be in His family? Yes! *(Encourage them to say it louder as you get louder.)*

Wrap-up Activity Suggestions:

Finish your lesson with something that will review and reinforce the main objectives. Here are some ideas:

- If time, have each student make a collage. (You'll need pictures of faces, scissors, glue sticks, and paper.) Older students could make a title first and then add faces all around it. (Example: God loves all people from age to age.)
- Make one larger collage with all students helping. Post it somewhere where the congregation can see it.
- Sing a song (suggestions at the beginning of the lesson).
- Act out their favorite Bible story from today.
- Choose a memory verse (suggestions at the beginning of the lesson), and assign it for next time (or see if they can repeat it back to you in small chunks today).
- As students get ready to leave the room, ask each of them to name a different part of the lesson that was important today. (If they can't think of something, send them to the end of the line to think again or help jog their memory.) High five when they do it.
- Choose a call/response to teach them. As they exit, each child is to say it (enthusiastically) in response to your call. Example: You say: Jesus loves me! They say: This I know!

"From Age to Age the Same – Sunday School Lesson" was written by Stephenie Hovland, a mother to two grown daughters, wife of a Lutheran pastor, church musician, Lutheran school teacher, speaker, and professional writer. She has been involved with Lutherans For Life for several years, mostly at the national board level. She currently teaches language arts to middle school students at St. John's Lutheran School in Portage, Wisconsin, where her husband is senior pastor.



“From Age to Age the Same” Life Sunday School Lesson – Reproducible 1



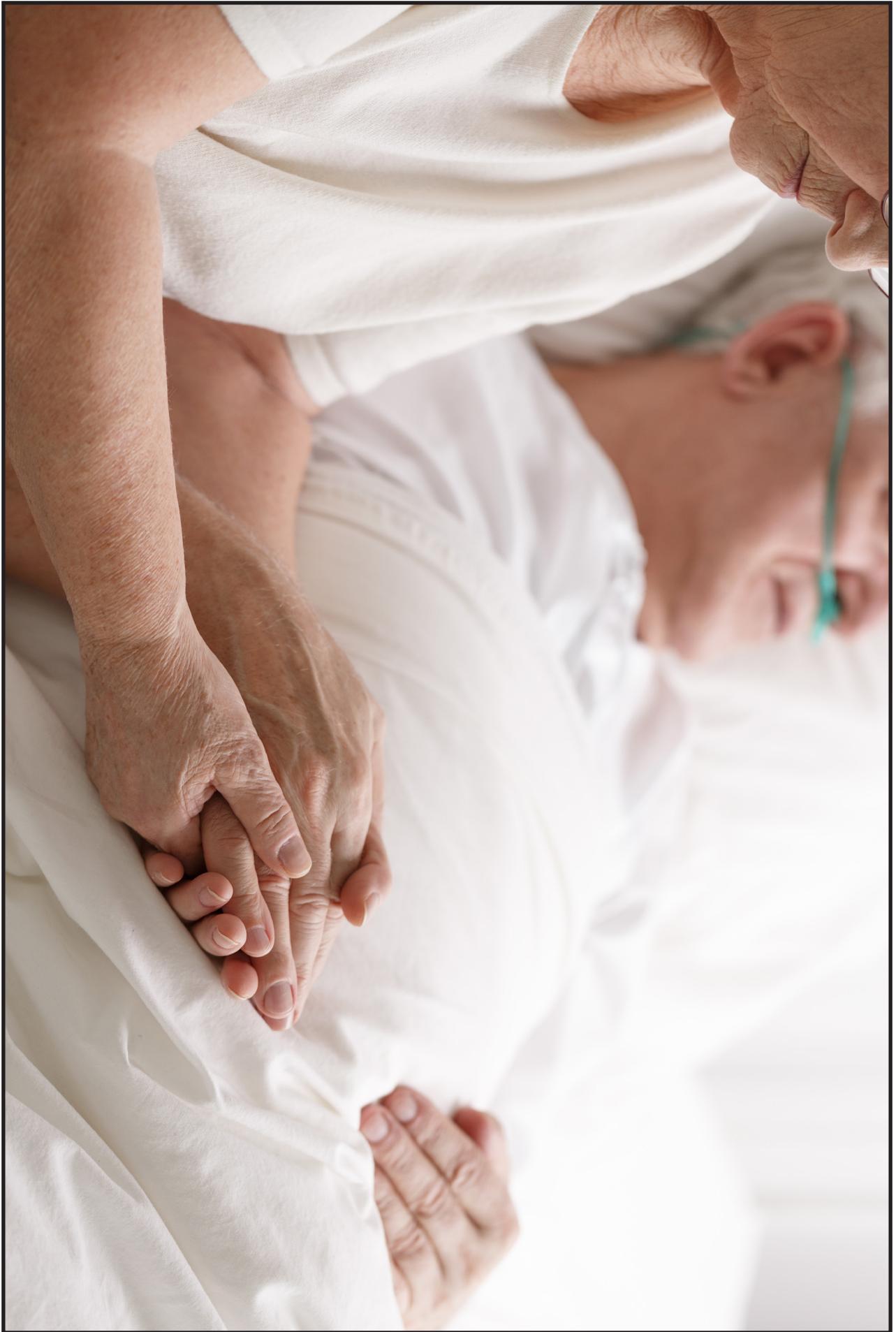
“From Age to Age the Same” Life Sunday School Lesson – Reproducible 2



“From Age to Age the Same” Life Sunday School Lesson – Reproducible 3



“From Age to Age the Same” Life Sunday School Lesson – Reproducible 4



“From Age to Age the Same” Life Sunday School Lesson – Reproducible 5



“From Age to Age the Same” Life Sunday School Lesson – Reproducible 6



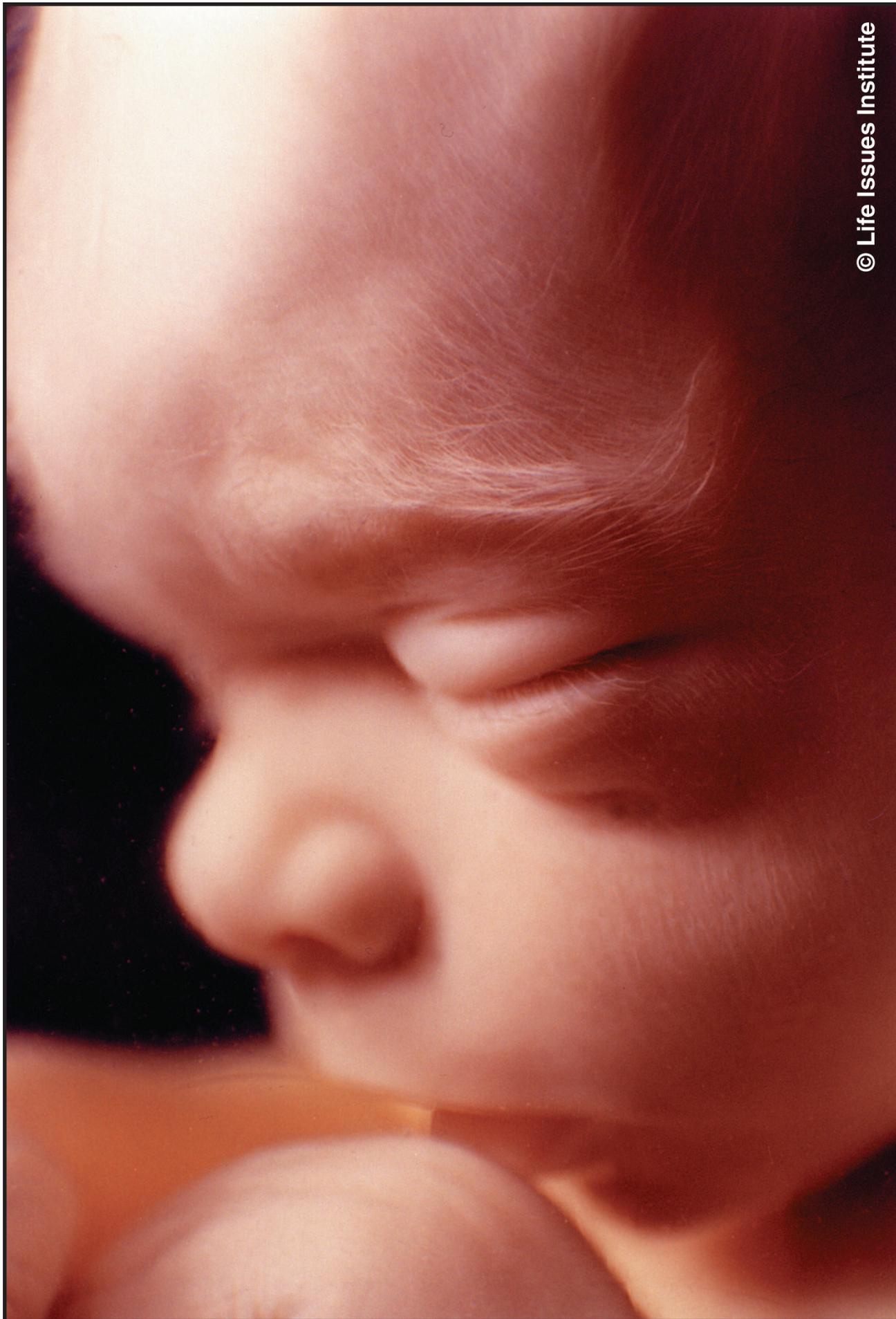
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