

## FUN FISH – Every Toddler COUNTS

### Session 8: Jesus Always Helps – EIGHT – EIGHT Helpful Hands

Memory Line: “You are precious to me.” (Isaiah 43:4 NLT)

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.*

*Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.*

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.*

### Number and Topic:

There is something out there with EIGHT knobbly legs, and you can find it anywhere in the world. They usually hide in corners, or outside in a shed. You can find them in a tree or in a bath. Can you guess? Spiders! And spiders are helpful, as well. They eat the bugs which want to gobble up plants.

### Bible Story: Eight Helpful Hands (Mark 2:1-11)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jesus

Sick man

His four friends – feel free to use cuddly animals instead

**Materials needed:** (feel free to swap the materials with what you have)

A box to use as a house, with a lid you can tear up.

A small bed with string attached to the corners. (you can use a cereal box and shoelaces)

### Reflective Time (interactive):

Ask the children – When you are sick, it is really nice when someone helps you, who brings you a drink and food. Do you know of anyone who is sick? How can you help them?

**Bean Bag Prayer:** “Dear God, thank you for helping me. Help me to help others. Amen.”

### Sing a song:

“Every Toddler COUNTS” card for this session:



### **Story 8: Eight Helpful Hands (sick man through the roof - Mark 2:1-11)**

Jesus sat inside a house. But too many people wanted to visit. They stepped on toes. They elbowed each other. "Ouch!" they said.

Four men tried to get inside. They carried a sick man on a bed. "Excuse us," they called. "We want to ask Jesus to make our friend better."

But those in front said, "Shh! Be quiet? We were here first!"

The four men stopped. Their EIGHT arms and hands ached, but they held that bed. They didn't let go. "We will help our friend," they said to each other.

Then one of them pointed up to the roof. "Let's go up there. Let's make a hole. Maybe we can get our friend to Jesus that way."

They climbed up the stairs. "Don't you worry," they told their friend.

They pulled off the tiles. One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven. EIGHT. Down below those people called, "Stop! Go away! We were here first!"

But the four men didn't listen. With EIGHT big hands they grabbed the bed. They lowered their friend.

Jesus looked up at the man. He said, "Friend, you are forgiven for everything you did wrong." Jesus knew what that man needed to hear.

The others complained. "Jesus. You can't say that. Only God forgives."

Jesus just smiled. "Is it easier to say, you are forgiven, or get up and walk?"

Nobody answered, so Jesus said, "Friend, get up and walk! Take your bed and go home."

The man moved one leg, and then the other. He jumped out of bed. He picked up his bed, up over his head! "Amazing!" everyone said. They made a path. They stepped on toes. They elbowed each other. But they didn't say "Ouch!" They laughed and cheered.