Focus: We should care for the sick.

Scripture: Mark 2:1-5 2 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. [2] They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. [3] Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. [4] Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. [5] When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2:11-12 [11] "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." [12] He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Materials Needed: Paper, crayons

Preparation: Before Story Time decide who will receive the cards

Story Time: Say to students, "Today I am going to tell you a story from the Bible. A long time ago, Jesus came to a town called Capernaum. When the people in town heard that he had gone to this one particular home, they went there to hear Jesus preach. There were so many that they could not all fit into the house. Some men had brought a friend of theirs who was paralyzed. That means he could not walk. When they realized that it was too crowded to get their friend in, they went up to the roof and cut a hole in it. They lowered the paralyzed man down. When Jesus saw their faith, he healed the paralyzed man. Jesus was very impressed with the friends that cared for this paralyzed man. We need to be like them and care for others who are sick. Do you know someone who is sick or elderly who could use some help? What could you do for them? (Wait for answers). You could visit them, make cards for them, take them gifts, make them food or treats that would help them.

Does your Mom or Dad take you to the doctor when you are sick? People in the villages of Nicaragua often do not have the money to go to the doctor or they might have to travel a long ways. *Show the first picture*. Rainbow Network provides a doctor and medicine in the village to help God make these people well. This is a miracle to heal these people just like Jesus did. *Show the second picture*. You help heal people with your offering to Rainbow Network today. Let's pray."

Prayer: Dear Lord, guide us to help people who are sick or feeling bad. Show us ways that we can help them. Amen.

Story Time Activity: Give students pieces of paper and let them make cards to take to shut-ins, those who are sick and/or those in a nursing home. Students are to fold the paper in half. They may write a message inside and decorate the front. They may make multiple cards as you have time.