Bible Verse
_Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right._
Psalm 106:3

Bible Story Reference
Mark 2:1-12

Teacher’s Devotional
The benediction of Psalm 106:3 is the answer to a question posed in Psalm 106:2: “Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise?”

The question in Psalm 106:2 is the response to the challenge in Psalm 106:1: “Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Therefore, in order to fully appreciate the blessing in verse 3, we need to consider the question in verse 2, which, of course, leads us to think about the challenge, the call to praise God, in verse 1. When the psalms issue a call to praise God, the intent is not to elicit a private, inner reflection of praise. Instead, the purpose is to produce a public declaration of God’s greatness.

But can just anyone proclaim praise to God? Is a particular type of person required to effectively lead the people in giving thanks for God’s goodness and love? Verse 3 tells us that the people who can declare praise to God are those who “maintain justice, who constantly do what is right.” Notice the repetitive nature of these actions. The psalmist is not pronouncing a blessing on those who occasionally do the right thing or those whose right actions outweigh their wrong behaviors. The psalmist is stressing the need to patiently, consistently do what is good for others. Because God is patient and consistent in doing good for us, those who would truly praise Him must seek to show that same patience and consistency toward those who need our help. What better opportunity than in our classrooms do we have to offer the patience and consistency that only God can give through us?

Character Builder
_Patiently continue to help others in the best ways you can._
Materials
Patience poster from Poster Pack; ¼ cup (2 oz.) play dough and two craft sticks for each student.

Tell the Story
Follow along with me as we use our dough to tell today’s story.

1. **Divide your dough into three sections. From one section make a house with a flat roof.** When Jesus lived on Earth, He went from town to town, teaching people about God. Besides teaching, He also healed people. If they were sick, He made them well again. If they couldn’t walk or hear or see, He made their feet or ears or eyes work the way they should.

   One day, Jesus was in the town of Capernaum. Crowds of people gathered around Him. They filled the house where He was, and they filled the front yard and the backyard, too! People stood in the doorways, leaned through the windows and sat or stood on almost every inch of the floor. Many of these people had probably come to see Jesus perform the miracles that they had seen or heard about when He was in town before.

   Nearby, there lived a man who was paralyzed. His legs did not work at all. But this man had some wonderful friends. His friends decided, “We’ll take our paralyzed friend to Jesus. Jesus can make his legs well!”

2. **From another section of your dough make a flat rectangle for a mat. Add two craft sticks, one on either side of the mat.** Each of the four friends took a corner of the man’s sleeping mat. They lifted the paralyzed man and his mat right up off the ground and started walking. It didn’t matter how heavy he seemed or how tired they got. They were going to make SURE that their paralyzed friend got to Jesus. They had heard about Jesus and knew He could help their friend!

   Finally, they came to the house where Jesus was. Well, they were ALMOST to the house. There were so many people, it was even hard to see the house! And the crowd certainly didn’t make room for them to get through. How could they carry...
their friend on his mat through ALL these PEOPLE and into the house to see Jesus?

3. **Use your third section of dough to make stairs on the side of the house.** The four friends looked at each other and wondered, *How can we get our friend to Jesus?!* Then one of them had an idea that he quickly told the others. The friends carried the man on his mat to the side of the house where there were stairs that led to the roof of the house. The friends carefully carried the paralyzed man up the stairs and onto the roof where they gently laid down their friend.

   The roof was made of mats of woven branches plastered with clay. And what do you think those friends did? They pulled up some of these mats and laid them aside. Soon they had made a HOLE in the roof! They made the hole bigger and BIGGER, until it was SO big they could lower their friend’s mat right down through it!

4. **Use all of your dough to spell “JESUS.”** The friends slid ropes under the mat and lowered the paralyzed man down through that hole until he was right in front of Jesus! Jesus looked down at the paralyzed man. He knew the man needed two things: his sins forgiven and healing. So Jesus said to him, “Your sins are forgiven. And so that everyone will know I have the power to forgive sins, pick up your mat. You can walk!”

   Right there, in the middle of that crowd, the man stood. He picked up his mat. And he walked right out of that crowded house! His friends must have been VERY happy! They had known Jesus would be able to make their friend able to walk. And Jesus did! Even better, because He is God’s Son, Jesus forgave the man’s sins!

**Focus on the Fruit**

**What did the four men do to help their paralyzed friend?** (Took him to see Jesus.)

**What made it difficult for the four men to take their friend to Jesus?** (He was paralyzed, so they had to carry him. Huge crowds kept them from going through the door.)

**Even though it was hard work to carry their friend, the four men didn’t give up. They did their best to help their friend.**

   We can patiently keep on helping others in the very best ways we can, too.

Show the Patience poster. **When we show the fruit of patience in our lives, our actions and words make a difference in the lives of those around us!**
Lesson 46

Fruitful Lives Object Talk

Bible Verse
Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right. Psalm 106:3

Materials
Bible with bookmark at Psalm 106:3, book of rules (game rule book, driver’s manual, etc.).

Lead the Activity
1. Show book you brought. What does this book tell about? (Rules for playing chess.) Why do you think rules are important? Students tell ideas. William Wilberforce’s job was making rules. He was a member of Parliament in England from 1780 to 1825. (That’s like being a member of Congress in the United States.)

2. After William became a member of God’s family, he realized that he could serve God and show his love for Him by doing his best to help others through his job in Parliament. Let’s find out what he did.

In 1788, William made a long speech in Parliament. He asked the other people in Parliament to make a new law to end slavery. Many people didn’t want to hear that slavery was wrong because they made a lot of money from selling slaves and from the work slaves did. Parliament voted down William’s idea, but William didn’t give up. Every year for 18 years, William tried to convince people to end slavery.

Finally, Parliament decided to pass a law that made it illegal to force people to be slaves. But there were still many people who were already slaves, and the new law didn’t set them free. So William’s job wasn’t over! He patiently kept working to free slaves until the end of his life. Just four days before William died, Parliament passed a law saying that ALL slavery was illegal in England and in all the British colonies.

Conclude
Read Psalm 106:3 aloud. This verse says that God is pleased when people do what is right to help others. What are some right things you can do to help others this week? Lead students in prayer, asking God to help them do their best in helping others.

Discussion Questions
1. When might it be hard to help others? (When you’re tired. When you have your own jobs to do.)

2. How can you remember to patiently do your best to help others? (Ask God’s help. Remember God’s patience with us.)
Lesson 46

Active Game Center: Towel Travel

Materials
Two of each of the following: towels, stuffed animals, balloons.

Lead the Game
1. In today's Bible story, four friends were so convinced that Jesus could help their paralyzed friend get better, they carried him on a mat all the way to the house where Jesus was.

2. Students form two teams. Teams line up in single-file lines on one side of the playing area. Give a towel and a stuffed animal to each team.

3. At your signal, the first four students on each team grasp the corners of the towel and place the stuffed animal in the center. Students walk together, carrying the animal across the playing area and back. If the stuffed animal falls off, students return to the starting point and try again.

4. When first group of students is finished, the next foursome carries the stuffed animal on the towel across the room and back. Relay continues until all students have had a turn. (Note: Some students may need to take more than one turn to provide a foursome for each turn.) Ask one of the Discussion Questions below to a volunteer from the first team to finish.

5. Now let's try to carry something a little bit tougher. Give each team a balloon. One student on each team inflates balloon. Students repeat relay, carrying a balloon instead of a stuffed animal on the towel.

Options
1. Invite students to tell other Bible story details if they have already heard the story.

2. If you have fewer than 20 students, students may work in pairs instead of foursomes to carry the towel.

Discussion Questions
1. What are some of the ways you can help people in your family? People at school? People in your neighborhood?

2. What are some of the ways people have helped you at home or school?

3. Why might you need patience when you try to help other people? (Might have to help someone more than once. Others may not seem grateful.) What might help you continue helping others, even when you don't feel like it? (Praying to God and asking for patience. Remembering how God and others have helped you.)
Lesson 46

Art Center: Circles of Patience

Materials
Large sheets of paper, a variety of circular shapes (margarine lid, potato chip can lid, pot lid, jar lid, cookie cutter, plate, etc.), markers.

Lead the Activity
1. Students trace around a variety of circular shapes to cover paper with at least eight overlapping circles. Then they fill in each circle or section with a different repeating pattern (dots, squares, flowers, squiggles, etc.). Encourage students to use a variety of patterns and colors.

2. Printing large, thick letters, students write one letter from the word “patience” in each of eight consecutive sections. Ask Discussion Questions below as students work.

Options
1. Students work together to form a large banner of many overlapping circles on butcher paper.

2. Students fill in some circles or sections with pasta shapes, glitter, seeds or confetti.

Discussion Questions
1. **Who are some people kids your age can help?** (Family members. Kids new to school. Kids who are hurt or crying. Friends.)

2. **How can we know the right way to help others?** (Ask the person we are helping. Ask a parent or teacher. Read God’s Word and know His commands. Watch others who are good helpers.)

3. **What can a kid your age do to become more patient?** (Ask God for His help. Talk to a parent, teacher or coach. Remember how God has shown patience to us. Read about people in the Bible—Noah, Job, etc.—who showed patience.)
Lesson 46

Worship Center

Bible Verse
Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right. Psalm 106:3

Materials
Bible, God’s Kids Grow cassette/CD or music video and player, “Patient Father” word chart (p. 479 in this book), large sheet of paper on which you have printed Psalm 106:3, masking tape, marker.

Sing to God
Play “Patient Father,” encouraging students to sing along with the music. What does this song tell us about God’s patience and love? Volunteers respond. What are some ways the song suggests that we can be patient? (Ask for God’s help. Be kind. Be slow to get mad.)

Hear and Say God’s Word
Display paper on which you have printed Psalm 106:3. Have a volunteer read the verse aloud. When people “maintain justice,” it means that they keep doing what is right and fair. What are some of the right things we can do to help people? (Be kind. Tell the truth. Be patient. Serve others. Share what we have.) List students’ ideas on paper under Psalm 106:3. Repeat the verse together several times, each time substituting one of the phrases suggested by students for “do what is right.”

Pray to God
Who is someone you know who patiently helps others in a good way? How? Ask volunteers to pray, thanking God for people they mentioned. End prayer by thanking God for His patience and love and asking for His help to patiently care for others.

Options
1. Students sing “You Promised!” and/or “Just Like You” (p. 487 and/or p. 477 in this book).
2. If you collect offering during this time, talk with students about the money they give as one good way to help people. Explain how some people patiently continue to give money each month to help a child in another country have food and clothes, or tell about a missionary that your church sends money to each month so that the missionary can help people learn about Jesus.

Let’s thank God that He helps us patiently continue to help others in the best ways we can.
Lesson 46

Bible Verse Coloring Center

Materials
Crayons or markers, a copy of page 43 or page 44 from Bible Verse Coloring Pages #2 for each student.

Lead the Activity
Read Psalm 106:3. When is it hard to do what is right? What can you do to remember to keep on doing what is right in situations like this? Students color picture.

Option
Each student begins coloring his or her own page. After several minutes, each student signs name on page and trades page with another student. Repeat trading several times until all pages are colored.

Service Project Center

Materials
Materials needed for “Prayer Baskets” (p. 134 from The Big Book of Service Projects).

Lead the Activity
Students complete the “Prayer Baskets” activity as directed in The Big Book of Service Projects. Regularly praying for missionaries is a way to keep doing what’s right. What are some other ways to keep doing what’s right and grow the fruit of patience in our lives?

Discipleship Activity Center

Materials
Discussion Cards for Psalm 146:7-10 (pp. 93-98 from The Big Book of Christian Growth), materials needed for “Behind-the-Back Toss” or “Add-On Answers” (p. 56 or p. 36 from The Big Book of Christian Growth).

Lead the Activity
Psalm 146:7-10 talks about some of the people whom God patiently loves and helps. Today we’re going to play a game to talk about ways we can help these people, too. Students complete activity as directed in The Big Book of Christian Growth.