



CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA
ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUE MANITOBAINE DE LA SANTÉ
МАНІТОВСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА АСОЦІАЦІЯ ЗДОРОВ'Я

Suggested Elementary School Classroom Activity

Activity 1: Be Merciful, Even as Your Father is Merciful (30mins)

Introduction

1. Let the class know that Feb 11 is the World Day of the Sick. In Pope Francis' annual message to all, he tells us two key messages:
 - a. "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36).
 - b. Standing beside those who suffer on a path of charity
2. Today, let's begin by unpacking and exploring the first part of the message. What does it mean to show mercy or to be merciful?

Showing Mercy

1. Refer to this [powerpoint](#) for all resources.
2. Hand out the Matthew: 18:21-22 Colouring Page.
3. Let students know that at one point when they were together, Peter asked Jesus, "how many times should I forgive someone? 7 times?"
 - a. Ask them to guess what Jesus' response to Peter was. How many times do you think he said?
4. Watch the [Unmerciful Servant Video](#). Pause the video at the part where Jesus answers Peter and ask students to write this down in Jesus' speech bubble. Ask the class what their reactions are to Jesus' answer. Is this difficult to do? Watch the rest of the video.
5. Write the definition of mercy on the board and take the time to explain it: Mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.
 - a. Adapt the language to the appropriate age level. A suggestion: mercy is choosing to be kind or nice to someone even though they may have done something wrong or made a mistake. This might mean forgiving someone often, like Jesus said to Peter.
6. Reiterate the message from the video: ask the class to think of how many times they may have done something wrong? Is the number large? Ask the class if they will likely continue to make mistakes or sin as they grow older? Well, we believe that if we are truly sorry for what we did wrong, Jesus will forgive us each and every time, as many times as we did things wrong. Even though this may be hard for Him because we continue to disappoint Him, Jesus loves us so much that he chooses to forgive us freely. But, He may not do this for us if we do not do the same with others.



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Activity 2: Jesus Shows Mercy to Those That are Sick and Suffering (30mins)

1. Refer to this [powerpoint](#) for all resources.
2. We hear many stories of Jesus healing the sick in the bible. Depending on the reading level of your class, read, watch or share one (or all 3) of the following stories:
 - i. Jesus heals a paralyzed man (Mark 2: 1–12):
 1. [Youtube video](#)
 - ii. Jesus heals a girl presumed dead (Mark 5: 35–43)
 1. [Youtube video](#)
 - iii. Jesus heals a woman suffering from hemorrhaging (Mark 5: 21–32)
 1. [Youtube video](#)
3. We trust that Jesus is doing the same today with those suffering from the coronavirus and other ailments. What would Jesus say to those who are sick if He were here with us today?
4. Depending on the bible story you read/shared, have students colour the image from the story and ask them to write in comforting messages that Jesus would say to comfort those who are sick. The people He healed could be the very same people who need healing today. We can offer Jesus' words of healing to help comfort them.
5. Optional: When completed, if possible, you can mail these to a Catholic seniors care home or have students take them home to mail to someone they know who is sick or suffering.