

A LESSON ON PUTTING OTHERS FIRST

GRADES 4-6 – Life is a Gift - Lesson II (Year I, Day 2)

Goal: It is natural to want the very best things for ourselves. The Gospel, however, asks each of us to put the needs of others before our own. Students will explore the gift of life learning that generosity and selflessness are integral to living a Christian life.

Materials: paper, pens, markers

Lesson: These video clips have been chosen because they illustrate self-sacrificing love for others in ways that are much smaller than Jesus' death on the cross, but they still illustrate the amazing good that comes when we put the needs of others before our own. As students watch the videos, talk about how difficult it can be to put the needs of others first, but there are amazing rewards to them and us when we do.

Watch: [Make-A-Wish Granted to Local Young Girl](#) from LOCAL 12

Discussion:

- Who is the girl who asks for a wish?
- Why is she being granted a wish?
- What does she ask for?
- What difference does it make to the people she serves?
- What difference does it make to her?

Watch: [Best Advertisement ever - Winner of Best Ad 2014](#) from VinAy KrishNan
[Kindness Boomerang - "One Day"](#) from Life Vest Inside

Discussion:

- Why is doing good contagious?
- Why do some people need a push in order to choose to be selfless while others seem to do it naturally?
- Do small acts of kindness really have a great effect on the world? Why or why not?
- Are there other people you can think of who have practiced small acts of kindness and have created massive

changes?

Activity: Appreciating Others

Have the students write thank you notes to the custodians who work in the school, or other workers in the school whose work often goes unappreciated. The purpose of this activity is to teach the students to appreciate everyone, especially the overlooked and underappreciated people in their life.

Optional (for more mature students):

If you feel your students are mature enough to handle this discussion, talk about how self-sacrificing love is what makes us truly happy, on a deeper level. Ask students if they have heard about abortion. Some people believe abortion is necessary for women to be truly happy, since women often find themselves pregnant in very difficult situations. Women in these circumstances will have to make many sacrifices to give life to their children. As human beings, we were made for this kind of self-sacrificing love, rather than to sacrifice another person's life for our own benefit. Ask students if they believe that having an abortion could truly make someone happier than giving life to their own child, even if doing so involves overcoming great challenges. If students don't agree, ask them what they think makes someone happy, and if there are deeper and more shallow levels of happiness.

[Abortion and Happiness](#) by Healing the Culture

This video is intended for older students, but you may judge your students to be sufficiently mature to understand it. Watching it yourself may also help you frame the above discussion.

Prayer:

*Bless my soul, O God, and grace it with kindness.
Deliver me from harsh judgment and careless speech.
Fill my heart with love for you and for my neighbor,
that all my words and actions shine with joy and comfort,
care, and understanding.
Make kindness the backdrop of my life.
Amen.*