

# CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

## GRADES 1-3- Lesson 1

**Goal:**

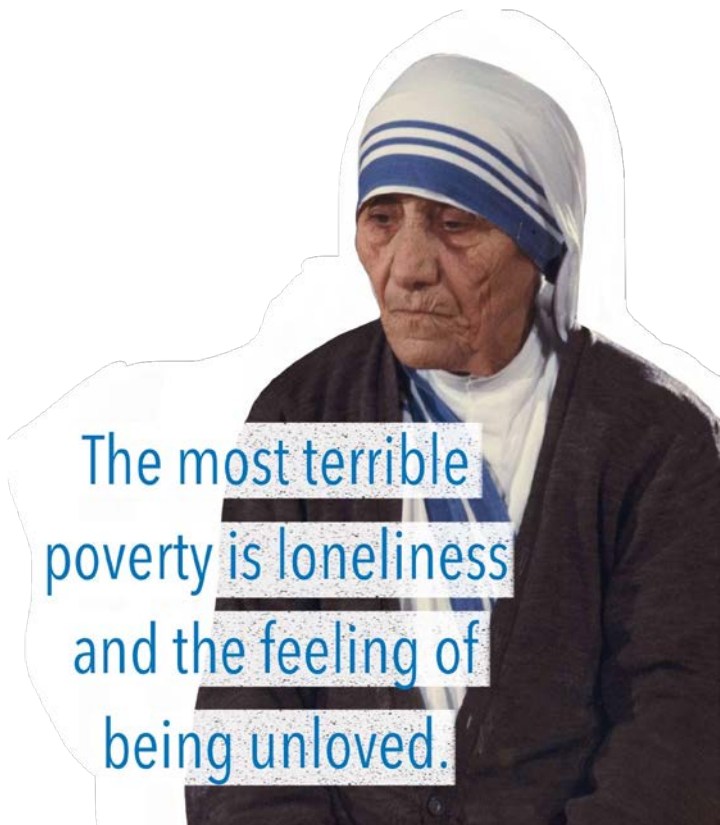
Students will be encouraged to explore the meaning of poverty here in the United States as well as around the world. What does poverty look like? Why is help for the poor central to Jesus' message?

**Lesson:**

Students will explore what is meant by poverty. They will see how Jesus wants them to treat those who are poor with dignity, care, generosity, and love. They will discuss what poverty looks like in the world around them (physical and spiritual). As Mother Teresa says, people can be just as hungry for love as they are for bread. Students will learn how to love God and their neighbor through the parable of the Good Samaritan and how they can be a Good Samaritan for others.

## Bible Story:

Watch the story of  
[the little boy who shares his lunch with Jesus](#) (John 6:1-14)



The most terrible  
poverty is loneliness  
and the feeling of  
being unloved.

### **Discussion:**

Throughout the Bible, we hear Jesus talk about his great love for the poor. He means not only people who don't have anything to eat but also people who are lonely (poor in spirit). Why does he spend so much time talking about these people? It is because people who are poor ask us for something: they ask us to be generous and kind and share what we have. Jesus wants to help each of us and He wants us to help each other too.

The story of Jesus feeding the 5000 people by sharing the little boy's lunch allows us to see that caring for the poor changes us for the better as much as it helps those in need.

- What happens in the story?
- Why are all of the people hungry?
- How does Jesus solve the problem?
- How do you think the people felt after Jesus gave them food to eat?
- Can you think of a time when you are generous with someone who did not have something that you had? Did you share with them?

### **Watch:**

- [Sesame Street talks about Food Poverty in the US](#)

### **Discussion:**

- What did you learn about people who are poor or who don't have enough food to eat?
- Can you help them? Can other people in your community help them?
- What if you learned that your friend at school was hungry and didn't bring a lunch to school? Could you help? How?

### **Activity:**

- Poverty takes many forms. There is no clear dividing line between "poor" and "not poor". It is easy to lose perspective of what other people face when we may live in a very different experience.

- Ask students to spend a few minutes thinking of all the things they have. Encourage them to write down or draw 3 things that they think they could not live without. Have them share with the class. Lead a discussion based on what students share.
  - What can we not live without? *house, family, water, food, friends.*
  - What are not actually necessities? *TV, games, vacation, toys, candy.*
  - Help students understand the difference between what is actually a necessity and what is an extra.
- Discuss ways to help people who don't have the necessities of life.

**Watch (if times allows):** [Shine](#)

**Discuss:**

- Why did people pass by the rock at first?
- How did it make the rock feel to be ignored?
- What allowed the rock to turn into a crystal?

Lead a discussion about judging people by their looks, clothing, or possessions. We know that everyone is a child of God and Jesus wants us to care for those in need no matter what they look like or where they come from. Once the rock was loved and cared for she could come to her full potential and care for the other rocks who are in the position she was. Some people need love just as much as they need food or housing. How can we feed people with love?

**Prayer:** *In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*

Heavenly Father,  
You have given us so many good things.  
You have given us our family, our friends, our home, our school, good food, and nice clothes.  
We pray for our brothers and sisters who do not have these things.  
Help us to love them and to find ways to help and serve them.  
Amen

*Lesson adapted from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace*