

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

UNIT 4

People Who Make A Difference!

Lesson 11

We Made A Differnece!

Prayer Service

Unit 4 Lesson 12

People Who Make A Difference!

We Made A Difference! Prayer Service

Lesson Overview:

'We Made A Difference!' closing prayer service acknowledges the difference we HAVE made in each other's life by modeling Jesus' unconditional love for us.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Religious Education:

Grade 4: PR1.1 Identify through examples of scripture how Jesus hears our prayer and in doing so allows us to increase in the virtues of faith, hope, and love.

Grade 6: PR1.2 Identify real life situations of injustice and develop intercessory prayers on behalf of those in need.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

A Reflective and Creative Thinker

Guiding Questions (coming out of the Big Idea)

Big Idea:

The life of prayer requires the development of habits which reflect the spirit and example of Jesus' life of prayer.

"Why does Jesus want us to ASK him to help increase our growth of faith, hope, and love? How can you SEARCH for Jesus by bringing healing to issues of poverty, starvation, oppression, prejudice, Mother Earth? When you KNOCK on Jesus' door, what does he say to you?"

Scripture Passages:

Matthew 7: 7-8

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."



LEARNING GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:

- Develop intercessory prayer reflective of the needs of individuals challenged with poverty, starvation, oppression, prejudice.

Success Criteria, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT

Terminology:

Poverty – the state of being extremely poor

Prejudice – preconceived opinion that is not based on reason

Oppression – unjust treatment

Starvation – suffering caused by hunger

Materials:

1. Copies of We Made A Difference! prayer service (*See Appendix B*) Highlight the sections you wish students to read prior to this session. Set up the video of ‘Seek Ye First’ or another suitable song
2. Maranatha Singers ‘Seek Ye First’ YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HniSUB3Qh0>
3. Copies of 5 Finger Prayer handout
4. Kid President PEP TALK <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-gQLqv9f4o>

MINDS ON (10 minutes)

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Teacher Voice:

“How can you make a difference in someone’s life through prayer? Open your hand up – fingers spread apart – your hand reminds us that prayer always makes a difference in the life of others. The 5 Finger Prayer is an inclusive prayer that teaches you to make a difference by thinking of others. Follow the instructions on the top of the handout.”

Distribute **5 Finger Prayer** handout (*Appendix A*). Students follow instructions. This reflective activity will pull together all learning throughout PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

ACTION (20 minutes)

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

Teacher Voice:

“We are going to celebrate the differences that we MADE through a special prayer service created for the closing of this unit study. Please be respectful of the readers and join together when the word **ALL** appears.” (Students need their completed 5 Finger Prayer)

Distribute or project **We Made A Difference!** prayer service handout (*Appendix B*).



CONSOLIDATION (10 minutes)

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

Teacher Voice:

“Blessed Mother Teresa made a huge difference in the life of many individuals. Another quote from Blessed Mother Teresa that is popular says ... “Faith makes all things possible; Love makes all things easy; Hope makes all things work.”

Create an ACROSTIC poem using the words FAITH, LOVE, HOPE placed vertically down the side of your paper. Select words that reflect the ‘make a difference’ journey we have traveled through this unit.

ie. F = Family A = Attitude I = Intercessory

Allow students time to brainstorm. Circulate to encourage productivity. Invite students to share their poetry with classmates. Display for the school to see.

*Differentiated Instruction: Some students may use only one or two of the three words for their poems. Assistive technology may be used.

When most students have completed their poems, play Kid President’s PEP TALK for the last moment of inspiration before closing the chapter to this unit.

Kid President PEP TALK <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-gQLqv9f4o>

CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

1. Students are encouraged to continue to make a difference from now until Lent through prayer, acts of kindness, leadership within the school community. Create an I MAKE A DIFFERENCE pledge – students sign the contract as their commitment to striving to make a difference. Allow room for teacher signature as a witness to momentous occasions.
2. Change the “Making A Difference!” Bulletin Board to read “WE MADE A DIFFERENCE!” and display their 5 Finger Prayers for others to enjoy.
3. Visit a Kindergarten class and assist those students with creating their own 5 Finger Prayer.
4. Use the resource unit “Who I AM” available at www.eoccc.org



Appendix A

Five Finger Prayer

1. Spread your fingers open - place your hand on the bottom of this paper. Very carefully trace around your hand.
2. Since your **THUMB** is closest to you, pray for the people who are closest to you. Write their names inside the thumb section.
3. The next finger is the **POINTING FINGER**. Pray for individuals who teach, instruct, and heal. They need your prayers to help point people in the right direction. Write their names in the pointing finger section.
4. The next finger is our **TALLEST FINGER**. This finger reminds us of our leaders. Pray for our Prime Minister, Principals, Vice Principals and leaders of businesses. Write their names in the tallest finger section.
5. The fourth finger is the **RING FINGER**. This finger is actually your weakest finger. Use this finger as a reminder to pray for the weak people who are in need of prayer. Write down the names of anyone who you think needs your prayer because they are in pain or are suffering.
6. The last finger is our **LITTLEST FINGER**. This is a reminder of how you should place yourself in relation to God. Write YOUR name in this finger. Now that you have taken care of the needs of others, it is time to pray for yourself.



We Made A Difference!

Prayer Service page 1

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Loving God, you call your children to love one another. We might be young and still growing but our knowledge of poverty, prejudice, oppression, and starvation have deepened during the past few weeks. We understand better why you love us without conditions and why it is important that we love others unconditionally too. We are not perfect. We try our very best. Continue to empower us to share our love willingly with others so that we may grow stronger in faith and service to you. Continue to equip us with the spiritual tools we will need in order to make a difference to self and others. Continue to encourage us to build relationships of faith, hope, and love now and forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Scripture Reading Matthew 7: 7-12

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if a child asks for a fish, will get a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.”

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the Faithful

The response is: Joyful are God’s Children when they make a difference in the lives of others.

Voice 1: Thank you Lord, for the opportunity to use our gifts and talents to benefit others. May these gifts and talents always be used to do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly among God’s precious children.

ALL: Joyful are God’s Children when they make a difference in the lives of others.

Voice 2: Thank you Lord, for the gift of communication. May this gift always be an effective tool to make positive differences in the life of others.

ALL: Joyful are God’s Children when they make a difference in the lives of others.

Voice 3: Thank you Lord, for the blessing of collaboration. May a sense of belonging to our Christian family always remind us that we are connected and interconnected through one heart, one mind, one love of Jesus.

ALL: Joyful are God’s Children when they make a difference in the lives of others.



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Voice 4: Thank you Lord, for the gift of wisdom. May the knowledge that all of God's children are born to be free always allow us to stand in unity for the needs of others.

ALL: Joyful are God's Children when they make a difference in the lives of others.

Voice 5: Thank you Lord, for the gift of courage to stand and face the change needed to make a difference. May the tenderness of our heart always have the courage to reach out to others in their time of need.

ALL: Joyful are God's Children when they make a difference in the lives of others.

Voice 6: Thank you Lord, for the gift of patience. May our listening ears always hear the voice of a friend who is need of our patience.

ALL: Joyful are God's Children when they make a difference in the lives of others.

Voice 7: Thank you Lord, for the understanding that life is to be celebrated. May we never take for granted that all life on Mother Earth is precious and deserves respect, dignity, and care.

****PAUSE****

Students take turns reading the names they have placed in the **THUMB** section of their 5 Finger Prayer.

ALL: Joyful are God's Children when they make a difference in the life of others.

Closing Prayer

Leader:

Loving God,

What a wonderful journey we have traveled. Thank you for being with us! We were introduced to amazing people who really have made a huge difference in the life of others. Those people have made a difference in our life because they have inspired us to continue to make a difference – in large and small ways. Thank you for guiding us on this journey. We ask you to bless us with all of your love; today, tomorrow, and forever. Thank you for wrapping us in your unconditional love so that we move forward in loving others unconditionally. You shared your fruit of joy, peace, and love with us. We give back to you all praise, glory, and honour. Thanks, Oh Loving God, for being who you are. **ALL: Amen**

Final Blessing

Leader: Our final blessing can be found in Numbers 6:24-26. Let's read it together.

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Closing Song – Seek Ye First