



*Working Together for Catholic Education*

# **THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE**

## **UNIT 4**

### **People Who Make A Difference!**

#### **Lesson 1**

#### **Make a Difference! Prayer Service**

## Unit 4 Lesson 1

### People Who Make A Difference!

#### Make A Difference! Prayer Service

##### Lesson Overview:

'Make A Difference!' opening prayer service acknowledges the difference we all make in each other's life by celebrating our uniqueness, talents, and special gifts through praise, thanksgiving, and worship.

**Duration:** 40-50 minute reflective moment prepares students for Social Justice journey.

#### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

##### Religious Education:

**Grade 4:** PR2.2 Describe the various forms of prayer used within Catholic Teaching and state how each form used within the Liturgy serves to deepen our relationship with God.

**Grade 6:** PR2.2 Identify and demonstrate how the Liturgy of the Word can become a source of meditation and prayer with scripture which assists us in living the Christian life.

#### ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

##### The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Solidarity  
Life and Dignity of the Human Person

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

A Reflective and Creative Thinker  
A Discerning Believer

#### Guiding Questions (coming out of the Big Idea)

##### Big Idea:

Prayer has many forms and expressions found in Scripture – blessing, intercession, thanksgiving, praise, vocal.

"Through love, how are you called to make a difference in the life of another? What gifts have you been blessed with? Which talents are you thankful for?"

##### Scripture Passages:

1 John 4:7 *"Beloved, let us love one another because love comes from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."*



## LEARNING GOALS

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

- Describe prayerful expressions of thanksgiving, praise, and blessing found in Liturgy through Scripture passages.

**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:

Beloved – a person who is loved very much

### Materials:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCtVINcmCgw>  
Kid President & Grover Pep Talk on Making a Difference
2. Copies of **Making A Difference! Prayer Service** (*Appendix A*) (Highlight the sections you wish students to read prior to this session. Set up video of closing song or prepare an alternative.)
3. Copies of **God’s Love Letter to the World** (*Appendix B*)

## MINDS ON (10 minutes)

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

Show the Kid President Pep Talk to students to hook them on ‘making a difference’.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCtVINcmCgw>

Teacher Voice:

“How have you made a difference in someone’s life by showing them love? Did you make a difference by remembering to say two very powerful words – THANK YOU! – or did you use three extraordinary words – I LOVE YOU? Take a minute to close your eyes and reflect on when you last made a difference in the life of one of God’s Children. In a moment I will ask you to open your eyes. At that time, I invite you to share your ‘making a difference’.”

(Turn off the class lights and allow a minute or two for students to self-reflect before inviting them to share. Teacher may wish to model a ‘making a difference’ moment first. If other adults are present in the classroom, they may also wish to model before students begin sharing).

### **ACTION (30 minutes)**

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

Teacher Voice:

“Thank you for sharing your wonderful ‘making a difference’ stories. We are going to celebrate the differences that we make through a special prayer service created for this session. If there is someone special in your life that makes a difference in who you are, keep their name or names in your heart throughout this prayer service. Please be respectful of the readers and join together when the word **ALL** appears.”

Distribute or project **Make A Difference!** prayer service (Appendix A). Pray together.

Teacher Voice:

“Blessed Mother Teresa made a huge difference in the life of many individuals. We will learn more about her in the coming days. One quote from Blessed Mother Teresa that is very popular is ... ‘I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.’ I wonder what God would say in a love letter to the world?”

(Collectively brainstorm ideas that might appear on God’s Love Letter – concern for Mother Earth, stewardship, unconditional love, forgiveness, the poor, Golden Rule, peace, joy, serving)

“You are God’s pencil. God is inviting YOU to write God’s love letter to the world.”

Distribute **God’s Love Letter to the World** (Appendix B)

### **CONSOLIDATION (10 minutes)**

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

Exit Card

Through love, how are you called to make a difference in the life of another? What gifts have you been blessed with? Which talents are you thankful for?

### **CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

1. Students are invited to share the reading of their love letter with the class.
2. Create a Making A Difference! Bulletin Board to display upcoming activities, including God’s Love Letter to the World
3. Student’s take Love Letter home to read to parent. Parents are invited to take on the role of The World and in one sentence, reply to God’s letter.



Appendix A

## Make A Difference! Prayer Service

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### Opening Prayer

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

*Leader: Loving God, you call us to love one another. Your love for us is without conditions. You focus on our strengths and our abilities. Empower us to share our love willingly with others so that we may grow stronger in faith and service to you. Equip us with the spiritual tools we will need in order to make a difference to self and others. We ask this through Christ, our Brother, and our Lord. Amen*

### Scripture Reading (1 John 4:7-11)

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way; God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loves us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer of the Faithful

The response is:

**Happy are God's Children who make a positive difference in the life of God's people.**

Voice 1: We pray for the gift and talents of others. May these gifts and talents be used to do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly among God's precious children.

**ALL: Happy are God's Children who make a positive difference in the life of God's people.**

Voice 2: We pray for the gift of communication. May this gift be effective in using both words and actions to make a positive difference in the life of God's precious children.

**ALL: Happy are God's Children who make a positive difference in the life of God's people.**

Voice 3: We pray for the gift of collaboration. May a sense of belonging to our Christian family remind us that we are connected through one heart, one mind, one love.

**ALL: Happy are God's Children who make a positive difference in the life of God's people.**



Voice 4: We pray for the gift of wisdom. May the knowledge that all of God's children are born to be free allow us to stand up for needs of others.

**ALL: Happy are God's Children who make a positive difference in the life of God's people.**

Voice 5: We pray for the gift of courage. May the tenderness of our heart have the courage to reach out to others in their time of need.

**ALL: Happy are God's Children who make a positive difference in the life of God's people.**

Voice 6: We pray for the gift of patience. May our listening ears hear a friend who is in need of our patience.

**ALL: Happy are God's Children who make a positive difference in the life of God's people.**

Voice 7: We pray for the celebration of life. May we never take for granted that all life on Mother Earth is precious and deserves respect, dignity, and care.

*\*Students please add any personal intentions\**

**ALL: Happy are God's Children who make a positive difference in the life of God's people.**

### Closing Prayer

*Leader: Loving God,*

*Thank you for always being with us both in our time of need and in our time of celebration.*

*Thank you for guiding us as we step forward in your love to make a difference in the lives of so many of your people.*

*Thank you for giving us the gifts, blessings, and talents we need in order to make a difference to others.*

*Thank you for wrapping us in your unconditional love so that we may love others unconditionally.*

*Thank you for allowing us to share your fruits, joy, and peace with everyone.*

*Thank you for giving us the sacrifice of your Son to light our path.*

*We give all praise and glory through the One who came to serve, your Son, Christ our Lord.*

**ALL: Amen**

### Final Blessing

*Leader: Our final blessing can be found in 2 Samuel 22:33. Let us all join together to read the final blessing.*

**All: The God who has girded me with strength has opened wide my path.**

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

*Optional Closing Song: Beautiful Child by Catherine Mackenroth (Song of Justice – YouTube)*

Appendix B



Dear World,

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Love,

God