

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

UNIT 7

Making a Difference in the World

Lesson 1

Do Something

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Lesson Overview

Students are re-introduced to Catholic Social Teaching through the theme of “Making a Difference”. Students will review what this means and will participate in a prayer service.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Religious Education:

Grade 4:

ML1.1: Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the Ten Commandments (i.e. Decalogue, Old Law) for living the Christian moral life.

Grade 5:

ML1.: Demonstrate an understanding how the New Law (i.e. Law of the Gospel, Jesus Christ, work of the Holy Spirit) expressed in the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount and “The New Commandment” leads to the perfection of the Ten Commandments.

Grade 6:

ML1.: Demonstrate an understanding of how the Natural Moral Law is the foundation for the Decalogue (i.e. Ten Commandments) and that they express the norms of reason for judging human morality and the building of the human community.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Community
Solidarity

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

CGE1b: Participates in the sacramental life of the church and demonstrates an understanding of the centrality of the Eucharist to our Catholic story

CGE1f: Seeks intimacy with God and celebrates communion with God, others and creation through prayer and worship

CGE1i: Integrates faith with life

Guiding Questions (coming out of the Big Idea)

Big Idea:

The Decalogue, the Sermon on the Mount, particularly the Beatitudes and the Tradition are sources of instruction for moral conduct i.e. for living the Christian life.

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- Why does our faith teach us to make a difference in the world?
- How can we make a difference in the world?

Scripture Passages:

- Galatians 3:26-29; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 5:1-12

LEARNING GOALS

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

- explain what making a difference means in a Catholic context
- share practical ways that they can make a difference in the world

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.

- I can tell others what making a difference means
- We are called to make a difference because...
- Some practical ways to make a difference are...
- Ways that Jesus made a difference were...
- A way that someone made a difference in my life was...

Teachers can use these criteria for assessment by examining the responses that students share on the Padlet wall/board/chart paper during this lesson. Since this is an introductory lesson, the assessment that takes place in this lesson should be diagnostic, with the hope that students are activating prior knowledge to share their thoughts. The success criteria above can be assessed through formative and summative evaluations in subsequent activities in this social justice unit.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT

Terminology:

- Catholic Social Teaching
- Dignity
- Ubuntu
- Gentile
- Charity

Materials:

- Computer
- Speakers
- Smart Board/Screen & Projector
- Prayer Table
- Bible

Resources:

- Prayer Service: Go Make a Difference (*see Appendix 1*)
- Music Video – Do Something (Matthew West)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8
- Music Video - Unwavering (Matt Maher):

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	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUxzGF5RGZg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Music Video – Go Make a Difference ‘with lyrics’ (Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek) <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDjQEoltGzQ</p>
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MINDS ON

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

Note: Consider rearranging the classroom for the prayer service (desks to the side, chairs in rows or in a circle, prayer table or an appropriate place for the lectors). Consider inviting the local parish priest or deacon to preside at the prayer service.

Students are introduced to the theme of the unit: ***Making a Difference in the World***. Remind them that the unit focuses on social justice, and the Catholic Social Teaching of the Church. Students are asked, “*What does making a difference mean?*” Students are invited to share their responses digitally, by inputting their responses using an application such as Padlet (if necessary, the sharing can take place using a board/chart paper). Discuss the responses with the class.

Introduce the “Do Something” music video by Matthew West as a song that is about making a difference. View the video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8

Afterwards, ask the class if there were any examples of making a difference that were not mentioned in the earlier discussion. Any additions from the video may be added to the list.

ACTION

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

Remind students that one way that we can make a difference is through prayer. Introduce the prayer service to the class. Request or assign 14 students to proclaim the readings and Prayer of the Faithful (The teacher will preside in the absence of a priest or deacon). Provide them with copies of their readings and allow 5 -10 minutes to practice.

**Differentiated instruction: Provide students with the readings earlier for extended practice.*

Encourage students to sing and to respond to the best of their ability, and highlight the importance of active and conscious participation.

CONSOLIDATION

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

Journal/Reflection:

- Invite students to think of a situation where someone has made a difference in their life.
- Students are asked to reflect on how they have made a difference before.

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	CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
	<p>Further extensions to this lesson might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search for more Christian music videos that are about making a difference. Invite students to share a video and explain how it relates to making a difference in the world.• Use lessons from resource “Who I AM” at www.eoccc.org

APPENDIX 1 – page 1

Prayer Service: Go Make a Difference

Opening Song

Presider: Please join in singing our opening song, “Unwavering”.

Unwavering (Matt Maher): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUxzGF5RGZg>



Introduction

Reader 1: Each of us is created in God’s image, and has the right to be treated with dignity as a child of God. We reflect on the following words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa:

Reader 2: “As a created and precious child of God I have been blessed with a great sense of dignity. Recognizing that we are all created as sisters and brothers belonging to a common humanity, leads us to treat one another with respect. Our sense of dignity is affirmed when our uniqueness is recognized and valued by those around us, as we all become global citizens.”

Reader 3: “Africans have something called Ubuntu. It captures the essence of being human. It embraces hospitality, caring about others, being able to go the extra mile for the sake of others. We believe that a person is a person through another person; that my humanity is caught up, bound up, inextricably, with yours.”

Reader 4: “Respecting a person takes account of their feelings and experiences; their social situation; their ethnic, religious, and sexual identity, though they may be very different from my own. The practice of Ubuntu demands an open-mindedness that celebrates difference, recognizing the validity of others’ circumstances and experiences. It recognizes the uniqueness of each person and looks for the image of God in the other.”

Opening Prayer

Presider: We begin with the sign of our faith ...

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

Presider: Loving God, as we gather together in prayer, help us to open our minds to be fully aware of Your presence. Help us to fully understand our calling so that we can make a difference in the world. We ask You for the gifts of courage and strength to reach out to those who need it most, so that they may be truly loved for who they are, Your children. Amen.

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Scripture Passage: Galatians 3:26-29

Presider: Let us now reflect on a reading from scripture:

Reader 5: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians:

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Presider: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Presider: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection (adapted from Go Make a Difference, Deacon Michael Bickerstaff, integratedcatholiclife.org):

Reader 6: The purpose of salt in Jesus' time was to both preserve food and to enhance its flavor. He tells his disciples that if they are not helping to preserve the lives of those they encounter and to make them better, then they (His disciples... and us) are not who they were made to be... and get this, they are worthless; "no longer good for anything". Like a city set on a hill, the lives we live are to shine like beacons in a world filled with darkness and point to the Good News and give glory to God. His words direct us out from ourselves towards others.

Reader 7: We are called to a life of charity. We are called to give, but we are also called to teach others so that they can help themselves too. We are called to empower others. Charity is not only the path to Heaven, it is the path to peace and joy for our lives in this world, even though we may find ourselves surrounded with negative situations. To be selfish and love only inwardly may lead to great worldly riches, but history and our own personal experience surely demonstrate that this never leads to peace, joy and lasting happiness.

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Reader 8: Jesus has given us our marching orders. He has delivered the inspiring message we need to see us to the end of our race. So, as St. Paul would say, “Go run the good race and fight the good fight.” There is no better life we can lead than this. There is no better gift we can give others than the gift that the Lord has entrusted to us. *Go make a difference* for the Lord.

Prayer of the Faithful

Presider: The response to the petitions is: Lord, hear our prayer as we go and make a difference.

All: Lord, hear our prayer as we go and make a difference.

Reader 9: For our Holy Father Pope Francis, our bishops, and all of the clergy, that they continue to make a difference and that they may be strengthened by our prayers, nurtured by our gratitude, and renewed by our pledge of support, we pray to the Lord. R.

Reader 10: For young people seeking to be the light of the world, that they may know the life that flows through the Eucharist into our lives, we pray to the Lord. R.

Reader 11: That the Lord will continue to provide his vineyard with workers engaged in the challenging yet rewarding ministry of making a difference in the world, we pray to the Lord. R.

Reader 12: For the poor and the rejected, may they be comforted by the knowledge that Jesus reveals all things to those who follow him in the path of meekness and humility, we pray to the Lord. R.

Reader 13: For those who are sick, lonely, and unemployed, that they may find the rest in the presence of the spirit of God that dwells within them, we pray to the Lord. R.

Reader 14: For all those who have died, that they may be brought to the safe pastures of joy and peace, we pray to the Lord. R.

Presider: Loving father, we ask that you hear these prayers and those that remain in our hearts, through Christ, Our Lord. **All: Amen.**

Closing Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray ...

God of Love,

Flow through us as we learn more about how we can make a difference, and help us bring light to our beautiful yet broken world. May we use our gifts to create communities of belonging where love and justice reign and where our faith is evident in our actions. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Closing Song:

Presider: Please join in singing our closing song, “Go Make a Difference”.

Go Make a Difference (Steve Angrisano & Tom Tomaszek): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDjQEoltGzQ>