



Learning about the Works of Mercy

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *Learning about the Works of Mercy* to the children, take time to familiarize yourself with the contents. Review this handout and how it correlates to the children's resource.

The resource is designed for children to interact with. Have the children follow along as you read aloud, and engage them in hands-on interaction with the resource, as suggested in the teaching steps below.

Background

The Church bases the Works of Mercy on these teachings of Jesus: "I was hungry and you gave me food... thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me... whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:35-40). The Corporal Works of Mercy are ways we respond to this teaching by caring for the physical and material needs of our neighbors. The Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to care for their spiritual and emotional needs.

Cultivating compassion in children begins with helping them feel and express gratitude for the gifts they've been given. Help them see that all gifts come from our loving Father, who calls us to love others as he loves us. Help children understand that even the smallest works of mercy can be great in God's eyes.