

Lesson 18

Works of Mercy

Lesson Objectives

- Realize that Christian morality includes compassion for the poor.
- Explain the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
- Increase your desire to help the poor, as did Saint Basil.

Lesson Summary

In this lesson, we will see that “neighbor” includes those who are poor and in need.

Lesson Plan

Introduction (Minutes 1-10)

- Pray the Opening Prayer together.
- Review the introduction.
- Show a video or song.

Review Point 1: Compassion for the Poor (Minutes 10-15)

Ask the students: What are some ways that you can “stand as one” with people in need? Some examples might be donating food or clothing to a shelter or raising money for a poor family.

Review Point 2: Corporal Works of Mercy (Minutes 15-20)

- For reflection: Think about times that you’ve helped someone in need.

Review Point 3: Spiritual Works of Mercy (Minutes 20-25)

- Ask the students: Which of the spiritual works of mercy seems the hardest and which seems the easiest?

Activities: Choose 1 or 2. (Minutes 25-30)

Activity 1:

For each work of mercy, write C if it is a corporal work of merit and S if it is a spiritual work of mercy.

Answer key:

1. **(S)** Bear wrongs patiently.
2. **(C)** Visit the imprisoned.
3. **(C)** Give drink to the thirsty.
4. **(S)** Forgive injuries.
5. **(C)** Visit the sick.
6. **(S)** Counsel the doubtful.
7. **(S)** Instruct the ignorant.
8. **(C)** Feed the hungry.
9. **(C)** Bury the dead.
10. **(S)** Admonish the sinner.
11. **(C)** Shelter the homeless.
12. **(C)** Clothe the naked.
13. **(S)** Pray for the living and dead.
14. **(S)** Comfort the sorrowful.

Activity 2:

Create a mercy posted.

Answer key:

- Answers will vary.

Prayer and Role Model (Minutes 30-35)

- Pray From the Maronite Tradition (Together)

Complete Recall Section (Minutes 35-40)

Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

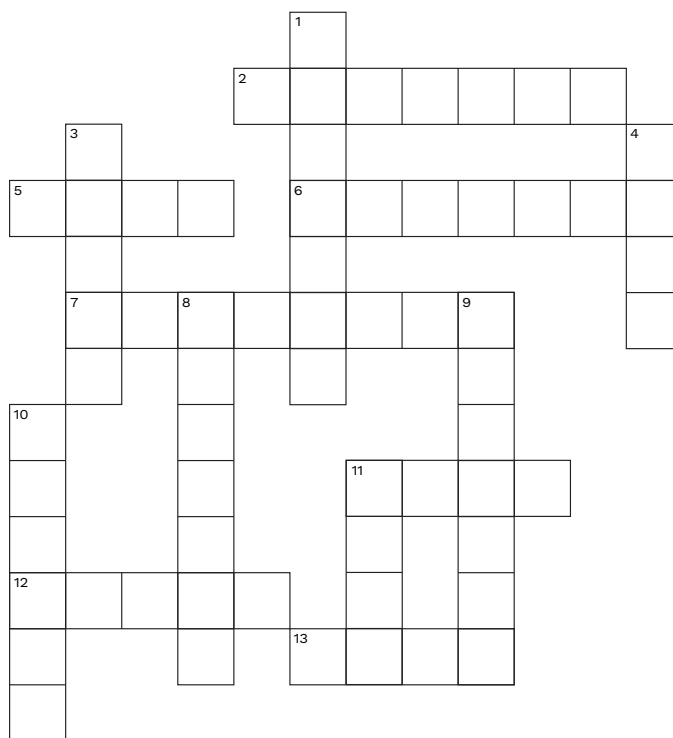
Answer key:

Down:

1. Comfort
4. Feed
8. Shelter
9. Thirsty
10. Sinner
11. Bear

Across:

2. Counsel
3. Visit
5. Sick
6. Forgive
7. Instruct
12. Naked



Review Weekly Journal (Minutes 40-44)

For Additional Reflection:

Think about a work of mercy that you and your family can do this week.

Closing (Minutes 45)

- Pray the Concluding Prayer together.

Optional

- Use the Climbing Mountain Section and Reaching the Summit Section.