

First Grade: Lesson 16

YOU ARE SPECIAL

Lesson Objective:

This lesson helps children understand that people are a special part of God's creation, and that each person matters to God. Catechists should help the children understand that God wants us to treat each other with love and kindness and that our behavior matters.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Recognize that each person is unique and unrepeatable and that our bodies reveal the person.
- Recognize that our behavior affects others.
- Recite the two Great Commandments: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:36-40).
- Recognize that God calls us to make a gift of ourselves in love.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bibles, pencils, crayons
- Copies: Love your neighbor coloring sheet (optional), Create a person in God's Image, Serving God activity page, Good Neighbor Game (time permitting)

As Students Enter Class:

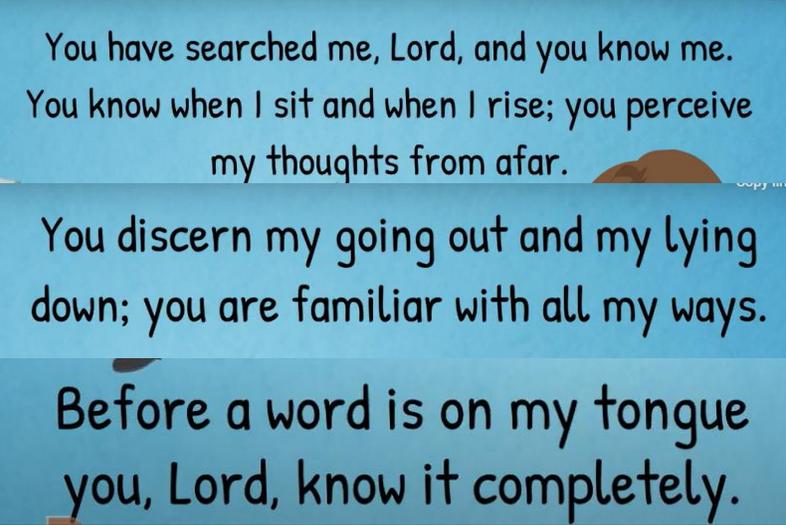
- Consider having a coloring sheet available for students to keep busy while they wait for class to begin.
- [Love Your Neighbor Coloring Sheet](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer you have been working on.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
<p data-bbox="203 233 467 275">Lesson 16 Video</p> <p data-bbox="203 663 594 968">You have an opportunity here to give students a Bible and have them follow along. If you prefer, you can read the Bible passage and then finish the video.</p>	<p data-bbox="625 233 1073 275">This video is 3:29 in length.</p> <p data-bbox="625 317 1406 663">Highlights: When we come together as a Catholic Community, that makes God very happy. God loves all of us very much. Did you know that you are special and unique and unlike any other person? Because God loves us so much, we want others to know and feel God’s love, too. Being kind to our friends and all other people we meet is an important part of being Christian and a disciple of Christ.</p> <p data-bbox="625 705 1406 894">Jesus tells us how to live with the two great commandments he gave us. Carla reads from Matthew 22:26-40. She then gives examples of how we might see people not being treated with the love and kindness God expects.</p> <p data-bbox="625 936 1406 1167">We must take care of creation, and this includes our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we see a classmate struggling or hurting, we demonstrate our faith by showing that person care and concern. To be a disciple of Jesus means being kind to others.</p>
<p data-bbox="203 1241 492 1314">Story of the Good Samaritan</p>	<p data-bbox="625 1241 1360 1356">This video is 3:06 in length. This is a Catholic Relief Services Video. Parts are animated and other parts have current photographs.</p> <p data-bbox="625 1398 1398 1514">Highlights: Who is my neighbor? To help His disciples understand this question, Jesus shares the parable of the Good Samaritan.</p> <p data-bbox="625 1556 1419 1745">The video tells the story of the Good Samaritan then asks: How can we be good Samaritans for children and their families who are in need in our world? Real life examples of families in need are shared.</p> <p data-bbox="625 1787 1357 1858">Through Catholic Relief Services, we can help families, lift them up, and give them tools to</p>

	<p>rebuild their lives. For example, we help provide food, water, education and shelter.</p> <p>So, who is my neighbor? Everyone! All men, women, and children from all around the world. We are invited to love them, just as Jesus does. REFLECTION: What did you hear? What stuck out to you as important or good to know?</p>
<p>Love Your Neighbor Reflection</p>	<p>This video is 2:44 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: This animated video has a song with the words that appear on the screen.</p> <p>REFLECTION: How can you show love to your neighbor? Remember your neighbor is every person on this Earth.</p> <p>You may want to do the Serving God Activity Page now.</p>
<p>Meditation: Use Your Gifts to Serve Others</p>	<p>This video is 2:00 in length.</p> <p>You may want to dim the lights and encourage students to calm themselves and listen to the ways we can serve God, by serving other people.</p> <p>REFLECTION: Ask students to share an example from the video of how we can serve God.</p> <p>Ask students to think about finding one new way to serve God this week. If they would like to share, please provide the time to do so.</p> <p>If students are stuck, here are a few prompts or examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put some coins in the Rice Bowl or in the Offertory at Mass. • Be kind to one new person at school this week (smile, say good morning, invite them to play or read with you). • Help someone at home clean up or complete a chore.
<p>Meditate on Psalm 139</p>	<p>This video is 2:45 in length.</p>

<p>Encourage students to look at the pictures of Jesus in each slide and make a mental note what He is doing. Then provide sharing time when the video is done.</p> <p>You may want to have a prayer journal page available for this activity.</p>	<p>Highlights: Here are the first few lines of Psalm 139:</p>  <p>The entire Psalm is read and appears on the screen. Encourage students to quiet their minds and listen; perhaps dim the lights to help calm them down, so they can spend just a few minutes practicing how to meditate. Sometimes taking a few deep breaths also helps students calm down and focus.</p> <p>If you would like, students can make an entry in their prayer journals, based on Psalm 139.</p>
<p>Create a Person in God's Image</p> <p>** You may want to make a list on the board or a large piece of paper that contains words that describe qualities of person who are like God.</p>	<p>This activity asks students to draw a picture of a person created in God's image and list the qualities that make this person like God.</p>
<p>Serving God Activity Page</p>	<p>Students are asked to think and draw how they can serve God now and when they are older.</p> <p>If you didn't do this sheet earlier in class, you can do it now.</p>
<p>Good Neighbor Game</p>	<p>The majority of first graders will not be able to read the situation cards to play this game.</p>

	<p>However, you can make it a fun activity by reading some of the questions and giving each student a chance to answer what you should do in that situation to be a good neighbor.</p> <p>You may want to pass out a piece of candy to each student after they answer their question.</p>
Closing Prayer	Model a prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for one specific gift each of you have.