

YEAR LEVEL	Years 1 & 2
TITLE	Our Call to Mission
STRAND	CHRISTIAN MORALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
SUGGESTED DURATION	4 - 5 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	What does it mean to be Christian? How do I choose to share God's love with all?



Unit Focus

In this unit will develop the students' concept of mission as being like Jesus, caring and sharing in a loving way for people in need. This unit will assist students to discern how they can share with others in need, in their family, school, in their own country and overseas.

Achievement Standards

By the end of **Years 1 & 2** :

Students identify the actions of Jesus that show us how to love and care for others in different ways.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. Articulate examples of how we care for others.
2. Identify ways we participate in Jesus' mission by sharing in a loving way with people in need.

Key Understandings for Students

- Jesus shows us how to share in a loving way.
- We are to share with others as Jesus did.
- When we share with people less fortunate than ourselves, we live as Jesus shows us.

Student Context

Students in Years 1 & 2 are becoming conscious of significant role models and imitate both their ways of acting and the attitudes they express. The values and patterns of behaviour they develop as followers of Jesus help them to begin to relate to others in a sensitive and responsible way.

Theological Background for Teachers

- Prior to the Second Vatican Council, Mission was understood to refer to the Church's work for the salvation of souls, which was carried out for the benefit of non-Christians abroad, mainly by priests, religious brothers, nuns, and specially commissioned lay people, with the financial and spiritual support of the laity back home. The goal of mission was to establish the Church in these 'mission fields.' Mission, at this time, meant foreign mission, that is, mission in all the continents that were not considered already Christianised.
- The understanding of Church and the understanding and practice of mission has changed since Vatican II. The contemporary Church's identity is rooted in the mission that Jesus received from his Father. Thus, the Church has as its mission the establishment of the reign of God.
- Jesus lived and preached the values of the reign of God. Many of his Parables speak of the reign of God, and His miraculous deeds are signs that the reign of God had drawn near in his ministry. This new world order is said to be of God because its arrival signals the gracious, forgiving, and redeeming presence of Yahweh in the world, and is not the fruit of human efforts. This way of being is open to all people, and all are invited to transform their lives according to its values, but it is given especially or 'preferentially' to those who are marginalized, that is, the poor, the afflicted, the oppressed, the captives (Luke 4: 18).
- The present-day work of mission is a continuation of the establishment of the reign of God, and all the baptised are called to this task, even though some are more engaged in 'missionary' activities than others.
- This understanding of mission prompts cooperation with all Christians, and with the followers of other religions as well, since they too are called to the reign of God, even though not all of them will join the Church.
- Mission is proclaimed through personal witness, dialogue and through projects of evangelisation, healing, teaching, development, or liberation. The Holy Spirit through the whole community of believers inspires and directs the mission of the Church. Christian mission is no longer a one-way proclamation of a message of salvation to a world of pagans bereft of God's self-revelation and grace, but first a search for and recognition of the presence and activities of the Holy Spirit among the peoples to be evangelised.
- Mission is directed to the whole world, including the cosmos, with less distinction between believers and non-believers. This considers that many people are nominally Christian but have yet to grasp what the Gospel means.

Phan, P. *Proclamation of the Reign of God as Mission of the Church: What For? To Whom? By Whom? With Whom? And How?*

<http://www.mcauley.acu.edu.au/theology/Issue2/issue2.htm>

	Before Vatican II	Since Vatican II
What is mission for?	The Church's work for the salvation of souls.	For the full realization of the Kingdom of God, which is already-but-not-yet, present-and-future, realized-and-eschatological.
To whom?	Carried out for the benefit of the pagans abroad.	To the whole world in all its dimensions and arenas, including the cosmos, to all peoples whatever their religious faith.
By whom?	Mainly by priests, religious brothers, nuns, and specially commissioned lay people, mostly from Europe and America.	By God, first, because the Church's mission is nothing but a continuation of God's mission in Jesus; and secondly, by all, hierarchy, and laity, even though some are more engaged in "missionary" activities than others.
With whom?	With the financial and spiritual support of the laity back home.	With all Christians, and not only with Catholics, without denominational confrontation and competition; and furthermore, with the followers of other religions as well, since they too are called to the reign of God, even though not all of them will join the church.
How?	By planting the church in these "mission fields".	By personal witness and dialogue.

Scripture

John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Major Assessment Task

Students create a little book, 'How I care for others' by (students name).

Students use pictures and sentences to show how they care for others in their family, their classroom, and their town.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity

Read *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MugWfjAyoiw>

Discuss the message of the story.

- Brainstorm all the people who do kind things for us to show that they care for us. Who are these people? What do they do? How does it make you feel when they show care?

- How do you show you care for other people? Think about how you show care for people in your house, in your school, in the community. Students draw a picture of how they care for others with a display under the title, 'We care for others.'
- There are some people in our world who don't have all the things that we have. List what people might not have. (e.g. Some children may not have enough food.).
- Create a class Y chart of the two concepts of caring and sharing. (This can be added to as the learning progresses).
- Share with students the Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFORvXhub28>
- The Rainbow fish did not share his pebbles. What happened to the Rainbow fish when he didn't share? Why did the Rainbow fish share his rainbow pebbles at the end?
- Students think of a time when we have shared something. What did you share, how did it make you feel when you shared? Make a class collage of words and pictures about sharing. There are many people who cannot share anything because they don't have enough. Brainstorm things students can share with those less fortunate (e.g. tinned food, clothing, money, prayers, and time). Invite a representative, if possible, from Vinnies, or the Parish or another local group to talk about how they share donations with those who don't have enough.
- Jesus wants us to love and care for everyone. He asks us to love everyone as He loves us. Can you think of ways that Jesus showed his love for people? (eg. healing people, feeding people etc.) We can do this in many ways such as praying for them, doing small jobs, visiting etc. Who are the people in our community who may need us to love and care for them? Complete activity in **Appendix 1**. Display as a mobile.
- Students view stimulus pictures of people in the community and families who show care and kindness to others. (e.g. Groups like St Vincent De Paul, Mission Australia, Caritas.). What do you see the people in the picture do to show that they are caring?
- Listen to 'We are God's hands' by Andrew Chinn. Students trace their hands and write down what they can do to help others. Display the hands around the room with the heading, 'We are God's hands.'

Prayer and Ritual

Students are gathered with the hands that they wrote upon about what they can do to help others. They share their prayers.

Dear God,

Help us to live out your love, by caring for others.

We care for others by.... (Students read out their message which had been written upon the hand created previously)

Play 'We are God's hands' to close the prayer.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Showing Love