

YEAR LEVEL	3 & 4
TITLE	Reaching Out and Serving Others
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 students will explore the concept of loving service and relate it to mission, based on Jesus' example. Students will explore ways in which Christians serve other people, particularly those overseas. There is an emphasis on students applying this understanding of mission to the global reality.

Achievement Standards

By the end of **Year 4** students should be able to:

Explore the concept of service within their communities and identify how they can use their gifts within their community.

Unit Outcomes

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

- 1. Name examples of service and reaching out within their own communities and throughout the world.**
- 2. Explain the meaning of mission as service as it was modelled and taught by Jesus.**

Key Understandings for Students

- We are called to serve others as Jesus did.
- When we reach out to others in compassion and love we are living as Jesus did.
- There are people within Australia and overseas who work to bring the good news of the Gospel to those in need.

Student Context

The student's concept of service is grounded in family experiences. They understand that parents display service particularly by the care they offer and by self-sacrifice. Students at this age may also understand the idea of service in terms of the attention of waiters and waitresses and shop assistants, something that is expected by those purchasing goods and services. Students would understand that being of service to others has benefits for oneself.

Whilst this unit builds upon the work completed in past units, students are still at an age where there continues to be a need to emphasise the connection between the local and global perspectives of Christian mission as serving others with Jesus. Therefore making a link between the notions of love, service and Jesus is very important.

Theological Background for Teachers

- Prior to Vatican II, 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 have 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 marginalised, that is, the poor, the afflicted, the oppressed, the captives (Lk 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 of all 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 takes into account that many people are nominally Christian but have yet to grasp what the gospel means.

- Whilst the content threads of mission education are woven throughout the primary syllabus, these units explicitly focus on Jesus, the reign of God and the call to mission. The aim of these units is to develop a contemporary understanding and appreciation of mission, which is to realise more fully the reign of God.

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>

Scripture

Rom 12:9-13 Marks of the True Christian

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Suggested Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks for this unit may include:

Students complete a collage of words, images and phrases of examples of people in the community ' Reaching out and Serving others.'

Under the collage on another sheet of paper they select 2 images, words or phrases from the collage and write a sentence about why they have included this image.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity

Students view [Kindness Boomerang](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwAYpLVyeFU) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwAYpLVyeFU>)

This video is about different ways we can reach out and serve others. Students watch the video and record how they see others reaching and serving.

- Students explore what the words reaching out and serving others mean. Does one come before the others? To do this students complete a placemat strategy. Each student completes 2 different placemats one for each concept. They hand their placemat back to their teacher, this will be added to at the completion of the learning.
- Students list the examples of reaching out and service they have noticed. They organise these into thoughts about how they have noticed people serving others at home, at school, in the community and the wider world.
- Share Scripture and discuss with students. Ask students to complete a Billboard about the scripture or graffiti wall. What are the actions of service demonstrated by Jesus? What does this Scripture say about how Jesus wants us to ' go and do the same'? How can you go and do the same?
- Students explore groups that model service in the wider community. Eg: Caritas, Mission Week resources
 - What do they do?
 - What is their symbol?

- Who do they help?

Create an advertisement for one of these groups under the heading 'Go and Do the Same.'

- Create a classroom symbol of service, for example hands, mission box. Keep the symbol prominent for the duration of the unit.
- Listen to **Rom 12:9-13 Marks of the True Christian** and then discuss with students:
Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
Select one of the highlighted elements of the scripture and connect this with an act of reaching out and serving others that you have seen recently. Eg: news, at home, at school.
- Students write a prayer in reflection of Rom 12:9-13.
- Listen to [These hands](#) (Andrew Chinn). We are called to reach out and serve others.

Prayer Ritual

Gather students around the prayer space and begin with the Sign of the cross.

Invite the students to position themselves comfortably and to relax their bodies and minds.
Begin with a Call to Prayer (such as thirty seconds of silence, a bell or other soft noise)

Leader:

Let's close our eyes and begin our meditation.

Silently repeat the statement: 'We Are God's Hands' in your heart. It may help to picture God, or Jesus. Begin the prayer in your heart with this statement.

If you realize that you have stopped saying your statement because your mind has wandered from your prayer, don't worry. Simply begin saying the prayer again.

We'll meditate for about __ minutes; I will let you know when our time of prayer is finished.

At the end of your period of prayer, close with a short prayer of thanksgiving and the Sign of the Cross.