

Share with Others

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 21, ages 3-4

Lesson 21 Goal

- Your child will learn Jesus' teaching about sharing and will talk about ways we can share with others.

Key Points

- Jesus taught that we should share with others.
- God sometimes gives us "extra" so that we can share.



Parent Reflection

The Early Church placed a high priority on sharing with one another, and Scripture describes Church members as having "all things in common" (Acts 2:44). The cohesiveness of their community helped the early Christians to face extreme persecution and fulfill Christ's mandate to "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15).

The Second Vatican Council defined "common good" as "the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 26).

Another essential aspect of community life is special concern for the least among us. Jesus said, "as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). We must recognize and appreciate the dignity present in each member of society and see each person as a unique being, created in God's image. We must work to meet the needs of all, especially basic needs such as food, shelter, safety, education, and health care.

Reflection Question

What have I been given to share with others? How do I show particular care to the "least of these"?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- washable tempera paint
- paintbrush
- paper plates
- Lesson 21 Activity Master – Saint Page

(included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Prepare a surface for working with paint and be prepared to wash the paint off your child's hands.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Pray together: *"Thank you, God, for sharing your Son Jesus. Help us to share, too. Amen."*

Discovering

Share What You Have. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about sharing.

Ask your child, "What kinds of things can you share?"

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the "Ask Me!" questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child's understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Who Is Sharing? Turn to the drawing in the

main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Sharing Hands. Paint your child's palms with washable paint and press his or her palms onto a paper plate. Write on the plate "*(Child's Name)* has sharing hands."



3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Damien of Molokai. Show your child the picture of Saint Damien of Molokai on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Damien to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, "Who do you have to help you when you are sick?"

Have your child write and draw about Saint Damien of Molokai using the Lesson 21 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“Dear God, sometimes it’s hard to share. Help us share what we have with others, just like you share everything with us. Amen.”

Saint Damien of Molokai

Loving the “Untouchables”

Damien sat under a tree and looked around him. He was on the island of Molokai, in the Hawaiian Islands. Many people thought this was among the most beautiful places on earth. Colorful, fragrant flowers grew everywhere. Mountains covered with green vegetation poked up above a blue ocean. But not everyone was happy to be there.

The people of Hawaii had developed a very strong sickness called leprosy. People believed that you could get leprosy just by touching a sick person. It wasn’t as easy as that, but still, leprosy was easy to catch. Nobody wanted to be near a leper. So all the lepers were sent to live on Molokai.

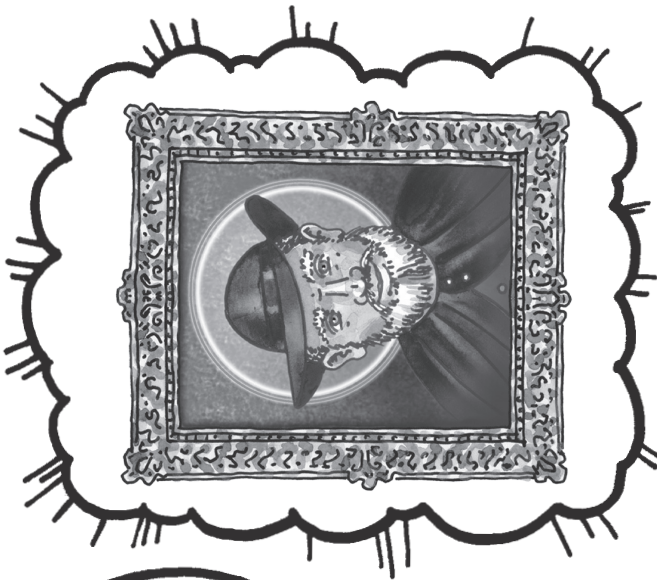
The people on Molokai did not have anyone to nurse them back to health. They were too sick to take care of their homes and did not have

anyone to help them. They believed that they would die without anyone to love and care for them.

Father Damien decided that he would go to them. He knew that helping people with leprosy might make him die, but he could not leave them alone. Father Damien traveled across the ocean so that he could be their priest. He worked very hard for the lepers to know that God loved them. He wanted the people to learn to love God so they could go to Heaven after they died.

When Father Damien arrived in Molokai, it was a very dirty place. He worked to build clean hospitals and churches for the people. When they died, he gave them a Catholic burial. Eventually, Damien did get sick. He is still remembered today for his love and care of the sick people on Molokai.

DRAW



**Saint
Damien of
Molokai,
pray for us!**