



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Online Curriculum Example from 'Learning to Give'

Garden of the Soul

Lesson: 'Kindness Certificate'

(Grade levels K - 2)

Purpose:

Students will demonstrate that gifts do not need to be bought. They will brainstorm "kindness" types of gifts, such as a service or a homemade creation. For a Catholic perspective, prayers for others may be particularly emphasized as "kindness" gifts.

Duration:

One to Two Thirty-Minute Class Periods

Objectives:

The learner will:

- increase listening comprehension and use critical thinking skills.
- list different types of gifts.
- identify services and creations as "kindness" gifts. With a Catholic perspective, students will also learn the value of including prayers for blessings with these "kindness" gifts.
- make "kindness" service cards, and "creations" that may be given away.
- explain when or why we would give these gifts to friends or family.

Materials:

- Chart paper
- Markers
- 5" x 8" Cards
- Crayons
- Envelopes

Instructional Procedure(s):

Anticipatory Set:

Ask students, "Do you like to get gifts?" and "Do you like to give gifts?" Ask why it feels good to give a gift. Ask the students whether their personal wealth allows them to buy the things they want to buy for the people they love. Ask how we can give gifts if we don't have money to buy what we want. "Could there be gifts that cannot be bought?" Allow the

children to brainstorm a list of possible free gifts (homemade and services and prayers). Record their ideas on chart paper.

- Introduce the concept of "kindness gifts" as gifts they can give that do not cost money and make someone feel good. Discuss when and to whom we could give "kindness gifts."
- Show the 5" x 8" cards and explain that they will write a "kind service" on each, such as "I will give you a gentle hug." Or "I will help you clean your desk." Or "I will make a picture for you." Explain that they will be giving that service to someone in the class. Have each student create one kindness certificate on a card. They may get some ideas from the list brainstormed at the beginning of class. Have them write their names on their certificates and put them in an envelope. Place all the envelopes in a box.
- Have each student pull one out envelope. Provide time for the students to give and receive the "kindness services".
- Discuss how they felt when they gave their gifts. Ask students whether the gift they gave or received had a value. Could they place a monetary value on the "kindness gifts?" Have students propose reasons that people would choose to volunteer their time, talent, treasures and prayers to others.
- Provide materials for the students to make one or more kindness certificates to take home for their family members.

Assessment:

In assessing student work, check to see that the following was accomplished:

- Students created an appropriate certificate that demonstrated understanding of the concept of a free gift.
- Students contributed to the brainstorming and discussion of concepts, particularly the concept of prayer as a free gift from us to God and from us to others.

Extension:

Have the students provide artwork or services for residents of a local retirement community.

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The Stewardship website, Learning to Give, offers a wide variety of lesson plans which may be used to incorporate the Twelve Gardens of Stewardship into your curriculum. Though philanthropy is the filter for many of these lesson plans, you will find a large number of appropriate choices and useful ideas to adapt to your needs. Visit LearningToGive.org.