

Famous Peace Makers

Month: Mar.

Week #: 25

Day: c. Wed. Time:

Mother Teresa

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Objectives/Aims

The students will recognize that ordinary people can do extraordinary things; develop positive role models to help guide their lives.

Materials

none

Photograph

“We are supposed to preach without preaching; not by words, but by our example, by our actions. All works of love are works of peace.” Do you know who said these words?



Background

I have intentionally not included much background information about the details of Mother Teresa’s life since she believed that actions spoke louder than words. As she put it, “We are supposed to preach without preaching; not by words, but by our example, by our actions. All works of love are works of peace” (p. 72, “Words to Love by...”, Mother Teresa). So accordingly, this lesson will focus primarily on the students immortalizing her actions through role play.

While I have not included many details of her life, it is important to note that she was a Roman Catholic with a very active faith in Jesus Christ. This faith was the primary basis and motivator of her work of loving service. To not mention this fact would ‘secularize’ her and would not be true to who she actually was. However, she was not a person who forced her beliefs on other people and was thereby accepted and able to work with Muslims, Hindus, believers and non-believers, alike (p. 35).

Group Activity

1. Say to the students, “Mother Teresa was a Roman Catholic nun, who won the Nobel Peace prize in 1979. She said, and these are her actual words,”

If you are preoccupied with people who are talking about the poor, you scarcely have time to talk to the poor. Some people talk about hunger, but they don’t come and say, “Mother, here is five rupees. Buy food for these people.” But they can give a most beautiful lecture on hunger.

I had the most extraordinary experience once in Bombay... [Pause here and go on to #2]

2. Say, “Now we’re actually going to act out what Mother Teresa actually experienced in Bombay with a play.” Select several students to play Mother Teresa, a dying man and a speaker, respectively. Tell the rest of the students that they are attending a big conference on hunger and arrange them accordingly. Have the speaker stand in front and pretend to give them a speech

Group Activity (continued)

[silently mouthing the words] on hunger. Select a space for an imaginary doorway and have the dying man lie in front of the door. Also designate a space to be Mother Teresa's home. Continue reading the story while having the actors go through the actions that you are describing.

"I had the most extraordinary experience once in Bombay. There was a big conference about hunger. I was supposed to go to that meeting and I lost the way. [Have M.T. wander around the classroom, looking for the conference.] Suddenly I came to that place, and right in front of the door to where hundreds of people were talking about food and hunger, [Point to the speaker and the participants.] I found a dying man. [Have her stoop and examine the man.] I took him out and I took him home. [Have her put the arm around her shoulder and help him back to her home. She continues to care for the man while the conference goes on.]

He died there.

He died of hunger.

And the people inside were talking about how in 15 years we will have so much food, so much this, so much that, and that man died.

See the difference?"

Group Discussion Questions

1. What was the difference that Mother Teresa was talking about?

A: While the people in the conference were busy talking about the problem of food and hunger, she was actually doing something about it.

2. Do you think Mother Teresa was overwhelmed by the masses of people that were starving and dying of hunger?

A: [In her own words.] "I never look at the masses as my responsibility. I look at the individual. I can love only one person at a time. I can feed only one person at a time. Just one, one, one... I picked up one person - maybe if I didn't pick up that one person I wouldn't have picked up 42,000" (p. 79).

3. What can you do to help?

A: [In her own words.] "Just begin, one, one, one," she urges. "Begin at home by saying something good to your child, to your husband or to your wife. Begin by helping someone in need in your community, at work, or at school. Begin by making whatever you do something beautiful for God" (p.7).

4. What do you admire most about Mother Teresa?

A: Answers will vary.

Variations/Extensions

Conclusion

Say, "In conclusion, I think these actual words of Mother Teresa say it best, "Love begins at home. If we do not love one another who we see 24 hours, how can we love those we see only once? We show love by thoughtfulness, by kindness, by sharing joy, by sharing a smile... through the little things."

Mar. 25 c. Wed.

Famous Peace Makers: Mother Teresa



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