

# CLASSROOM IDEA



## PRAYER SERVICE:

# LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

**Leader:** We pray with humble hearts in the name of God, who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of the world. Let us bow our heads and pray for God's mercy (pause). Creator God, you are the giver of all gifts, yet we sometimes fail to show gratitude, care, or respect for all you have created, and so we pray:

**All: Creator of all, help us be humble stewards of all your gifts.**

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you gave sight to the blind, yet we often choose not to see, and so we pray:

**All: Christ, our Lord and brother, give us new eyes to see.**

**Leader:** Sanctifier, Spirit of God, you inspired the prophets to speak for those who sometimes could not speak for themselves, and so we pray:

**All: Spirit of God, give us inspiration and a strong voice to speak on behalf of those who are marginalized or forgotten.**

**Leader:** God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, we gather as your children and as brothers and sisters to one another. We ask you to create in us new hearts, to open our eyes, and to make us one in your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer.

**All: Amen.**

**Lector:** Let us listen attentively to the Word of God from the Gospel of Luke.

*(The lector will read Luke 16:19–31, the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. When the reading is finished, the lector will say the following:)*

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*(Allow a moment of silence.)*

**Leader:** You are now invited to spend several minutes in silence to consider your own attitudes and actions toward those you may have considered to be outsiders or less than you in some way. You are also invited to pray for the grace to be able to walk in the shoes of those who are different from you.

**Music Leader:** *(Play an appropriate piece of music as background for the following reflection questions.)*

**Leader:** (Pause in between each question to give students time to process/reflect.)

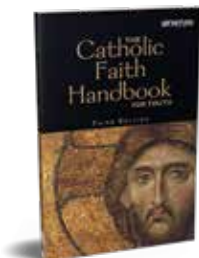
When have I been unable to show compassion or empathy for someone who is different from me? Have I judged a person because they were of a different race or a different religion? Is it because that person is poor or homeless? Is it because of that person's social status, gender identity, or sexual orientation? Do I treat any people as if they were less worthy than me?

How have my life experiences given me a unique insight into what it means to be marginalized? How can I use these experiences to create empathy for all those who are marginalized?

Let Jesus speak to us today as he spoke to his disciples. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples" (John 13:34–35).

**All: They will know we are Jesus' disciples by our love for one another. Alleluia!**

The Scripture on this handout is from the *New American Bible with Revised New Testament and Revised Psalms*. Copyright © 1991, 1986, and 1970 by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. Used by the permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the *New American Bible* may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.



*This prayer service is adapted from The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, third edition, by Brian Singer-Towns et al. (Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2013). Copyright © 2013, Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.*