

# Serving Others' Needs

## Teacher Background

The theme for Catholic Schools Week is **Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.** In this prayer, the students will reflect on how they are called to serve others' needs.

Before celebrating the prayer, prepare the prayer table with a green cloth, a cross or crucifix, a candle, and a Bible open to Matthew 19. Divide the class into three groups, and assign each group one of the following Scripture passages: Matthew 19:21; Luke 14:13-14; or Deuteronomy 15:7-8. Give the groups time to practice reading aloud and together their assigned Scripture passages.

Before gathering the students in the classroom prayer center, remind them that part of a Catholic school education is learning to become more aware of the needs of others in our own communities, states, countries, and in other parts of the world. Catholic school students have many opportunities to serve those in need.



## INTRODUCTION

- Gather the students in the prayer center, reminding them to bring their Bibles (or copies of their assigned Scripture passages) with them.
- Light the candle. Sing a song about serving the needs of others, such as “We Are Called” or “Go, Make a Difference.”
- Lead the class in praying the Sign of the Cross, and then continue as follows.

**In all parts of the world there are people who do not have the basic necessities of food, shelter, water, and—most of all—love. In our school we try to learn about and serve the needs of others.**

**Let us pause and think about the ways we serve those in need throughout the school year.**

**What are some of the groups or who are some of the individuals we try to help?** *(Invite volunteers to respond.)*

**Now think of needs we have not addressed. What else could we do to help and serve others?** *(Invite volunteers to respond.)*



## WORD OF GOD

- Invite Group 1 to proclaim their reading (Matthew 19:21) and allow for a moment of silence.
- Invite Group 2 to proclaim their reading (Luke 14:13-14) and allow for a moment of silence.
- Invite Group 3 to proclaim their reading (Deuteronomy 15:7-8) and allow for a moment of silence.
- Invite volunteers to share the meaning of the Scripture verses for their lives today. Then continue the prayer as follows.

**God our Father,  
as students and as a teacher in this Catholic school,  
we have many opportunities to serve those in need.**

**Through the Holy Spirit,  
grant that we will value our Catholic education  
as a means of growing closer to Christ by serving the poor,  
the sick, the weak, the lonely, and the disadvantaged.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**



## CONCLUSION

Pray together the Sign of the Cross and sing a hymn that speaks of serving and caring for others.



## EXTENDING THIS PRAYER

1. Recall with the students the needs they have not addressed that were named at the beginning of the prayer. Consider if there is one need the class could address, perhaps as a Lenten service project this year. Identify the need, brainstorm ways to work together to meet the need, and make a plan for the project.
2. Celebrate ways the students have served others through school service projects and opportunities, through the parish, with their families, or on their own. Have them trace on construction paper and cut out outlines of their hands. On each hand have them write one way they have taken part in an effort to serve others in need. Encourage them to cut out as many hands as needed. Make a display of the hands in the classroom or in the hallway. Label the display “We Serve Others’ Needs.”
3. Remind the students that every day offers simple ways to serve others at school, at home, and in the neighborhood. Brainstorm with the class a list of little ways to serve. Encourage the students to be more attentive to responding to these service opportunities each and every day.