



Prepare the following material:

- The *World Mission Sunday* poster.
- A Bible and the *World Mission Sunday* prayer.
- A lighted candle, a crucifix or any other items that lead to prayer.

Examine the poster with the children for a few minutes.

Read the theme out loud. Discuss with the children what they see and understand about the meaning of the poster.



Read and Listen

→ The facilitator reads the passage from the Bible.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (18:9-14)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”



Reflection

→ In reference to this Gospel, discuss with the children:

With which of the characters in this story do you identify the most?

- Is it the Pharisee who believes he is perfect and blameless in the eyes of God,
or
- The publican who knows he does not always act properly and does not dare to look at God in the eye?

It is tempting to compare ourselves with others to prove we are the best, something we often do. We might think: that person is a Muslim; she never does her homework; she is not as good an artist as me; the teacher likes me more than him, etc. This is an easy temptation. It is important to realize that whoever we are and whatever talents and qualities we possess, the Lord loves us all. He wants us to recognize that we need to improve ourselves day by day. To do that, we need Him and His love. Take a few minutes to identify a couple of things you could do to become a better person. Sometimes this may seem difficult, but Jesus offers you all his love, and only expects that you ask.

Despite our failings, God loves us. He encourages us to ask for help when we do not feel adequate or good enough. With his love, He makes us stronger.

God is merciful.
Let's see what that means...

LEARN

Merciful

What words define Mercy?

1. *Needs* 2. *Heart* 3. *God*

These are words that challenge missionaries. Missionaries, big or small, are people who are sensitive to the needs of others. With the help of God and with his great love, they can help.

When we speak of God's mercy, we speak of God's love toward us. God wants the best for us because He loves us from the heart as his children, despite our faults and lack of love. God has the power to transform our needs into happiness. We all require God's tenderness at some time in our lives.

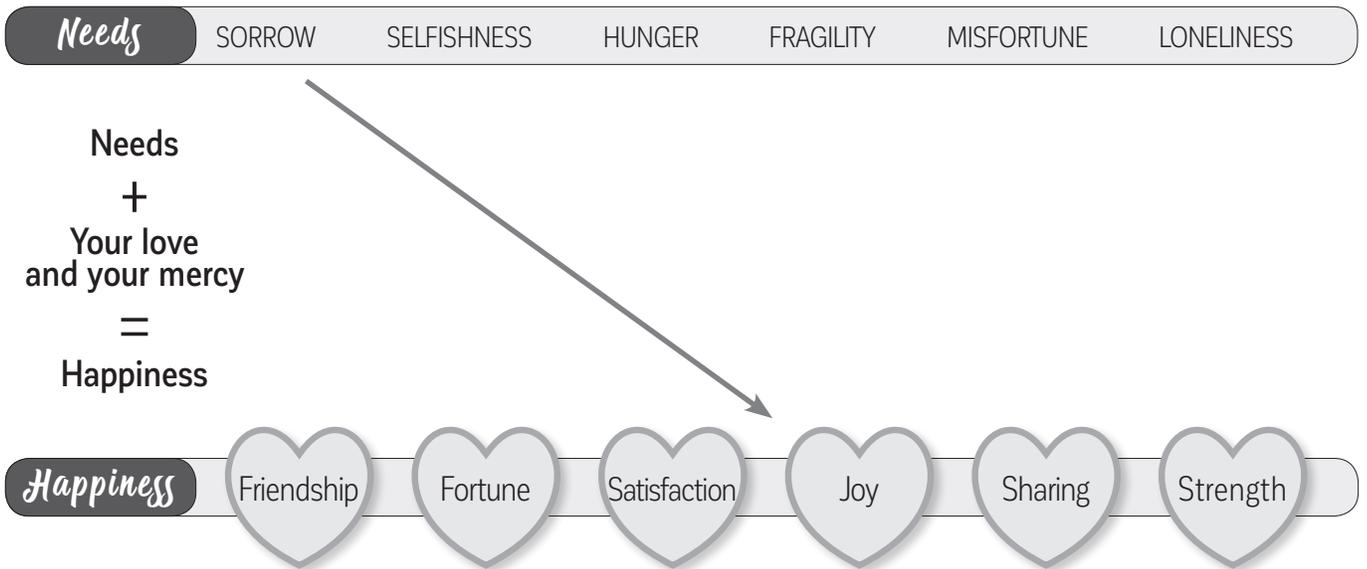


Below are examples of difficulties we can experience or witness every day. People close to us experience these troubles. Because God’s love is within us as missionaries of the world we all have a role to play.

PUT INTO ACTION THE TENDERNESS OF GOD.

This little exercise demonstrates how misery can turn into riches by adding your love and tenderness.

Connect each need to a word that is transformed by love and tenderness.



HOLY CHILDHOOD CANADIAN PROJECT

The project that the Holy Childhood Association supports this year is:

Chiriaco. The mission is located in Northern Peru in the region of Alto Marañón. The objective of the project is to improve the operation of canteens in two schools with more than 522 aboriginal students. These young people are boarders, with meals provided as part of their accommodation arrangements.

- The indigenous people in this area belong to communities with challenging living conditions and are therefore quite vulnerable. Life is precarious and they are often marginalized due to a lack of basic services. Students at the mission come from these communities and have faced a disadvantage throughout their lives.
- Educational services that exist in local areas are often at a distance and of poor quality. For these reasons, children attend boarding institutions where they are available. Children here are welcomed by the Servants of Saint Joseph who have been in the region since 1968.
- This religious community has responded to the missionary call of the Church and the aspirations of Awajún people who want quality education for their children. They attend to both the educational needs of students and provide boarding facilities for those who need them.



PRAY

A missionary prayer

Throughout the year, we invite you as a missionary child to pray for these young indigenous students of Peru. Prepare a prayer table in an appropriate place in your classroom or meeting space where you can recite your prayers. God’s mercy can be the theme for this space, especially during this missionary month.

**Make up a missionary prayer for these children.
Below are suggestions for some words that you can include in your composition.**

TENDERNESS OF GOD SOLIDARITY FRIENDSHIP HOPE JOY MERCY

You can also use your missionary rosary to help with your prayers.

SHARE

A merciful draw

I invite you to share what you know now about these aboriginal students. Talk to your friends and peers.

Organize a fundraiser for them, in the church or parish hall, in your school, with your friends and family. Form a group. Tell people that this is the month of the Missions and we all need each other.

Here is one suggestion: print and cut these little hearts. (You can color them) On each of them, there is a small amount of money. Fold them in half and put them in a box or hat. People are invited to draw a heart out of the box/hat. They then put the designated amount into your donation box, which you keep near you.

At the end of the month, enclose this amount with the *World Mission Sunday* collection.

Thank you for being merciful to others. Have a good mission!

