

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



The Good Samaritan (after Delacroix), Vincent van Gogh

In Our Parish

Organize a group of parishioners to collect blankets for a local charity or parish in need. Encourage volunteers to donate various types and sizes of blankets.

Focus on Prayer

Your child has reflected on the story of the Good Samaritan and on the ways in which he or she can show mercy to others. Share with your child a time when you extended mercy to another person. Discuss how the action made you feel. Then ask God to show you and your child ways to share his mercy.



Focus on Faith

All Are Children of God

In the musical play *South Pacific* one of the songs suggests that prejudice is something that is taught in the family. Jesus faced this issue in telling the story of the Good Samaritan. People had been taught as children not to associate with Samaritans; this group was considered unworthy. In telling the Good Samaritan story, Jesus was attacking such prejudice. Our children are absorbing our prejudices every day—in the stories we tell, in the way we interact with others in public, and in the way we treat their friends. Jesus calls us to treat all people as children of God.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Discuss with your child ways he or she can treat others fairly. Do any prejudicial attitudes at home or school call for change?



Hints for at Home

With your child make surprise packages for the children's ward at a local hospital. You will need rolls of crepe paper, scissors, tape, ribbon, small toys, coins, pencil toppers or erasers, stickers, and other small, inexpensive treats.

Cut a 24-inch length of crepe paper. Place several items on one end of the strip and start rolling it up. Then add several more items and continue rolling in layers. Form a ball and secure its top with a ribbon. With your child deliver the completed surprise packages.