



**Catholic Charities**

Diocese of Youngstown

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2024-2025

First Step to Service Program

# GRADES K-8

**January 2025:**

**Love your Neighbor  
as Yourself.**

**"Poverty Awareness"**

Lesson, Service Project, and Contest

## LESSON SUMMARY

- **Show Gratitude**

Discuss the things students are thankful for and how they can share their blessings with others.

- **Create a "Love Your Neighbor, Love Yourself" list**

Students write one way they care for themselves and then one way they can care for others. Share these responses with other students or with the class.

- **Personal Reflection**

How can your own actions make a difference to someone in your classroom, or school? Daily, Weekly, Monthly

- **Vocabulary**

Incorporate these terms in a quick vocabulary lesson: empathy, awareness, kindness, hope, and poverty

## SERVICE PROJECT - OPTIONAL

Assemble "Blessing Bags" with donated items.

1. Create a theme for each classroom, or grade level.
  - a. Food/Snacks
  - b. Hygiene Products (soap, toothpaste, deodorant)
  - c. Comfort Care (gloves, hats, socks)
2. Create a clear list of items to be donated.
3. Suggest students to include a note of encouragement to recipients of the blessing bag.
4. Assemble bags prior to the project deadline: January 31, 2025. (gallon size Ziploc bags work well)
5. Deliver (or request a pick-up) of blessing bags by Catholic Charities staff. Call 330-744-8451.

*While the service project is optional, students MUST participate in the lesson plan in order to be eligible for the individual prize. Participation in the Service Project is required to be eligible for the classroom prize.*

### Scripture Reference:

37 - He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.  
 38 - This is the greatest and the first commandment.  
 39 - The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  
 40 - The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

**Matthew, Chapter 22**



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If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli @ 330-744-8451 or jluarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.