



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2024-2025

First Step to Service Program

TEACHER RESOURCE

January 2025:

**Love your Neighbor
as Yourself.**

"Poverty Awareness"

Lesson, Service Project, and Contest

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

Lila and Her "Magic" Backpack

A Short Story To Share

Lila is a second-grader who loves school, but things at home are tough. Her dad recently lost his job, and her mom works long hours at the restaurant down the street. Sometimes, there isn't enough money for groceries, so dinner is just bread and butter or peanut butter toast.

Lila's backpack is quite worn out and has a small tear in the corner, but she calls it her "magic backpack" because it carries her hopes and dreams for the future!

One day, Lila's teacher announced a special program to help families in need. Students were asked to bring canned food and toiletries to share with others, if they were able to.

Each day after school, volunteers helped sort and distribute the items to those families who needed them the most. One evening, when Lila's family opened the special box she carried home in her backpack, she found an assortment of snacks, toothpaste, soap, and even a little stuffed teddy bear. Her heart felt warm knowing that these thoughtful items came from people who cared about her.

From then on, Lila decided her magic backpack wasn't just for carrying books—it was for carrying kindness and hope too.

Estimated Activity Time:

- Lesson: 15 Minutes
- Entry Forms: 15 Minutes
- Total: 30 Minutes

Deadline for Entries:

Scan and email all entry forms to Catholic Charities at charities@youngstowndiocese.org OR jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org



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