

NAME:

Works of Mercy

ACTIVITY 1 – SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

In the table below, list the spiritual works of mercy and give a brief description of each one (How can we live out this work? Why should we?). Following this, complete further research and find one scripture passage that relates to each spiritual work of mercy.

SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY	DESCRIPTION	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

ACTIVITY 2 – CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

In the table below, list the corporal works of mercy and give a brief description of each one (How can we live out this work? Why should we?). Following this, complete further research and find one scripture passage that relates to each corporal work of mercy.

CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY	DESCRIPTION	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE



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ACTIVITY 3 - FOUNDERS

Read the 'St Vincent de Paul Society fact book' and then identify three works of mercy that each of the people below demonstrated in their lives. Then, explain how they demonstrated these works of mercy.

BL FREDERIC OZANAM

BL ROSALIE RENDU

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

ST LOUISE DE MARILLAC

FR GERALD WARD



NAME:

Works of Mercy

ACTIVITY 4 - WORKS OF MERCY IN ACTION

Go to https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our_Impact/ and read the 'Services' (page 7) section of the fact book. Choose four of the works of mercy (spiritual, corporal or a mixture of both) and for each one explain how the St Vincent de Paul Society is demonstrating this work of mercy.

1.

2.

3.

4.

ACTIVITY 5 – ILLUSTRATIONS

In the boxes below, draw a small picture or symbol to represent four of the works of mercy.

ACTIVITY 6 - POSTER

Choose one spiritual or corporal work of mercy. You are going to create a poster about your chosen work of mercy. Your poster should contain the title of the work of mercy, relevant scripture passages related to the work of mercy, an illustration, picture or symbol related to the work and some examples of how this work can be put into action.



Teacher Guide – Works of Mercy

ACTIVITY 1 – SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

In the table below, list the spiritual works of mercy and give a brief description of each one (How can we live out this work? Why should we?). Following this, complete further research and find one scripture passage that relates to each spiritual work of mercy.

SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY	DESCRIPTION	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
Counselling the Doubtful	Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey – help a friend who is struggling.	Matthew 5:38-48
Instructing the Ignorant	Learn about your faith and be open to talking about others about your beliefs.	Matthew 28:19-20 Mark 16:14-18
Admonishing the Sinner	Don't judge others, but help them to find their way and correct their mistakes.	Luke 17:3
Comforting the Sorrowful	Listen to and comfort those who are experiencing grief.	Jeremiah 29:11-14
Forgiving Injuries	Forgiving others who have wronged you can be difficult, but we should forgive as God forgives.	Matthew 6:14-15 Matthew 18:15-35
Bearing Wrongs Patiently	Don't be bitter about wrongs done. If someone has frustrated you, step away and reassess the situation.	Luke 6:27-36 1 Peter 2:18-19
Praying for the Living and the Dead	Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others.	2 Maccabees 12:38-46

ACTIVITY 2 – CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

In the table below, list the corporal works of mercy and give a brief description of each one (How can we live out this work? Why should we?). Following this, complete further research and find one scripture passage that relates to each corporal work of mercy.

CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY	DESCRIPTION	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
Feed the Hungry	Many people in the world go without adequate food. You could donate food to a food drive or donate to a charity.	Proverbs 22:9 Matthew 14: 15-21
Give Drink to the Thirsty	Many people do not have access to clean water. Make an effort not to waste water.	Matthew 25:35 Revelation 21:6
Shelter the Homeless	More than 100,000 people across Australia are homeless. Donate to a charity or provide blankets.	Matthew 25:35
Visit the Sick	People who are sick in hospital can be forgotten about and become lonely. Visit a nursing home or hospital to brighten their day.	Matthew 25:36
Visit the Prisoners	People in prison are still people and deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God.	Matthew 25:36
Bury the Dead	Funerals give us an opportunity to grieve for those we have lost.	Tobit 1:17-19
Clothe the Naked	Donate clothes to charities.	Matthew 25:36

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ACTIVITY 3 - FOUNDERS

Read the St Vincent de Paul Society fact book and then identify three works of mercy that each of the people below demonstrated in their lives. Then, explain how they demonstrated these works of mercy.

BL FREDERIC OZANAM

Frederic Ozanam demonstrated many of the works of mercy during his life. Frederic regularly visited the poor and the sick (Visit the Sick), bringing with him firewood, food (Feed the Hungry) and other supplies. Through his meetings at the University, he also openly talked about his beliefs with those who were doubting their faith at the time (Counselling the Doubtful, Instructing the Ignorant).

BL ROSALIE RENDU

In her role as Superior of the Community at rue des Francs Bourgeois, Rosalie Rendu organised for her fellow sisters to take supplies, clothing (Clothe the Naked), care and company to the poor (Comforting the Sorrowful). As well as caring for the poor, Rosalie had a significant role in the formation of young Sisters, helping them to spread the message of the Gospel (Instructing the Ignorant).

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St Vincent de Paul regularly preached missions to the peasants on the Gondi estates (Instructing the Ignorant). He was also a chaplain to the galleys, where he helped to alleviate the physical and moral misery of the convicts (Visit the Prisoners, Comforting the Sorrowful).

ST LOUISE DE MARILLAC

St Louise de Marillac, along with St Vincent de Paul, founded the Daughters of Charity. The Daughters of Charity nursed the poor in their homes (Visit the Sick, Comforting the Sorrowful) and helped care for neglected children. They also established orphanages, institutions for the elderly and services for prisoners (Visit the Prisoners).

FR GERALD WARD

In Williamstown, Fr Ward attended to the spiritual needs of convicts (Visit the Prisoners) and enlarged the school. He formed the first St Vincent de Paul Society Conference in Australia and proposed the building of a Catholic Orphanage (Shelter the Homeless, Comforting the Sorrowful), which was commenced in 1855.



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ACTIVITY 4 – WORKS OF MERCY IN ACTION

Go to https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our_Impact/ and read the ‘Services’ (page 7) section of the fact book. Choose four of the works of mercy (spiritual, corporal or a mixture of both) and for each one explain how the St Vincent de Paul Society is demonstrating this work of mercy.

1. FEED THE HUNGRY

Vinnies provides assistance to those in society who are experiencing poverty. Assistance is primarily provided through Conferences, which provide assistance in the form of food, clothing, furniture and financial assistance.

2. SHELTER THE HOMELESS

Each year around Australia, the St Vincent de Paul Society holds the annual CEO Sleepouts. These events raise millions of dollars for Vinnies hostels and homelessness shelters and services. In addition, Vinnies also helps to run school and community sleepouts, which also raise vital funds.

3. COMFORTING THE SORROWFUL

Vinnies provides a number of programs and services which are aimed at supporting those who are struggling in some way. Home visitations are one key way that the Society helps to comfort those in need. Vinnies also provides a number of other services such as hospital visitation, friendship programs for people with a mental illness and drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.

4. CLOTHE THE NAKED

The St Vincent de Paul Society runs a Winter Appeal and Christmas Appeal each year to help raise funds for those experiencing disadvantage. In addition, Vinnies runs a large number of shops which sell second-hand clothes at low prices.

For the remainder of the activities, student responses will vary.

