

LITTLE WAY WEEK LESSON PLAN KEY STAGE 3

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To reflect on how St Thérèse's Little Way of doing small actions with love can make a big difference.
2. To consider how, through love and service, the Church fulfils its mission to share God's life and love with everyone.
3. By following St Thérèse's Little Way, everyone can help to fulfil the mission of the Church.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. **All will:**
Understand that St Thérèse's Little Way is one of ordinary actions done with great love. See that in love and service the Church shares God's life and love with everyone.
2. **Most will:**
Appreciate the big difference the Church can make in its 'little way' to the lives of those it loves and serves.
3. **Some will:**
Make the connection between following the 'little way' in their own lives and the mission of the Church to love and to serve.

RE CURRICULUM FOCUS

The Church 2.5 Vocation to Mission

Our teaching is of Christ as Head of the Church; the ultimate knowledge and understanding that the purpose of this mission is to enable all of us to share in the communion of life and love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our pupils are called to share with the whole People of God in expressing this mission through serving contemporary society as priest, prophet and king. Together we are called to worship God through our every action for the common good. Through our actions the Church is to continue as the sign and source of reconciliation and hope in the victory of Christ to present our goodness to God.



TIME 60 minutes

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INTRODUCTION

Show the class the pictures of Bangalore, St Mary's Orphanage and Samuel.

Tell them that:

- Despite India's economic growth, 400 million people live on less than £1 a day. It continues to face the challenges of overcrowding, poverty and caste tensions. The lowest castes in Indian society are from the tribal population. Large scale building and mining projects have caused the tribal communities to be evicted from their homes. Broken homes, domestic violence, alcoholism, HIV/AIDS and drug use are commonplace.
- In the city of Bangalore poverty lurks alongside the elegant buildings and plush shopping malls. There are approximately 862 slums in Bangalore alone.
- More than 3,000 priests and religious work with the slum dwellers. The Catholic Church runs hospitals, schools for the disabled, health centres, HIV/AIDS clinics, leprosy centres, orphanages, homes for the elderly, counselling centres and retreat centres.
- St Mary's Orphanage educates and cares for 200 orphaned or abandoned boys from the slums, irrespective of cast or creed. Through education, sport and vocational training, the boys are given the chance of a better future.

SAMUEL is 13 and is from the tribal population. He lives at St Mary's. He does not have a father and his mother is very ill. Following an accident when he was small, he lost his right hand and was taken to the orphanage by his grandmother. At St Mary's, Samuel has learnt to write using his left hand. His favourite subjects are Maths, English, Science and playing hockey. Along with the other boys he attends daily Mass and prays the Rosary every day.

When Samuel grows up he wants to be a hockey player for India. 70 of the boys in the orphanage play hockey in inter-school and district-level competitions. Thanks to the love and care he is receiving at St Mary's, Samuel now has a caliper and is a skilful player.

St Mary's is giving boys like Samuel a chance in life. Without St Mary's, vulnerable boys like him would end up on the streets as rag pickers, beggars, pickpockets and run the danger of drugs, trafficking and exploitation. Fr Vincent Gregory, the director of the orphanage, says: "No child in real need is turned away."

Without St Mary's, there would simply be no hope for boys like Samuel.

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INVITE CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What do they think it is like to live in a slum alongside plush houses and shops selling luxury goods?
2. How do they think the boys from the slums feel when they first arrive at St Mary's? (Suggestions might be: scared, angry, suspicious, have low self-esteem.)
3. Ask why they think someone like Fr Vincent and his fellow priests and religious might choose to live alongside the slum dwellers? (Elicit words like: love, service, hope, care, peace, the joy of the Gospel, faith.)

ST THÉRÈSE

St Thérèse of Lisieux had wanted to become a missionary to share God's love with people all over the world. She prayed to Jesus, 'I would like to travel the earth preaching your name... I would be a missionary right up to the end of time.' But this was not in God's plan for her. Instead, aged fifteen, she joined the Carmelite convent of religious sisters in Normandy, France. She remained there until she died, at twenty four. Hidden away in a Carmelite convent, her life was one of prayer, contemplation and work. **Yet she never forgot her wish to make Jesus known by everyone, everywhere** and always prayed to Jesus for priests and religious who travelled overseas to share God's love with the poor, oppressed and those the world had forgotten.

Most of her duties in the convent were menial such as washing the dirty linen. St Thérèse accepted she would never be 'great' in the eyes of the world and determined she needed to find another way to get to Heaven. It was after reading St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians (1Cor:13) that St Thérèse realised that **it is the small things done with love that make a difference**. St Thérèse set about building into her daily routine small actions done with love, so unremarkable that nobody even noticed.

This is what she called her Little Way. For example, when one of the sisters splashed the dirty water into her face when she was washing the linen, she chose not to grumble and when another sister made strange clacking noises during evening meditation she decided to offer her irritation to Jesus. This is her Little Way of love in action that has made her the great saint we now know.

Just as St Thérèse adopted her Little Way of love and service, by living their lives alongside the boys at St Mary's orphanage, and sharing in the minutiae of their daily lives, Fr Vincent and his staff are showing the boys from the slums of Bangalore what it means to share in God's life through love and service. It is their 'little way' of living out the mission of the Church.

She never forgot her wish to make Jesus known by everyone, everywhere

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AS A CLASS read aloud St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 13 The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Explain that:

- Religious sisters and priests, like Fr Vincent, are sharing God's life and love by dedicating their lives to the slum dwellers of Bangalore. They are witnesses of God's love. By living out the 'little way' of small deeds of kindness and sharing in the ordinariness of the boys' daily lives, trust and friendship grow. Gradually, the boys are given back their dignity and hope for the future.
- Through prayer and the generosity of Catholics all over the world charities like Missio are able to support places like St Mary's Orphanage. Even a small sacrifice can go a long way towards helping children like Samuel to be safe. St Thérèse shows how small deeds done with love can make a huge difference to the lives of boys like Samuel.
- Invite suggestions of ways in which pupils may make small sacrifices to raise money for Missio so that more boys like Samuel may be safe. Suggestions might be giving up a can of fizzy drink or packet of crisps once a week, or saying a prayer for those living in slums.
- Pupils may learn more about Missio, the Pope's official charity for overseas mission, by going onto its website: missio.org.uk

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ACTIVITY

- Split the class in half. Give one half copies of the draft timetable for Samuel's week at St Mary's Orphanage (attached) and the other half of the class copies of the draft timetable of what life in a slum in Bangalore might be like (attached).
- In groups of no more than three, ask the first half of the class to consider what a day at St Mary's Orphanage might be like. Then complete the timetable for Samuel's week. They should use the information already provided and imagine the rest. Inserts have been made already to help.
- In their groups, ask the other half of the class to consider what a day in the slums might look like and then complete the timetable. They should use the information found in the box next to the timetable. Remind them that life in the slums is hard. Children do not experience childhood as we understand it; there is no time for playing and meeting friends; they are too busy surviving from one day to another. Pupils might consider how the children often carry buckets for a long way to fetch water from a shared water tap and how they manage without sewage or waste facilities. Money is earned by collecting litter and selling it. Overcrowded dwellings with no ventilation and dirt floors mean that the streets become 'home'. Point out that although life in the slums is monotonous it can also be dangerous.
- Finish by bringing the class back together to compare the timetables and consider the huge impact St Mary's Orphanage has made to boys like Samuel.

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SAMUEL'S WEEK AT ST MARY'S ORPHANGE, BANGALORE, INDIA

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7.00am	MASS			MASS			
8.00am	HOCKEY TRAINING		HOCKEY TRAINING				HOCKEY TRAINING
9.00am		I.T. LESSON		ENGLISH LESSON	MATHS TRAINING	CHOIR PRACTICE	
	MATHS LESSON		SCIENCE LESSON				
12.00 - 1.00pm	LUNCH			LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH
3.00pm	RECITE THE ROSARY		RECITE THE ROSARY				RECITE THE ROSARY
4.00pm		HOCKEY MATCH (DISTRICT)	CHOIR PRACTICE	SPOKEN ENGLISH PRACTICE	HOCKEY MATCH (INTERSCHOOL)	SPOKEN ENGLISH PRACTICE	
5.00pm		HEALTH CHECK AT INFIRMARY	HOCKEY MATCH (INTERSCHOOL)		CHOIR PRACTICE		
6.00pm	DINNER			DINNER			
7.00pm	EVENING PRAYER		EVENING PRAYER	EVENING PRAYER			
8.00pm	BATH AND BED	BED	BED	BATH AND BED			

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AN IMAGINARY DAY IN THE SLUMS FOR BOYS LIKE SAMUEL

6am	
8am	
10am	
12pm	
3pm	
6pm	
10pm	
12pm	

LIFE IN THE SLUMS

60% of slum dwellers in Bangalore do not have access to clean water.

The slums are overcrowded.

Sickness caused by unclean water is common.

Many are malnourished.

Many children do not go to school.

It is common for men who find work to spend what little money they earn on alcohol or drugs.

Tensions can run high over feuds caused by debt, drugs or alcohol.

Poor living conditions mean parents die young, leaving children orphaned.

Children earn money by begging or collecting rags and litter to sell.

Boys often join gangs.



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PLENARY

Ask pupils to write down one answer for each:

1. What have they learned about St Thérèse's Little Way?
2. Why is the 'little way' a good way for the Church to fulfil its mission to share God's life and love with everyone?
3. How will they live out the 'little way' to help the Church fulfil its mission?

CONCLUDE WITH The Missio Mission Prayer

God of all peoples, you call us
Together in love and send us out
In mission to share the gift of
faith that all may know Christ.
May we be effective
Messengers of your Word,
Bringing the compassion
Of Christ, the light of the world,
To all who are poor and
marginalised.
We ask this through Jesus
Christ who lives and reigns with
You and the holy Spirit, for ever
And ever. Amen.

Statistics: Tribal poverty: United Nation's International Fund for Agricultural Development | 30% poverty in India: The World Bank, 2007 | Street Children in India/Bangalore: UNICEF | 862 slums: 2012 Report submitted to the World Bank by the Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB)

Little Way Week is offered in partnership by Missio, Home Mission Desk (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales) and Wednesday Word. For additional materials please see: www.catholicnews.org.uk/little-way-week.

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BANGALORE



ST MARY'S ORPHANAGE



IN THE CLASSROOM



SAMUEL PLAYS HOCKEY

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