

Mother Teresa | Lesson Plan

Why is Mother Teresa remembered as a role model known for love, compassion, and devotion to the poor?

Students will understand why Mother Teresa is remembered for her love, compassion, and devotion to the poor. They will recognize the importance of following Mother Teresa's example of kindness.

Learning Objectives:

- Investigate the life experiences of Mother Teresa.
- Examine the character qualities that make Mother Teresa a positive role model.
- Describe specific ways that Mother Teresa showed compassion and kindness to others.
- Explain strategies to follow Mother Teresa's example in showing love and caring for those in need.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Role model:** A person who serves as an example or influence.
- **Nun:** a woman who has taken vows within the Christian religion, typically within the Catholic Church, to dedicate her life to religious service, often living in a community with other nuns and engaging in prayer, work, and acts of charity.
- **Poverty:** A condition where a person lacks adequate food, money, or shelter.
- **Vow:** A promise.
- **Leprosy:** A highly contagious skin condition.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, Women of History, Judeo-Christian Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Mother Teresa: The Compassionate Missionary* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Mother Teresa: The Compassionate Missionary* (Click [Here](#))
- For Extension Activity: Several cardboard boxes and art supplies

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Initiate a simple discussion focused on what it means to be a role model. Ask for examples of well-known people the students consider to be role models. Write each name on the board.



2. For each person listed, challenge the class to think of something they know that person has done to help others. Explain that showing love and compassion to others is an admirable trait and truly makes someone a good role model.
3. Reveal that the class will watch a video about someone in history who was, and continues to be, a role model because of her compassion for others and care for the poor.
4. Ask students if they have heard of Mother Teresa. Explain that they will learn more about her through the upcoming video.
5. Display a copy of the "Mother Teresa Worksheet" on the board and distribute individual worksheets.
6. Read over the worksheet as a class so that students know what to listen for during the video.
7. Encourage students to listen for ways Mother Teresa displayed compassion.

Watch and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Throughout the video, pause to allow students to answer questions. Assist as needed.

Wrap-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Allow students a few minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. If time permits, invite volunteers to share their completed self-portraits (question 10) with the class.
3. Collect the worksheet as a participation grade or as a formative assessment.
4. Beginning wrapping up the lesson by explaining why it's important to learn about Mother Teresa. Emphasize that understanding the life of someone who dedicated herself to helping others teaches us valuable lessons about compassion, kindness, and the impact one person can have on the world. Mother Teresa's legacy reminds us that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in the lives of those around us.
5. Continue to check for understanding by asking open-ended questions:
 - Why do you think Mother Teresa is remembered as a role model for compassion and kindness?
 - Can you think of a time when someone showed you kindness? How did it make you feel?
 - What are some ways you can show compassion to others in your own life?
 - How do you think our school and community could benefit if everyone followed Mother Teresa's example of caring for those in need?
6. Conclude by reminding students that learning about figures like Mother Teresa can inspire us to act with greater kindness and to make positive changes in the world, no matter how small. Encourage them to think of one act of kindness they can commit to doing in the coming week. Call on a few students to share their plans with the class.

Extension Activity:

Divide the class into small groups and provide each with a large cardboard box or sturdy bag. Challenge students to decorate the boxes with messages of kindness and compassion. Explain that the boxes will be used to collect items for a charity or food bank and encourage students to bring in items to donate.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.