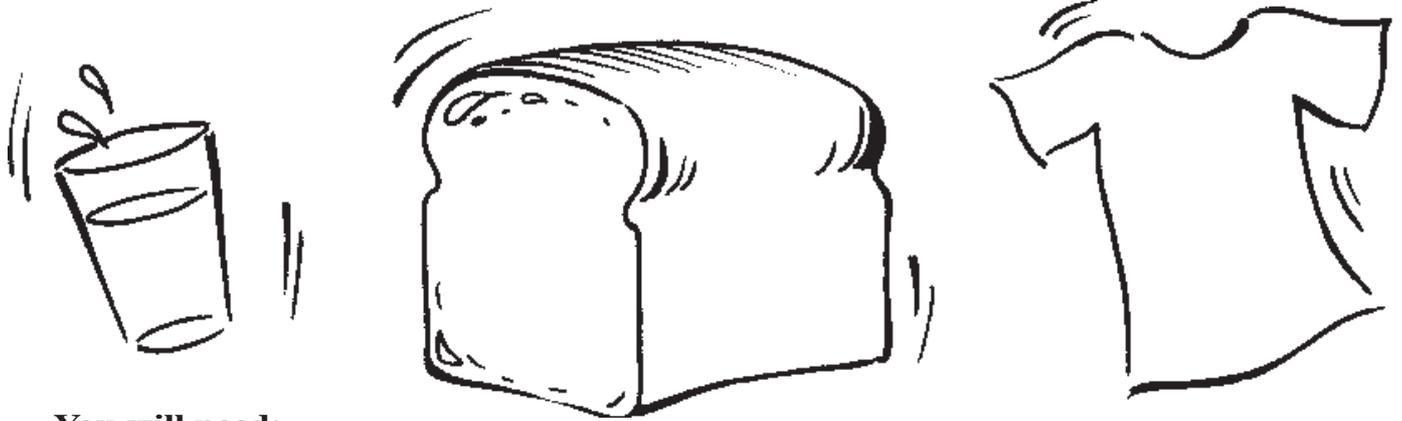


Giving to God

Biblical Material: Proverbs 19.17; 14.31.

‘When you give to people in need, it is like lending to the Lord.’



You will need:

- A drink of water.
- A shirt.
- A piece of bread.

Introduction

Show the different items and ask the pupils to suggest situations when they would be needed.

Core Material

The Bible suggests that every time someone who is ill, poor or in need is helped, it is as if God himself were treated in that way. The Bible also stresses putting right the situation which caused the poverty in the first place. Read the Biblical Material. Jesus told this parable to help people understand.

The parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25.31-46).

‘One day, God will separate people just as the shepherd separates the sheep and goats. The good people he will put on his right hand and say, “Come and be with me forever, for when I was hungry you fed me; when I was thirsty, you gave me a drink; when I was a stranger you took me in; when I was naked you clothed me; when I was in prison, you visited me.”

The good people will say, “When did we see you hungry or thirsty, sick or in prison?”

God will reply, “Whenever you did this for the least of my brothers, you did it for me.”

To those on his left hand, God will say, “Go away from me. When I was hungry you gave me nothing to eat. When I was thirsty you gave me no drink. When I was naked you did not clothe me; when I was a stranger you did not welcome me. When I was sick and in prison you did not visit me.”

Those on God’s left hand will say, “But when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty, naked or sick, a stranger or in prison?”

God will reply, “Every time you did none of these things for the least of my brothers, you failed to do it for me.”

Mother Teresa looks after the poor, sick and hungry people of Calcutta. She treats every person as if they were Christ. In that way, every person is treated with dignity and respect.

Prayer /Reflection

Read slowly the line from the parable, ‘Whatever you do to the least of these my brothers you do to me.’

Lord give us the eyes to see you amid the rags.

To care for you in the sick.

To welcome you in the stranger.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.