



WORLD  
DAY OF  
THE SICK  
11 FEBRUARY 2026

# THE COMPASSION OF THE SAMARITAN: LOVING BY BEARING ANOTHER'S PAIN





# GUIDE FOR THE MEETING WITH CHILDREN

## OBJECTIVE:

To be able to connect with the sensitive side of children and help them connect with their environment and its needs, especially when there are people suffering from some kind of illness.

## RESOURCES:

Meeting space

Sheets of white paper

Markers

Soil, stones, flowers, and branches.

## Possible phrases or images to use:

- ✓ Sick children in a hospital.
- ✓ Cancer patients.
- ✓ People injured in car accidents.
- ✓ COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Sick and lonely grandparents.
- ✓ Premature babies.



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## **SETTING:**

Since the experience we want to offer is something like **a journey** alongside others who likely experience the same realities, situations, or problems on a daily basis, we can also think and reflect together on possible ways to act and do good. For this reason, we propose organizing the meeting space with a route with three stations or stops. In this way, the whole body will capture the experience and their attention will be captured.

The path may contain earth, stones, flowers, branches... and at each station there will be a phrase or question that will be like a task to be completed.

## **INITIAL MOTIVATION:**

Today, as the universal Church, we join the 34<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick. Yes, even as children, we can pray and learn to accompany our brothers and sisters who suffer from an illness. Our help may not be as much as that of an older child or an adult, but we can still bring the strength of intercessory prayer as well as some gesture that makes them feel better or better. Today, therefore, we will walk our Samaritan path. Therefore, let us prepare our minds and hearts to see what God wants to show us through a specific character from the Gospel.

The children walk together until they reach the first station.

### ***First Station:***

The text from Luke 10:25-37 is read calmly and then a conversation is started, trying in particular to have the children identify the characters and their actions. The dialogue and the sharing of ideas can be guided and encouraged with a few questions.



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**Task:** Each child receives the phrase "**go and do likewise**" on a piece of paper. They are then asked to write down their response to Jesus' commandment. They can take about five minutes. Once the task is completed, the group continues walking together...

### ***Second station or central section:***

As they walk, the children look at posters or images showing everyday situations in which someone needs help. During this phase, they stop in front of each one and reflect on what they represent.

At a certain point, the person leading the activity invites participants to return to the poster or image that had the most impact and try to answer the question, "*What would I do or how could I help in this situation?*"

The child is then given time to think about or imagine the situation in question and share their response. At this point, it's important to pay close attention, as situations involving families or friends may emerge that will need to be responded to.

To calm emotions and provide a spiritual experience, listen to the song "*Give Us a Big Heart to Love.*" After the song concludes, the group moves on to the final station.

### ***Third Station:***

At this point, children are asked to draw or paint an "**everyday hero**," that is, a person they consider a hero in their own lives.

On a sheet of paper, each child should represent a person they consider a "Good Samaritan" in their life. This could be a family member, a friend, an acquaintance, or a teacher, and then explain why they chose that person.



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## **CLOSING:**

To conclude, children are invited to express gratitude for what they have learned from this call to solidarity and generosity.

Together, they will recite an Our Father and a Hail Mary.

Then, they will apply the PIN (Positive, Interesting, and Negative) strategy to the session just concluded, as an evaluation.

