



## PURPOSE

To help students understand that the human person grows in solidarity with others.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson students will be able to:

1. Indicate three types of solidarity with others.
2. Recognize ways to grow in solidarity.

## MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- **My Solidarity Map** worksheet (see Materials)

## VOCABULARY

- **solidarity**: unity among people
- **family**: the most basic unit of society and the place where people first grow
- **friendship**: a connection between two people who choose excellence together

## PROCEDURE

**Step 1:** Review the previous lessons. Write the three types of living beings on the board—plants, animals, humans—and ask the students to recall the powers for each of the living beings. Double-check understanding of the two unique human powers, to think and choose.

Then, depending on available time, either as a class or in groups of 4-5, ask students to share the way that they gave joy to another person using one of their gifts/talents/hobbies.

**Step 2:** Teach solidarity.

Ask students:

- Who taught you how to walk? Talk? Count? Read?
- Who do you tell when you're sad?
- Who can you talk to when you're hurting?
- Who should you ask when you need some help?
- With whom do you watch movies? Play in the park?

As students answer, write the three types of solidarity on the board:

- family
- friends
- classmates & teachers

Explain: A human person cannot become fully himself, cannot fully grow, without being in relationship with other people.

In our families we can learn the basics of human existing and human living. With our friends, we learn how to share and how to be kind, and it is through these relationships—and those we have with others—that we become truly excellent and happy.

Give each student a copy of the *My Solidarity Map*, and ask them to draw the faces of all those who fall into their different spheres of solidarity.

**Step 3:** Help students commit to making acts of generosity and kindness as ways of growing in solidarity.

Write on the board:

- **kindness**
- **generosity**

Ask: What do these two words mean?

Explain: Two traits that we can develop, in practicing how to show respect, are the traits of kindness and generosity: being friendly to others, being considerate of them, and giving others what they need, even if it is more than what might be expected of us.

Let's say that your parents sign you up for a soccer team, and the first day you go, you meet a new teammate, and this teammate only has one working eye; because of an illness, he has to wear a patch over his other eye.

**Discussion questions:**

- Can you show this person your kindness? How?
- Can you show this person your generosity? How?
- Will showing kindness and generosity help you grow in solidarity? Why or why not?

Then, propose to the students: Let's say that your sister drops her crayons all over the floor at home, and you go over to help her, but she says, "Go away—I don't want your help."

**Discussion questions:**

- Can you show this person your kindness? How?
- Can you show this person your generosity? How?
- Will showing kindness and generosity help you grow in solidarity? Why or why not?

Explain: In order to grow in excellence, and in order to grow in solidarity with others in our life, we have to make the choices to demonstrate kindness, generosity, and respect for the dignity of others. Others help us grow, and as we grow, we will come to be able to help others grow, too.

**Step 4:** Summarize: This week, we looked at the way in which we, as individual people, live in relationship with others—ultimately, in solidarity with them. Two of the important ways in which we demonstrate this solidarity with others in our family, among our friends, and among our classmates and teachers is with generosity and kindness. As we show generosity and kindness to others, we grow in solidarity, and in excellence.

**FOLLOW-UP & HOMEWORK**

Ask students to show kindness this week to another student who isn't their friend.

**SUPPLEMENTS**

No supplements.



## MY SOLIDARITY MAP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Draw the faces of people who fall into each of your circles of solidarity: on the inside, you and your family; on the outer circle, your friends; and on the outermost circle, your teachers and classmates.

