

Saint Martin de Porres

Kindness in humble work

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:33 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Love for Jesus can become humble service that respects each person's dignity.

Learning goals Recall two ways Martin cared for others; recognize that every person deserves respect; choose a small helpful task.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask who does quiet work that helps your home or classroom. Explain that Martin lived in Lima, Peru, and cared for people often overlooked.

Watch and notice

Notice the injured kitten (about 1:03), the lonely boy Raphael (2:08), and Martin's humble monastery work (2:34). A closing prayer and song follow the story.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Who needed help in this story?

Martin noticed people who were hungry, ill, lonely, or treated unfairly. The kitten also needed gentle care.

2. How did Martin help Raphael?

In the retelling, he offered friendship and helped the lonely boy learn. Listening and teaching can be acts of kindness.

3. Why was sweeping important?

Ordinary work served the community. A task need not be famous to be done with love.

4. What quiet help could you offer?

Name a realistic task: tidy shared materials, welcome someone, or help an adult. Ask permission before caring for an injured animal.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw one way Martin helped, then picture a quiet job you can do with love. Invite a spoken explanation.

Read & Write Recall the story's needs and Martin's response, then plan a helpful task that respects another person.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: offer picture choices of a broom, a friend, or food. Let children point or dictate.

Ages 9-11: discuss why helping someone also means listening and respecting their dignity.

A kindness job card | Optional 4 minutes

Fold a card in half. On one side name a shared space that needs care; on the other draw a helpful task. Choose a time and adult helper. Thank the people who usually do that work.

Look for understanding Look for a story detail and a doable act of service. Children should speak about people in need with respect, without calling them less important.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us notice people who need a friend. Teach us to serve with humble and generous hearts. Saint Martin, pray for us. Amen.

At home With an adult, choose one household task to do kindly. Thank someone whose quiet work helps your family.

Handout answer notes Recall: people who were hungry, ill, lonely, or enslaved; kitten care also appears. Quiet work: caring for a shared place serves others. Plans should be safe and specific.

Teach with care

Preview the references to slavery and prejudice. Explain that treating people as property is wrong. Invite questions without asking children to share personal experiences. Estrella and Raphael are characters in this dramatized retelling, not documented episodes established by the cited homily. Martin's enduring example is prayer, charity, and humble service. Children should seek adult or veterinary help for injured animals; do not imitate the kitten's feeding scene.

Words to explain Dignity: the worth each person has as God's creation. Humility: serving without needing praise. Dominican: a member of the Order of Preachers.

Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Church source: [John XXIII: Martin de Porres canonization homily](#)

Small jobs, great love

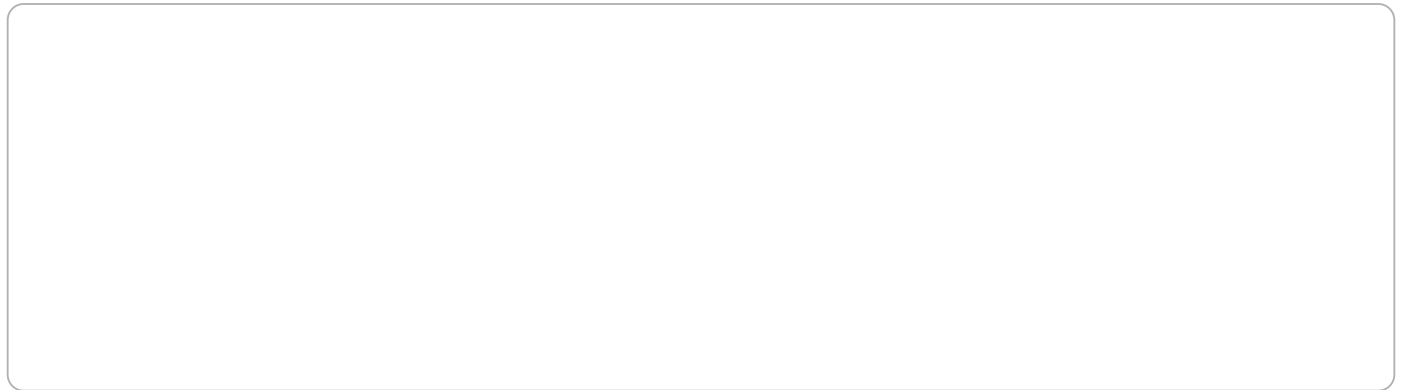
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Martin noticed needs and helped with a loving heart.

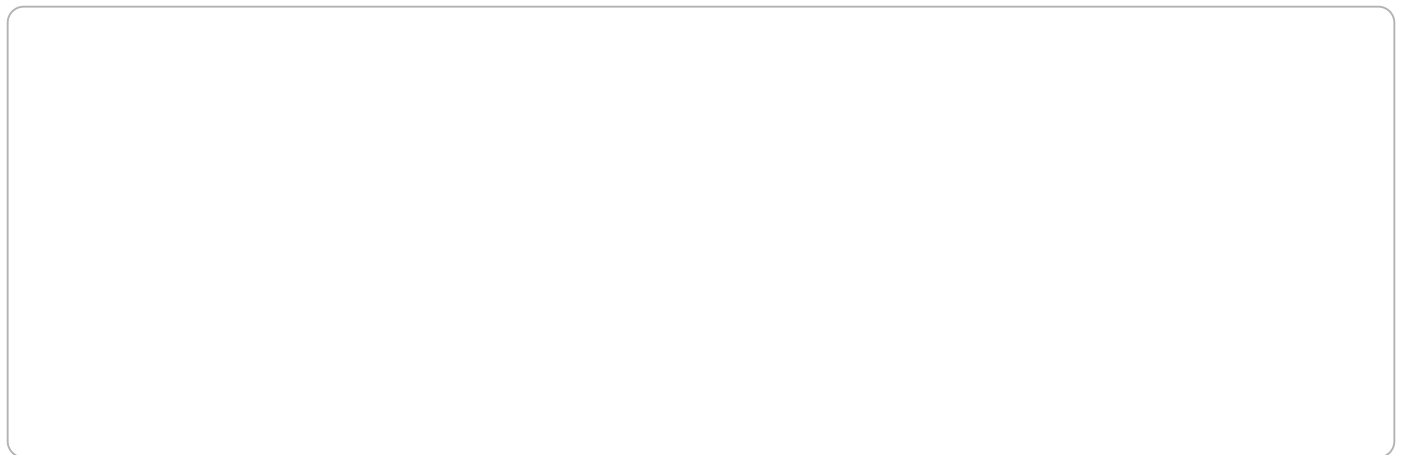
Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw one person or animal Martin helped in the retelling.



2 Draw a helpful job you can do at home or school.



Tell Who needs help in each picture? How can your action show respect?

Pray Jesus, help me notice, listen, and serve with love. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

Notice, respect, help

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Remember Martin's service. Then plan your own small kindness.

Name _____

1 Notice a need

Who needed help, and what did Martin do?

Martin noticed ...

2 Value quiet work

Why can sweeping or tidying be an act of love?

A small job helps when ...

3 Choose your task

Name a helpful task, a time, and an adult who can help.

My kindness plan is ...

Pray Jesus, help me notice, listen, and serve with love. Amen.

Go deeper How can you show that someone matters while helping them?