

We Belong to One Another

The story of Saint Damien of Molokai

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:22 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Every person is loved by God. Respect means seeing a neighbor, listening, and offering practical care.

Learning goals Recall two ways Damien served; explain why people who are sick still belong; choose one safe act of kindness.

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: What helps someone feel welcome? Explain that people in this story were separated from their families because of illness. Invite children to notice how Damien helped them belong.

Watch and notice

Notice the boat, the homes and water supply, prayer at Mass, and the people helping one another. Watch how Damien receives care when he becomes sick.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Why were people sent to Molokai?

They had Hansen's disease, then called leprosy, and were forced to live apart. Their illness did not make them less valuable.

2. How did Damien help?

He listened, shared daily life, celebrated Mass, and worked with residents to build homes, improve water, and care for neighbors.

3. Who helped when Damien became sick?

Residents cared for him. Mother Marianne Cope and other sisters also came to serve the community. Care can be given and received.

4. How can we help someone belong?

Invite a child to join, listen kindly, or make a card. Ask a trusted adult before visiting someone who is sick or arranging a donation.

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 Damien cared and one way you can help a neighbor. Children may explain their pictures aloud.

Read & Write Use details from the story to connect practical service with respect. Accept several sensible answers.

Adapt by readiness

Ages about 7-8: Read prompts aloud; accept pointing, drawing, or a short spoken answer.

Ages about 9-11: Ask for a story detail and a realistic plan with adult help.

A welcome plan | Optional 4 minutes

In pairs, imagine a new child joining your group. Choose a kind invitation and a practical way to help. Practice the invitation without naming or singling out a real child.

Look for understanding A child names a concrete act of care and explains that illness or being left out does not remove a person's dignity.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us see each person as our neighbor. Give us courage to listen, welcome, and serve. Saint Damien, pray for us. Amen.

At home Choose one act of welcome with your family. Tell a trusted adult how you can help safely.

Handout answer notes Care: homes, water, listening, Mass, visits. Belonging: God loves each person. Plans should be specific and safe.

Teach with care

Preview the film. Let children pass on personal questions; do not ask anyone to disclose illness. This is a narrated, illustrated retelling; visual details are dramatized. Residents were active partners. Becoming sick is not a goal or a requirement for holiness.

Words to explain Dignity: worth given by God. Neighbor: a person we are called to love. Eucharist: Jesus truly present in the sacrament celebrated at Mass.

Sources for the leader

History: [National Park Service: Father Damien](#)

Biography: [Vatican: Saint Jozef Damien De Veuster](#)