

Blessed Stanley Rother: The Shepherd Who Stayed

Patient work and love for his people

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:23 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Stanley's ordinary skills and perseverance become loving priestly service among the people of Santiago Atitlán.

Learning goals Children will recall his study difficulties and language learning, explain service as listening and working, and choose safe help.

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 can you do when learning is hard? Watch how Stanley's farm skills and persistence become service.

Watch and notice

Notice farm chores, difficult studies, becoming a priest, learning a new language, working beside families, and returning to his parish.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did Stanley learn on the farm?

Practical work, fixing things, caring for animals, and persevering through chores.

2. Why did he learn the people's language?

He wanted to listen and share Jesus in words close to their hearts.

3. How did he serve beyond preaching?

He visited, comforted, prayed, helped with farms and buildings, and listened to worries.

4. What safe lesson can a child take from his courage?

Keep trying at a task, welcome someone, seek help, and care for others without staying in danger.

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 Stanley working beside his people and a safe helpful task you can do.

Read & Write Recall perseverance and language learning, then plan practical service.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: name an ordinary chore that helps a family.

Ages 9-11: discuss learning from a community rather than treating its people as helpless or unfamiliar.

A skill for service | Optional 4 minutes

List three ordinary skills: listening, carrying materials, or caring for a shared space. Choose one task that helps someone, name an adult helper, and plan a safe time. Include asking the person what help they actually need.

Look for understanding Children connect perseverance and respect with service and know that safety and seeking help remain essential.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us keep learning and serve with patient hands and caring hearts. Protect people in danger. Blessed Stanley, pray for us. Amen.

At home Choose one useful chore with an adult and discuss how listening helps us serve well.

Handout answer notes Study: persevered, prayed, continued learning. Language: listen and teach in people's own words. Plans: safe practical help.

Teach with care

Preview persecution and his death. State clearly that children should leave unsafe situations and tell trusted adults; his adult pastoral choice is not a child's rule. The illustrated biography simplifies events in Guatemala's civil war and dramatizes thoughts. Rother served the Tz'utujil community of Santiago Atitlán and was killed in 1981. His choice as an adult priest is not an instruction for children to remain in danger; get safe and seek help.

Words to explain Missionary: someone sent to share Christ and serve. Martyr: a person killed because of hatred of the faith. Blessed: a person whom the Church has beatified.

Sources for the leader

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

Life and martyrdom: [Blessed Stanley Rother - Archdiocese of Oklahoma City](#)

Ordinary hands, generous love

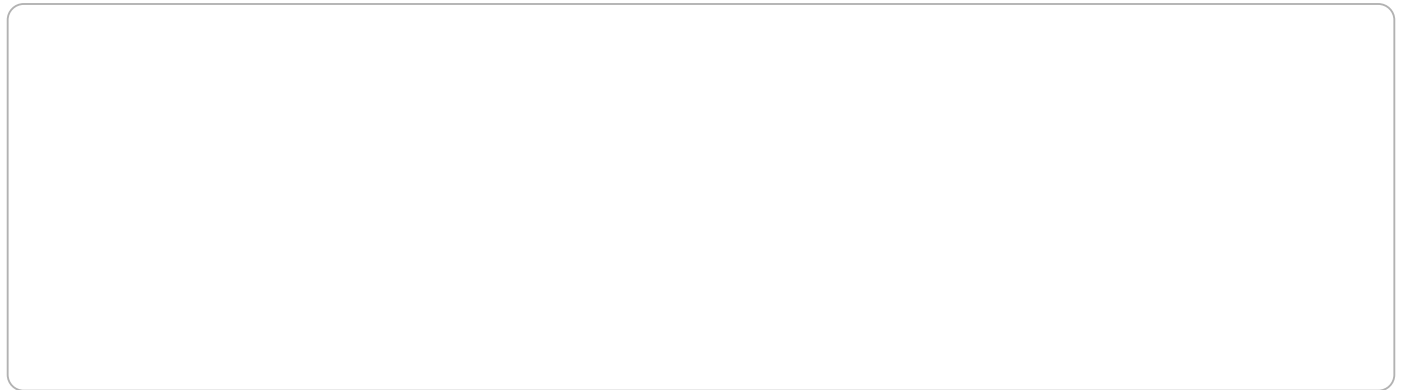
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Stanley used practical skills to serve people he loved.

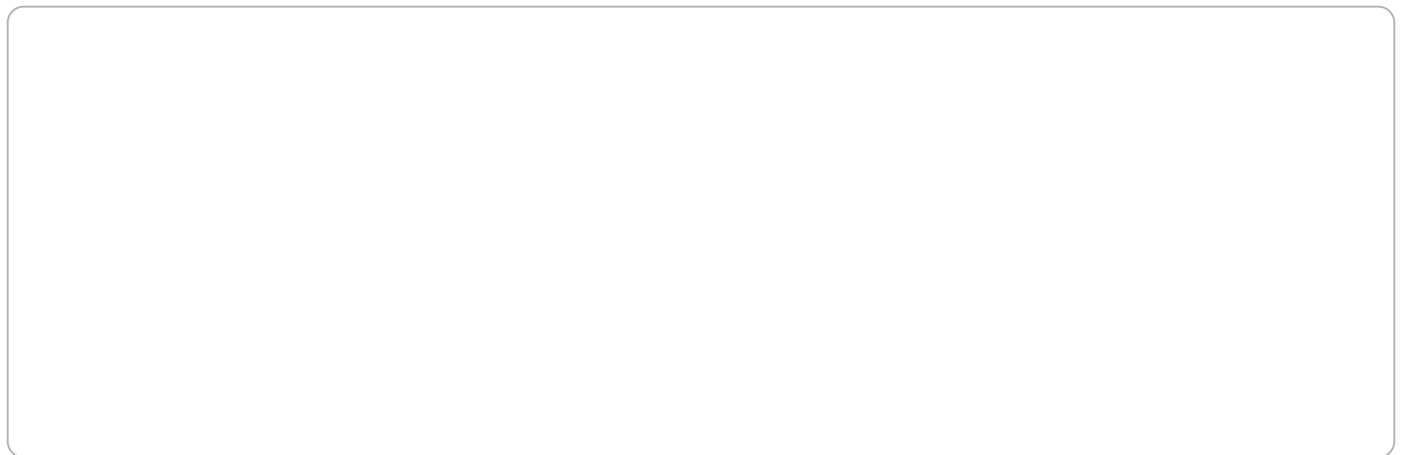
Name _____

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

1 Draw Father Stanley helping with work beside his people.



2 Draw a safe task you can do to help someone.



Tell What did Stanley learn from others? Who can help you serve safely?

Pray Jesus, help me learn patiently and serve safely. Amen.

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

Learning to serve

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Recall Stanley's perseverance and care for his parish.

Name _____

1 Remember perseverance

What did Stanley do when his studies were difficult?

Stanley ...

2 Remember respect

Why did he learn another language?

He wanted ...

3 Offer help

Name a useful task and an adult who can guide you.

I can help by ...

Pray Jesus, help me learn patiently and serve safely. Amen.

Go deeper Why should serving a community begin with listening to its people?