

## Finding God Grade 5 Mercy Opportunities

| Chapter | Big Idea   | Mercy Connection  |
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| 1.      | God created the world and continues to love and care for it and for us.  | We share in God's life by caring for his creation (clean up parish grounds or other public area)  |
| 2.      | God gave us a savior, Jesus, who helps us heal our relationship with God.  | We bring Jesus' healing love to those who feel excluded (have kids create anti-bullying fliers to post).  |
| 3.      | God made a covenant with Abraham and gave the Commandments to help form them into a people.                            | We are called to be community-builders. (arrange to host hospitality for parishioners after Sunday mass)  |
| 4.      | Jesus gave us the Beatitudes to show us how to live happily in God's kingdom.  | We live the Beatitudes by being signs of God's goodness. (arrange to send sympathy cards to those who mourn)  |
| 5.      | During Ordinary Time, we focus on sacramentals that remind us of the nearness of God.                                  | We are called to bring God's nearness to others. (create sacramental to be given to the elderly or those who are sick)  |
| 6.      | Through the Incarnation, God became one of us – the Word made flesh.   | We care for the bodily needs of others. (team with Loyola Press "People for Others" on a project to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, or shelter the homeless) |
| 7.      | The Sacraments celebrate Jesus' presence among us today.   | We celebrate the presence of Jesus in the lives of those baptized. (arrange to send letters of welcome to the newly baptized)                                   |
| 8.      | Baptism unites us as children of God and calls us to stewardship – sharing our time, talent, and treasure with others. | We are called to practice stewardship. (arrange to assist a younger RE class – tutor or put on skit for their RE lesson)  |
| 9.      | In Confirmation, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, our Advocate.   | We share in the life of the Spirit when we advocate for others (arrange to send thank you letters to nurses at Christ Advocate hospital)                        |
| 10.     | Advent is a time of hope.  | We are called to bring hope to others. (arrange to bring hope at Christmas to those less fortunate)   |
| 11.     | The unity of the Church is celebrated in different ways.   | We are called to work for unity. (arrange for the class to Skype with a class in another location – of different ethnicity)                                     |

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| 12. | Through Holy Orders, priests help others to experience the nearness of God.                       | In baptism, we share in Jesus' priestly ministry of bringing the nearness of God others. (arrange for children to receive the name of someone to pray for in the week ahead) |
| 13. | Through the Sacrament of Matrimony, husbands and wives build the domestic Church.                 | We are called to support strong Catholic families. (Arrange to send letters to those in the parish who are newly married or engaged assuring prayers)                        |
| 14. | By our baptism, we are called to serve others, following the example of Mary.                     | We are called to serve others. (arrange for class to serve people at Ronald McDonald House)  |
| 15. | The Christmas season reminds us that we are called to live lives of holiness.                     | We grow in holiness by being selfless. (arrange for children to team with Loyola Press "People for Others" to purchase and wrap toys from Target for those in need)          |
| 16. | Jesus is the Bread of Life, present in the Eucharist.   | As Jesus feeds us, we are called to feed others. (arrange to collect food for a pantry)  |
| 17. | The Eucharist fosters an intimate union with Christ who is truly present.                         | We are called to bring Christ's presence to others. (arrange for children to meet some Ministers of Care and to create something for them to take to those they visit)       |
| 18. | Jesus heals our relationship with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.                    | We are called to bring reconciliation to the world. (arrange for kids to host an exhibit of <a href="#">"The f Word: Stories of Forgiveness"</a> )                           |
| 19. | In the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, those who are seriously ill experience Jesus' healing. | We are called to minister to those who are ill. (arrange for children to make get well cards for parishioners who are sick)  |
| 20. | During Lent and Holy Week, we acknowledge Jesus' sacrifice for us.                                | During Lent, we are called to make sacrifices. (arrange to team with Loyola Press "People for Others" to create care bags for the homeless)                                  |

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| 21. | Jesus is the foundation of a moral life.  | We are called to make moral choices. (have children create "Making Choices Bookmarks" and arrange to send them to Kolbe House Prison ministry.)   |
| 22. | Sin has negative effects on society as a whole.                                   | We are called to struggle against forces that have a negative effect on individual human dignity. (arrange for children to place a <a href="#">Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Community Order</a> )    |
| 23. | Making good moral choices means respecting our bodies and the bodies of others.   | We are called to respect our bodies and the bodies of others. (arrange for children to write letters to a magazine, a store, or a TV network, protesting <a href="#">the sexualization of children</a> )    |
| 24. | After death, we will be judged on the choices we have made in this life.          | We are called to practice Corporal Works of Mercy. (arrange for children to brainstorm and research practical ways to conserve water at home and to write up a list to be published in the parish bulletin) |
| 25. | During the Easter season, we are filled with joy and praise for the Risen Christ. | We express this joy by serving others. (arrange for children to visit Smith Village for the elderly)  |