

Project Compassion 2023 – Lessons using Caritas Resources

Secondary (Stages 4 and 5)

STEP 1 (5mins)

Remind students of the work of Caritas Australia by showing the video *Stories from Project Compassion 2023* or *Project Compassion Prayer powerpoint*.

Introduce students to the work of Caritas Australia – a church organisation which enables us to help others all over the world.

Outline the lesson and introduce Tereesa – a proud Gamilaroi woman who lives in Darug Country in Western Sydney.

STEP 2 (15-20 mins)

Remind students that Jesus instructed us to ‘love one another’.

Relate the story of Tereesa using the *Caritas and Tereesa’s Story* (Sec) video or read Tereesa’s Story from the handout.

Note: Some students may be emotionally challenged or confronted by this story. Be sensitive to varying response and carefully monitor any negative attitudes or responses.

Have students discuss the following questions in pairs, groups or as a whole class.

1. What might have led to Tereesa becoming homeless? (*being young, single and a mother, not finishing school, not having a job, not being skilled with finances*)
2. How did Tereesa create a better future for her family? (*discovered BaaBayn, listened to elders, reconnected with her culture, became an artist, volunteered, and eventually gained paid work.*)
3. What would it have meant to Tereesa to have her artwork exhibited at Vivid Festival in Sydney? (*recognition, confidence, excitement, pride etc.*)
4. How may have Caritas Australia supported the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation? (*finance, advice, networking etc.*)
5. What message are you taking from this story? (*hope, care, compassion, persistence etc.*)

Encourage students to create images and decorate the worksheet in keeping with Tereesa’s art.

STEP 3 (5-10 mins)

Invite students to respond to Tereesa’s Story using the *Faith in Action* worksheet. Review students understanding of the Lenten practices or prayer, fasting and almsgiving as they consider and quietly write their personal answers. There would be no need to have students share their responses.

If time permits, review the story using the video: *A Day in the Life of Tereesa*.