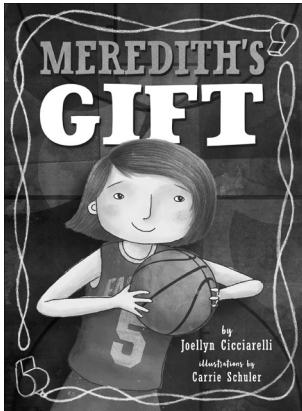


Meredith's Gift

Messages of Hope and Healing Lesson Plan



Activity Objective

The children will learn to develop concern for the emotional and physical needs of others.

Materials

- *Meredith's Gift* by Joellyn Cicciarelli
- Construction paper
- Markers, pens, colored pencils
- Stapler

Directions

1. Read with the children *Meredith's Gift*.
2. Discuss how children might show care and concern for those experiencing health issues.
3. Instruct children to put together two sheets of construction paper and fold them in half vertically. Then have them staple the sheets along the fold to the left to form an eight-page booklet.
4. Assign each child the name of the person who will receive his or her booklet.
5. Invite the children to design their booklets to include things such as artwork, simple word puzzles, and personal messages of encouragement.
6. Invite volunteers to share their booklets with the entire group; then collect them and prepare them for delivery.

Hints

Obtain in advance the names and addresses of ill and homebound parishioners, or those who reside in care facilities or are staying in a children's hospital. Have enough names to pair each child with someone.

Remind the children not to include messages such as "Get well soon."

Sensitivities

Some children might have family members, friends, or neighbors who are ill. They might want to make booklets for these people.