

# Works of Mercy Tree

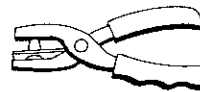
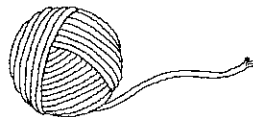
**Estimated Time: 20 minutes**

## Faith Connection

Explain that the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are concrete ways of showing our love for others.

## Materials

- Coffee can
- Gift wrapping paper
- Glue
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- Plaster of paris
- Leafless tree branch
- Yarn
- Paper punch



## Directions (you may need one or more aides for this project)

1. Cover a coffee can with gift wrapping paper.
2. Fill the coffee can with plaster of paris. Set the branch down into the plaster of paris and hold the branch upright.
3. Have the students make little booklets from gift wrapping paper and write a promise to perform a work of mercy inside each booklet. (One or two aides will be needed to help the younger students write their works)
4. Write the corporal and spiritual works of mercy on the board.

Corporal Works of Mercy	Spiritual Works of Mercy
feed the hungry	counsel the doubtful
give drink to the thirsty	instruct the ignorant
clothe the naked	admonish sinners
shelter the homeless	comfort the afflicted
visit the sick	forgive offenses
visit the imprisoned	bear wrongs patiently
bury the dead	pray for the living and the dead

5. Punch a hole in each booklet. Using yarn, tie each booklet to the tree.
6. Help the students remember to do their works of mercy by suggesting they make a "promise" tree at home.
7. This project can be brought to the liturgy and presented as the students' gift.

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