



OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

GRADES 7-8

45 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE

Through the story of Alefa in Malawi, students will explore a Catholic social teaching principle, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, and how they can care for others.

MATERIALS

Map, Facts to Consider: Malawi, Alefa's story, Malawi Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8

DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

1. Locate Malawi on the map.
2. Ask two students to read the Facts to Consider aloud.
2. Read Alefa's story.
3. Reflect:
 - What stood out to you in the story?
 - How is the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable upheld in the story?

ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

1. Explain that often the most vulnerable people in our communities suffer the greatest consequences when we don't care for the Earth. They may have to migrate for survival.
2. Have students complete the Malawi Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8.
3. If time permits have them share their responses in small groups.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

God of all people,

We are asked to walk with our neighbors, the members of our human family.

Let us journey as companions, growing in our relationship with one another and in you.

Amen

AT HOME

1. Read the **Pope Francis Reflects** section of the Lenten calendar and write your thoughts about it in a short paragraph.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE



1. Read Alefa's story.
2. Lead Discussion step 3.



MALAWI

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

1 What does the Catholic social teaching principle Option for the Poor and Vulnerable mean?

2 What is challenging about living out this principle personally and as a larger global community?

3 Write one action you will take during Lent to remind you of the importance of this Church teaching.
