



Morality, Our Lived Faith

Begin

Say: *God has blessed us with special gifts. What special gifts do you have? Share your own gifts with your child to start the discussion. Read aloud the unit title on page 121. **Say:** Our new unit will help us learn how we can use our gifts to be like Jesus in our modern world. We will read about how our faith helps us make good moral choices in all that we do.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus on the image of Saint Benedict of Palermo. Have your child read aloud the text. **Say:** *We've read about many ordinary people who became saints. Saint Benedict began his life as a slave. After he gained his freedom, he chose to live a simple, holy life. Saint Benedict's life shows others how to love and honor God.*

Turn to page 122. Have your child read silently the first two paragraphs.

Ask: *Who convinced Benedict to follow Jesus? (Father Jerome Lanza) How did Benedict feel about the conditions at the monastery? (He felt that the hard life there was too comfortable.)*

Have your child read silently the rest of the page. **Ask:** *What did Saint Benedict sacrifice to show his devotion to God? (his possessions, his money, his comfort)*

Ask: *What things would you sacrifice to show your love for God? **Say:** Making sacrifices to show our love for God is a virtue.*

With your child add Benedict of Palermo's feast day, April 4, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the sacrifices of Saint Benedict of Palermo.



Jesus' Way of Love

Engage: Page 123

- ▶ Tell your child about one or two of your own good qualities or virtues, such as kindness, intelligence, or generosity. **Ask:** *What are your best virtues?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Some of our virtues, or gifts, we learn from the people in our lives. Others come from God. In this session we will learn how to share all our gifts as members of God's kingdom.*
- ▶ Encourage your child to use his or her gift to help a family member or neighbor. Discuss different ways to help. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 124–125

- ▶ **Ask:** *What virtues do you think Jesus demonstrated most during his life?*
- ▶ Have your child read silently page 124. **Ask:** *What did you learn about faith? (It is belief in God and giving ourselves to him.) What is Christian hope? (the desire for all the good things God has planned for us)*
- ▶ Read aloud Charity on page 125. Invite your child to tell what he or she thinks Saint Paul meant. **Say:** *We can show charity by working at a food pantry or donating things to people in need.* Invite your child to read aloud Living the Virtues and complete the activity. Tell your child he or she can read more about virtues in the Prayers and Practices section on page 214.

Art Exploration: Page 249

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a painting of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including items such as the halo, crucifix, flowers, rosary, and habit worn by the nun.
- ▶ **Say:** *Saints were ordinary people who put love of God before all else.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 249. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Young Woman Who Listened to God. **Say:** *Thérèse's faith and hope helped her pursue her wish to be a nun, and she showed her love for God daily.*



- ▶ Read aloud The Little Way. Allow time for your child to complete the activity. Discuss the response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How does this Scripture passage describe the love Saint Thérèse had for God?* (It shows how dedicated she was to Jesus.)
- ▶ Discuss what a blog is—a person's personal Web page where he or she writes his or her thoughts about various topics. Have your child draw the outline of a computer screen. Then have your child write a blog entry about Saint Thérèse and how she lived a life of faith, hope, and love. Encourage your child to share the blog with other family members.

Reflect: Pages 126–127

- ▶ Together look at page 126. **Say:** *When we pray traditional prayers with others, the prayers can give us a rich and powerful prayer experience because they unite our minds, hearts, and voices. Traditional prayers also help us link the basic truths of our faith.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Have your child read silently the paragraph after the prayer. End by leading your child in praying the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Living the Theological Virtues on page 127. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *For many years only men received the special title of Doctor of the Church. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Saint Catherine of Siena, and Saint Teresa of Ávila were the first women to be named Doctors of the Church.*
- ▶ Have your child read Showing Faith, Hope, and Charity and complete the activity. Encourage your child to choose one way to show faith, hope, or charity and try to do that action during the week.

Respond: Page 128

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to be kind to a person he or she has difficulty getting along with.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.