



Acting on Behalf of Justice

Engage: Page 187

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is justice?* (the virtue that guides us to give to God and to others what is due them) Discuss current events that demonstrate an issue of injustice. **Ask:** *How do you think these situations can be resolved justly?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the blue box. **Say:** *One way to build up the Kingdom of God is to work to end injustices. In this session we are going to learn how we are called to work for justice in the world today.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 188–189

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is fairness?* (Possible answer: respecting the rights of others) Together discuss an experience where you believed you were treated unfairly. Talk about how the experience made you feel.
- ▶ Read aloud the title *The Industrial Revolution* and the first five paragraphs. **Ask:** *What injustices did workers face after the Industrial Revolution?* (Children were required to work. People worked long hours for little pay. Working conditions were dangerous.) *What could factory owners have done to make more just working conditions?* (Possible answers: not hire children, pay fair wages)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Explain that a living wage is the amount of income that is necessary to live a life of dignity. **Say:** *God wants our basic physical needs to be met, and he wants us to experience peace and joy.*
- ▶ Read aloud Church Reflection and Action on page 189. **Say:** *Working for systematic change involves efforts to change unjust social structures and attitudes such as racism and sexism.* **Ask:** *What can we do to engage in systematic change?* (Possible answer: contact our legislators)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Rerum Novarum*. **Ask:** *If the current pope were to write a letter addressing contemporary social injustices, what might he write about?* Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. To explain the concept of subsidiarity, **say:** *If someone were to misbehave at school, teachers would try to deal with the issue first before calling the police.*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 190–191

- ▶ Display a bowl of cereal, a serving spoon, and two bowls. **Say:** *Imagine this cereal is the only food you get to eat tomorrow.* Give your child one spoonful, but fill your entire bowl. **Ask:** *How do you feel when you see that I get a full bowl and you don't?* **Say:** *Now imagine that the cereal represents the world's wealth. Many people today have more than they need, while others do not have enough to survive.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the title *Catholic Social Teaching* and the text on page 190. **Ask:** *When does justice exist?* (when we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and treat one another in the same way that God treats us) Turn to page 263 in the back of the

book to review the Beatitudes. **Ask:** *How do the Beatitudes help us live just lives?* (Possible answer: They give us directions for how we can act in ways that build up God's kingdom.) Emphasize that as members of the Church, we cannot passively ignore the injustices that surround us. **Say:** *We are all called to use our gifts to respond to the needs of others.*

- ▶ Read aloud Solidarity on page 191. Point out that because God is our Father, we are all brothers and sisters in faith. **Ask:** *What can we do to show care for God's creation?* (Possible answers: use garbage bins rather than littering, recycle, reduce what we use)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. Point out that the Church's teachings on life and death remind us that life is a gift from God and that we are called to respect this gift. **Say:** *As human beings we know that death is a part of life. As Catholics we have faith in the Resurrection. We trust that God will raise us from the dead at the end of time.*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 192–193

- ▶ Read aloud the title Looking Beyond Myself and the paragraphs in the left column. **Ask:** *Why are we called to recognize the injustices that surround us?* (Possible answer: so that we can do something about them, thereby sharing God's love with people who need it)
- ▶ Pray together the Litany to Heal Injustice. After praying aloud the closing prayer, **say:** *Remember that working to end injustice requires both prayer and action. As we continue the session, let's think of ways that we can act on behalf of justice.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? on page 193. **Say:** *People who are poor and vulnerable are all around us. As Catholics we are called to see them and to respond to their needs.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud How Do I Respond to the Needs Around Me? **Say:** *The power of love is strong, and its effects are ongoing.* **Ask:** *Whom did the author's mother help? How?* (Possible answers: the author, by setting an example of generosity; the woman with lymphoma, by raising a daughter who would in turn help people in need; the author's cousin, by taking him in) *Why does the author say that it is "a gift and a privilege" to help someone in need?* (Possible answer: because it takes you outside yourself into the heart of another person)
- ▶ Have your child complete Needs Chart independently. Suggest that he or she take a few moments to "see" those who are poor and vulnerable in the community before beginning to write.

Respond: Page 194

- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the crossword puzzle independently.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Have your child complete the activity and be mindful of his or her response during the week. **Say:** *When we put the Catholic Social Teachings into practice, we follow Jesus' example by sharing God's love with others.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.