

# Lesson Plan for Lesson 32

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## The Moral Life

### Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 32, “The Moral Life,” in the handbook.
- Gather a variety of newspapers, newsprint, and markers.
- Make four copies of the handout “Virtue-al Reality” (Document #: TX003423).

### Pray It! (5 minutes)

**Tell** the participants that class will begin with a prayer for a life of virtue. **Direct** them to turn to the Pray It! “Prayer for a Virtuous Life,” on page 355 in the handbook. **Lead** the young people in praying the prayer together.

### Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

#### A. Cardinal Virtues

1. **Share** the following definition for *virtue*.
  - A good habit we develop over time to help us make good decisions. A virtue creates within us a kind of inner readiness or attraction to move toward or accomplish moral good.

**Invite** the participants to brainstorm a list of virtues. **Write** the list on the board. Then **ask** the young people to review the list and create their own lists of the virtues they have developed with the help of their families. **Invite** a few volunteers to share from their lists.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the chapter introduction and the sections “Cardinal Virtues” and “Theological Virtues,” on pages 351–355 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 through 11 on the handout “Lesson 32 Summary” (Document #: TX003422).
3. **(Optional)** **Invite** questions and observations on the content. You might also **direct** the young people to the Reflect directions on page 354 in the handbook, and **ask** them to create a plan for practicing the virtue of their choice for one week.

#### B. Forgiveness

1. **Direct** the participants to form groups of three or four. **Give** each group a selection of newspapers. **Invite** the groups to look in the newspaper for an article about someone who has done something wrong or a story in which someone asks for forgiveness. **Ask** the groups to discuss the following:
  - What do you think caused this person to ask for forgiveness?
  - What would forgiveness for this person look like?



- Ask** a volunteer from each group to share what the group has found.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the section “Forgiveness,” on pages 355–356 in the handbook. The content covers point 12 on the handout “Lesson 32 Summary.”
  3. **(Optional) Direct** the participants to answer the Reflect questions on page 357 in the handbook.

### C. Grace

**Direct** the participants to read the section “Grace,” on pages 357–359 in the handbook. The content covers point 13 on the handout “Lesson 32 Summary.”

*Note:* If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

### Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Direct** the participants to form four groups. **Give** each group a sheet of newsprint, a marker, and a copy of the handout “Virtue—al Reality” (Document #: TX003423). **Assign** each group one of the four situations on the handout.

**Explain** the task as follows:

- Each group has been given a situation they might encounter on a Friday evening.
  - Create a list of the risks, temptations, and moral dilemmas your group might face in the scenario you have been assigned.
  - Then draft a plan of action that will help your group counter these risks, temptations, and moral dilemmas before they occur. List the moral virtues that could be drawn upon.
  - Select someone from your group to write your list and plan of action on newsprint.
2. **Invite** a participant from each group to share the group’s situation and plan of action with the rest of the class.
  3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:
    - In order to best practice the moral life, we have to tap into the gifts God has placed within each one of us: the virtues, forgiveness, and grace.
    - Virtues are habits we develop over time to help us make good decisions. Virtues capitalize on the abilities God has already placed within us.
    - There are two kinds of virtues—cardinal virtues and theological virtues. The cardinal virtues are prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. The theological virtues—faith, hope, and love—are the source of energy for perfecting our relationships with God and neighbor.
    - We must seek to practice these virtues in our lives. The more we practice them—in every aspect of our lives—the more they will be a natural part of us. As we grow as virtuous people, living out God’s Law becomes easier for us to do, even when we face difficult moral decisions.

### Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, **direct** the participants to page 448 in the handbook and conclude by **praying** the “Act of Hope” together.

