

INSPIRE!

Touching hearts. Igniting joy.

BEAR WITH

ME

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ANOTHER

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MISSION

PAGE 12



“GOD OF LOVE, SET ME AFLAME WITH
love
FOR YOU AND FOR MY
neighbor.”

—Saint John Baptist de La Salle

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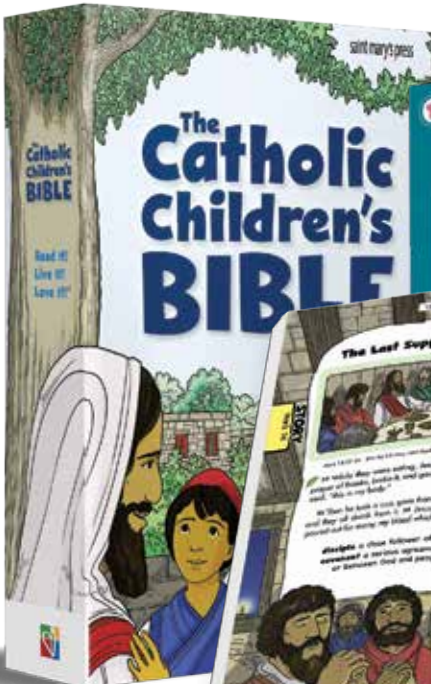
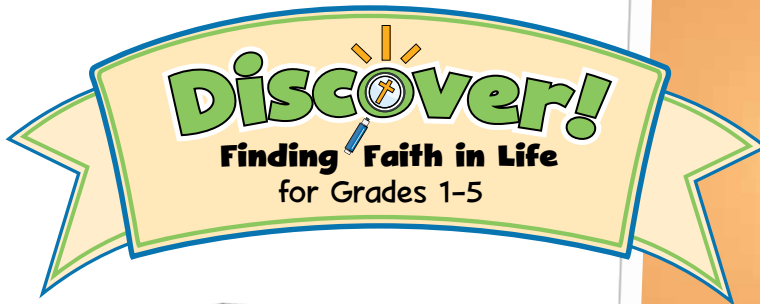
SAINT THÉRÈSE
OF LISIEUX

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Engage and excite your kids!

"This program is awesome! The children are engaged and are learning how to look things up in the Bible. They walk away knowing the message they were taught." —Wendy, IA



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ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

Saint Mary's Press is a nonprofit, Lasallian Catholic publisher administered by the Christian Brothers of the Midwest District. Our focus is a contemporary expression of the Catholic Church's mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and the Lasallian mission to provide a human and Christian education for young people, including those who are economically deprived. With our partners in schools, parishes, and families, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ with Christian children and young people through publications and services.

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from the editor



As we begin a new year in our parishes and schools, many of us are likely grateful for a return to some sense of normalcy. Things are likely not exactly as they were pre-pandemic, but the year hopefully looks more predictable than last fall.

As we return, remember that many children may have spent the last school year isolated. They may have had limited contact and interactions with friends, acquaintances, and extended family. They may have forgotten what a traditional classroom experience feels like, and they may have little recollection of how to interact with a group in person.

This issue of *Inspire!* offers activities to help children think about how they are connected to others and the world around them. You will find articles that focus on love and identify strategies for building a community of love and asking "Who is my neighbor?" You will also find activities that will help build community within your group and promote a broader sense of solidarity with others. This issue offers age-appropriate activities for young children, and more challenging activities for older children. All these activities provide the opportunity to engage children of all ages in actively exploring their faith and their connection to others.

We at Saint Mary's Press wish you a blessed new academic year—one that opens hearts and minds. We hope this magazine provides valuable activities and articles that support you and those with whom you minister as you begin the new school year. We are honored to be a part of your journey and walk into this new year with you.

Live Jesus in our hearts . . . forever!

Steven Ellair



Love ONE Another

BY JOANNA DAILEY

We talk a lot about love and the need to be loving people, but what is love? This is a question that Paul's converts in Corinth must have been asking as well. In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul replied with a famous paragraph that has provided a definition for love—even an examination of conscience for love—ever since Paul's scroll was first opened over two thousand years ago.

Before we take a look at Saint Paul's answer, let's remind ourselves that if Paul was an expert in love, he was also an expert in not loving well. He considered himself the worst sinner of all (see 1 Timothy 1:15) because he persecuted the first followers of Christ. He tried to haul them off to jail, where they would be tried as blasphemers and perhaps crucified as Jesus was. That was his résumé before the Risen Christ literally stopped him in his tracks and turned him around. (We celebrate this "turning" every year on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on January 25.)

So Paul is not presenting himself here as someone who has always acted out of love. Even after his conversion, he probably had to work at it, as we all do. What is love? Here is Paul's answer:

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

And later in this paragraph, Paul adds:

Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love. (Verse 13)



These verses of Scripture should be written in our hearts and in our bones. It is also our mission to “teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life” (Proverbs 22:6). How do we teach children to love? Here are some ideas:

- **Be loving toward children.** Saint Mother Théodore Guérin, an American saint who, before emigrating to the United States, won a Certificate of Excellence in Teaching from the French government, once said, “Love the children first, and then teach them.” By love, Mother Théodore did not mean excusing bad behavior or allowing disorder. But she did mean appreciating someone from the heart. One of the saddest things a child can say is, “I know my teacher doesn’t like me.”
- **Be a good example.** Children are watching! They see how you treat colleagues, other children, and your supervisor. And they hear your remarks. Be a loving person at all times.
- **Accentuate the positive.** “Catch” the children in loving actions, and remark on them to all. “Jessica, I liked that you helped Roberto pick up his books when they fell. That was a very loving thing to do.” Or have an end-of-session wrap-up: “What good things happened in our lesson today? What good things did we learn? What loving actions did we do?” You might find that the children begin to report on one another’s loving actions! This might be a time to thank the group for cooperating and listening to one another.

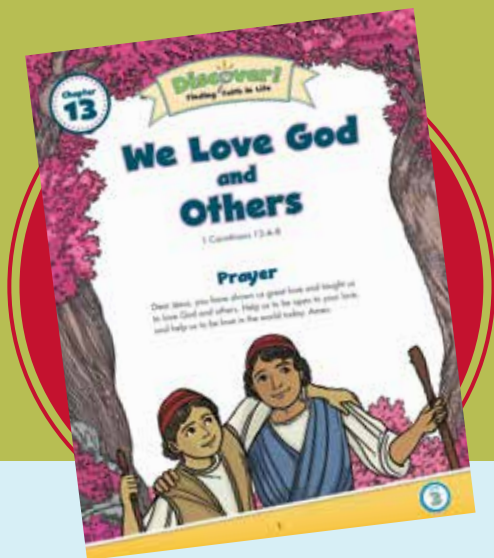


**Saint
Mother Théodore Guérin**

- **Set aside time to ask the children to turn to Saint Paul’s verses on love quoted on page 7.** Go through the passage with them, exploring the meaning of each phrase. Give examples at a child’s level: *Are you ever ill-mannered? Do you interrupt when someone else is talking? Do you throw your things around at home and not put them away? Why is this unloving?* Be sure to explain that these little actions that we do out of love—waiting to speak, putting our things away—prepare us to do even bigger loving actions. As Jesus said, “Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones” (Luke 16:10).
- **Emphasize that love is a verb.** Love is not just feelings in your heart. Love is action. Make a “Love in Action” bulletin board. Post pictures or short descriptions of loving actions done by an individual child or even by the whole group. Just writing a name may be a simple way to acknowledge the love in your group: “Thank you, Jason, for helping Bennett find the Scripture passage. Your name is going up on the ‘Love in Action’ bulletin board!”
- **Introduce the children, in an age-appropriate way, to the seven principles of Catholic social teaching.** These principles describe love in action as a goal for society as a whole. They mandate us to look outward, for, as Saint John of the Cross wrote, “Where there is no love, put love, and you will find love.” In the Epistle of Saint James, we read that faith without actions (or, as Saint Paul wrote, without love), is dead: “What good is there in your saying to them, ‘God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!’—if you don’t give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead” (James 2:16-17). Catholic social teaching is love in action within the larger society in which we live.

Yes, “the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13). Love is not something vague and ethereal. As Dorothy Day once said, love can be “a harsh and dreadful thing,” requiring much sacrifice. But without love, there is no joy in life. So let us introduce children, little by little, to both the sacrifice and the joy of love. Let us prepare them, little by little, to be sons and daughters of our loving Father, true disciples of Jesus Christ, and faithful listeners to the Holy Spirit, who secretly whispers to each of us as we seek the way of love: “Here is the road. Follow it” (Isaiah 30:21).

SOMETHING FUN FOR YOU!



The activity on the following page is taken from chapter 13 of the Grade 3 Activity Booklet in the *Discover! Finding Faith in Life* program.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
DISCOVER! AND ITS COMPONENTS:

ARE YOU AT A PARISH?
SMP.ORG/DISCOVERPARISH

ARE YOU AT A SCHOOL?
SMP.ORG/DISCOVERSCHOOL

Answers: Children should circle “patient,” “faithful,” “kind,” “truthful,” and “hopeful.” The pink letters are: e, a, t, n, r, l, e. The last sentence is “Love is eternal.”

MAKE COPIES OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Circle the words that describe love. Cross out the words that do not describe love.

proud
faithful
selfish
jealous

conceited
kind
truthful
hopeful

patient
ill-mannered

Now write the pink letters that appear in the circled words here:

Unscramble the pink letters in the words that are not crossed out to complete the sentence:

Love is _____.



MAKE IT YOUR *Mission*

BY LAURIE ZILIAK

It is not uncommon for classes and programs to start the year with a grounding theme or a centering idea. After a year of disrupted learning, upheaval, and isolation during the pandemic and the 2020-2021 school year, children might need some time to get reacquainted with interacting with one another. Recent times have also seen great political division and mean-spiritedness. A child who has heard any newscast has most likely picked up on some of this. So start this new academic year by being intentional about inviting the children to care for God and one another. Don't just pick a theme—make it a mission! And make it the yearlong, collective mission. Center your mission on loving God and loving others.



Make Scripture the Motto

Identify a Scripture quote or passage as a foundation for your mission of caring for God and others. Make a short quote your motto for the year! Display the motto around the classroom, school, and church buildings. Reference it frequently. Many good Scripture texts can provide a focused mission for your group. Some possibilities include:

- **John 13:34:** Jesus commands to love others as he loves us.
- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7:** Paul explains the attributes of love.
- **Mark 12:28-31:** The Great Commandment asks us to love God and others as we love ourselves.
- **Luke 10: 25-37:** The Parable of the Good Samaritan illustrates how to treat others, even those people we may not like.

Actively Pursue the Mission

Practice pursuing the mission. Build daily and weekly activities that invite the children to care for God and others as part of their daily activities.

- **Daily prayer:** Begin each gathering with a simple prayer that incorporates the motto from Scripture.
- **Group goals:** Have the group set a small goal for the week to collectively pursue the mission.
- **Missionary challenges:** Invite the children to identify three things they personally will do during the week to pursue the mission.
- **Small collections:** Periodically, invite the group to contribute to a collection for those in need with either goods or money. Keep it small so the children truly are able to contribute themselves.

Celebrate the Mission in Action

Ideally, our care for others should be evident in the big and small actions of our daily lives. Take time to name and celebrate when people successfully pursue the mission.

- **Missionary magic:** Highlight one child periodically, illustrating specifically how they pursued the mission.
- **Partners in mission:** Share local news stories of people or organizations doing good for others.
- **Mission jar:** Have fun little trinkets, stickers, etc. in a jar. When you see the mission in action, invite the children to pick a prize.
- **Celebrate group goals:** Take time each week to have the group together name successes of collectively pursuing the mission.

Expand the Mission

A mission of loving God and others can't be limited to school and parish program gatherings. It should involve every aspect of daily life. Invite the children to pursue the mission beyond your gatherings by including families and other communities.

- **Family prayer:** Send the daily prayer home, and invite families to pray it together at a meal or the end of the day.
- **Extend goals:** As the group names a collective mission goal, invite them to consider ways the goal can be pursued at home. Share this goal with families.
- **Invite contributions:** Invite families to submit news stories or nominations for partners in mission.
- **Display the mission:** Invite the children to create artwork to represent the mission. Send the artwork home, and ask families to display it in a prominent place at home.

The past year has likely taken a toll on all of us. As we "re-enter" a life that again involves gathering together, challenge the children (and yourself) to love God and others very intentionally. Make it your mission!

IT'S COMING!

CONNECT!



BRINGING FAITH TO LIFE

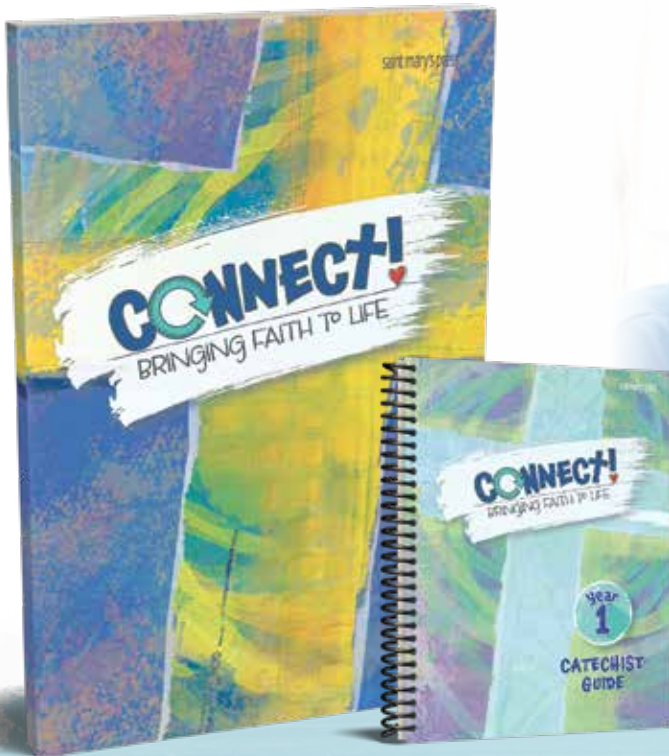
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SOMETHING FUN FOR YOU!



The activity on the following page is taken from the Ordinary Time chapter of the Grade 5 Activity Booklet of the *Discover! Finding Faith in Life* program.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT **DISCOVER!** AND ITS COMPONENTS:

ARE YOU AT A PARISH?
SMP.ORG/DISCOVERPARISH

ARE YOU AT A SCHOOL?
SMP.ORG/DISCOVERSCHOOL

Answers: 1. neighbor, 2. Jericho, 3. dead, 4. Samaritan, 5. kind

MAKE COPIES OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Read Luke 10:25-37 and answer the questions
(found on page 1606 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*).

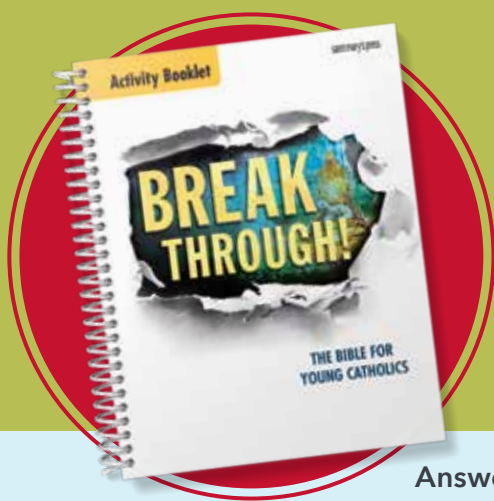
- 1 The man asked, "Who is my _____?"
- 2 Jesus answered, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to _____."
- 3 "Robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half _____."
- 4 A _____ saw him, and his heart was filled with pity.
- 5 The neighbor was the one who was _____.

You go,
then, and
do the **same**.

Luke 10:37



SOMETHING FUN FOR YOU!



The activity on the following page is taken from the *Breakthrough! Activity Booklet*.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT **BREAKTHROUGH!**
visit smp.org/breakthrough

Answers: 1. I, 2. E, 3. O, 4. Y, 5. R, 6. G, 7. L, 8. B, 9. V, 10. H, 11. U, 12. N
FILL-IN ANSWER: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

MAKE A COPY OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

TRUE NEIGHBOR

Read Luke 10:25–37, and then determine which of the following “if-then” statements is true. Fill in the blanks at the bottom of the page according to your answers to spell out a sentence related to the story.

1. If the scholar wanted to know the path to Jerusalem, then 11 is **D**. If the scholar wanted to know the path to eternal life, then 11 is **I**.
2. If the man fell victim to animals, then 4 and 10 are **A**. If the man fell victim to robbers, then 4 and 10 are **E**.
3. If the man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, then 2, 6, and 15 are **O**. If the man was traveling from Jericho to Jerusalem, then 2, 6, and 15 are **I**.
4. If the priest stopped to help the man, then 5 is **W**. If the Levite did not stop to help the man, then 5 is **Y**.
5. If the Samaritan was moved with compassion, then 8 and 16 are **R**. If the Samaritan was overcome with disgust, then 8 and 16 are **S**.
6. If the Samaritan poured oil and water on the man’s wounds, then 12 is **H**. If the Samaritan poured oil and wine on the man’s wounds, then 12 is **G**.
7. If the Samaritan carried the man to the inn on an animal, then 1 is **L**. If the Samaritan carried the man to the inn on his back, then 1 is **M**.
8. If the Samaritan gave the innkeeper one coin, then 14 is **N**. If the Samaritan gave the innkeeper two coins, then 14 is **B**.
9. If the Samaritan told the innkeeper to send the man away when he ran out of money, then 3 is **T**. If the Samaritan told the innkeeper he would be back to pay whatever it would cost past 2 coins, then 3 is **V**.
10. If the Samaritan was a good neighbor, then 13 is **H**. If the Samaritan was a bad neighbor, then 13 is **C**.
11. If a good neighbor is unkind, then 7 is **I**. If a good neighbor is merciful, then 7 is **U**.
12. If Jesus sent the scholar away to be a good neighbor, then 9 is **N**. If Jesus sent the scholar away to turn his back on others, then 9 is **K**.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

ACTIVITY FOR ORDINARY TIME

Concentrating on Love

Scripture Focus: Luke 10:25-37 The children will uncover Jesus' message about showing love for God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

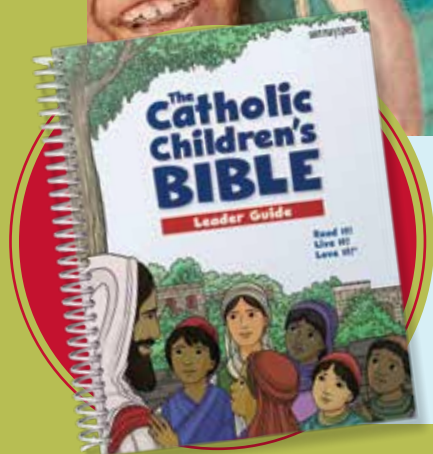
Gather the following items: thirty blank index cards; thirty index cards with the words from Luke 10:27, one word on each card; card chart; crayons or markers; and drawing paper

Let's Look It Up! After playing the game for this activity, you may want to have the children open *The Catholic Children's Bible* to the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament. Direct them to find chapter 10, verses 25-37. Explain that this Gospel story is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus told this story to teach us about loving God, ourselves, and our neighbor.

Activity

1. Invite the children to play a concentration/matching game. Before class, prepare word cards that contain the words from Luke 10:27: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind"; and 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" Have one word written on each card to make thirty word cards in all. Place these cards facedown in correct word order in a card chart or on the surface of a desk or table. The message should stay hidden from the children's view until they begin to make matches.

2. Distribute two blank index cards and some crayons or markers to each child. Depending on the size of the class, you may need to give one card to every child and then pair up the remaining children to work together. Invite the children to draw the same design, shape, or picture on two cards (geometric shapes, faces, nature, etc.).
3. When the children have finished their designs, collect the picture cards. Shuffle the cards to mix up the order. Then ask the children to help you put the cards in the chart or on the flat surface. Invite them to place the cards randomly, facedown, over the hidden message cards already in the chart. After all the cards have been placed, invite the children, one at a time, to pick two picture cards (top cards). If the cards match, that child may reveal the words under those cards. If the cards do not match, the child places them back as originally found.
4. After all the matches have been found, invite the class to read together the message that has been uncovered. At this time, you may direct the children to refer to their Bibles to read the entire Gospel passage.



This activity is taken from *The Catholic Children's Bible Leader Guide*

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ARE YOU AT A SCHOOL?
SMP.ORG/DISCOVERSCHOOL

PRAYERS FOR ORDINARY TIME

Scripture Focus: Luke 10:25-37

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father . . .

Leader: In this Gospel, Jesus tells us the story of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan was good because he helped someone in need.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Reader then reads the Scripture passage above from The Catholic Children's Bible.

Leader: Let us pray that we can all be Good Samaritans! Our response is, "Help us to be Good Samaritans, O Lord."

All: Help us to be Good Samaritans, O Lord.

Leader: When we are tempted to use mean words against others . . .

All: Help us to be Good Samaritans, O Lord.

Leader: When we are tempted to leave others out . . .

All: Help us to be Good Samaritans, O Lord.

Leader: When we are tempted to bully others just because we can . . .

All: Help us to be Good Samaritans, O Lord.

Leader: When we are inspired to help someone who needs our help . . .

All: Help us to be Good Samaritans, O Lord.

Leader: When we are inspired to give something away to someone who needs it more than we do . . .

All: Help us to be Good Samaritans, O Lord.

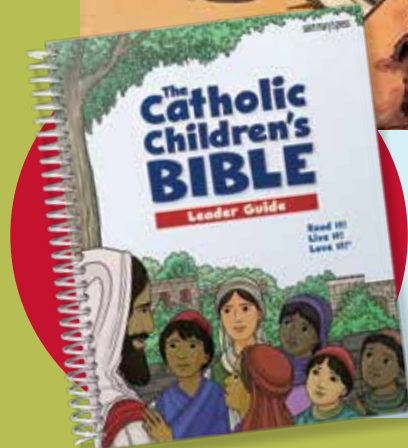
Leader: When we are inspired to pray for all those who are hurting or in need . . .

All: Help us to be Good Samaritans, O Lord.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Today we learned that loving God, ourselves, and others is the meaning of the Gospel. Let us pray to live the Gospel each and every day:

Lord Jesus, thank you for telling us the story of the Good Samaritan. Help us to be Good Samaritans in our families, in our schools, and with our friends and neighbors. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for showing us the way. Amen.



This prayer is taken from *The Catholic Children's Bible Leader Guide*
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SMP.ORG/DISCOVERSCHOOL



Bear WITH Me

BY LAURIE ZILIAK

In many different places, Scripture provides beautiful images and instructions regarding love. From the call to love God and neighbor, to the clear example of love seen in the life of Christ, the reality of love permeates the Bible. Passage after passage provide us with examples and lessons.



A moving passage in the lessons of love can be found in Colossians 3:12-17, which implores us to “put on” qualities that are essential for love. The list of qualities is not unlike what is found in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13—compassion, humility, patience, and more. But then the Colossians passage directs us to put on these qualities while “bearing with one another” (3:13). This same instruction is found in Ephesians as Paul declares that the Christian life includes “bearing with one another through love” (4:2).

I find this piece of advice to be strangely comforting. It is not uncommon for people to use the phrase “bear with me” as a synonym for “be patient with me.” The phrase is often employed as a request to endure something someone is doing or not doing, and those somethings can have great variations among them. In my case, “please bear with me” is often a request to let me finish something else before someone has my full attention, a prolonged thinking through of something aloud, or a lengthier explanation of a situation. Asking someone to “bear with me” implies some recognition that I am being a bit of a nuisance or presenting a challenge. It also serves as a request for patience and compassion.

Another familiar saying is “bearing the brunt” of something, be it a misfortune or discomfort brought about by someone else. (“I had to bear the brunt of my colleague’s tardiness.”) The website theidioms.com states it even stronger, indicating that “bearing the brunt” means “bearing the main force that came from a blow” or “absorbing an attack.”

As I reflect on the biblical call to love, I’m struck by how real it is. Love is beautiful and life-giving in all its manifestations, but it can also be hard. It can ask a lot of us at times, and we can ask a lot of those people who love us. Sometimes my loved ones have to absorb a verbal blow from me on a bad day, or bear the brunt of my bad mood.

The challenges of love and the instruction to bear with one another speak to our ministry with children as teachers and catechists. Most of the time, we love what we do and love being with children. But not always. Some days are particularly challenging, as children act out, don’t pay attention, or display other disruptive behaviors. But we stay with the children and come back the next time, ready to begin anew. Other days, we bring our own life challenges and negative emotions to the group (often unintentionally). It is the children who bear the brunt of our bad days. But they stay with us, do what they are asked to do, and come back the next time, ready to engage.

On these challenging days, Colossians offers a good reminder that sometimes love means we need to bear with others on their bad days. And on days that we are challenged to love, we simply need to say, “Bear with me.”





NEW! Middle School Faith Formation



**CATHOLICISM
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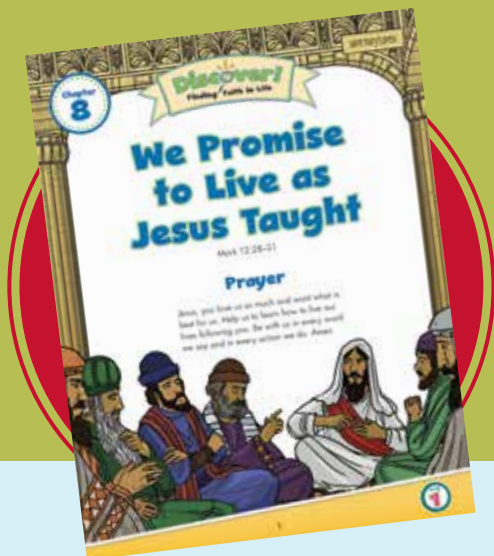
What if there was a way to engage their hearts and go deeper into the concepts of faith, while equipping your catechists to lead meaningful, deeper conversations with them, whether in person or via video call? *Catholicism 101* answers this by first having young people engage in interactive eLearning modules for self-directed learning, which then lead to catechist-led follow-up sessions.



Learn more at smp.org/catholicism101

SOMETHING FUN FOR YOU!

The activity on the following page is taken from chapter 8 of the Grade 1 Activity Booklet in the *Discover! Finding Faith in Life* program.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT **DISCOVER!** AND ITS COMPONENTS:

ARE YOU AT A PARISH?
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ARE YOU AT A SCHOOL?
SMP.ORG/DISCOVERSCHOOL

Answer: LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS

MAKE COPIES OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

You have been sent on an important secret mission. Decode your mission by filling in the letters according to the code.

1 = A	10 = J	19 = S
2 = B	11 = K	20 = T
3 = C	12 = L	21 = U
4 = D	13 = M	22 = V
5 = E	14 = N	23 = W
6 = F	15 = O	24 = X
7 = G	16 = P	25 = Y
8 = H	17 = Q	26 = Z
9 = I	18 = R	

12 15 22 5 7 15 4 1 14 4

12 15 22 5 15 20 8 5 18 19

following THROUGH matters

BY ELLEN B. KONECK


For children, learning often begins with trust. As teachers and catechists in their lives, you likely already recognize that they are often receptive to new ideas based on *who* is offering the information, rather than *what* the information is about. The time you take to build trust matters. It lays the groundwork for creating an environment where school and parish gatherings can be transformative, not just transactional.

80%

of young Catholics say they **feel listened to when people seem genuinely curious about what they have to say.**

72%

say they **feel listened to when people ask questions about what they've said.**


 **Tide-Turning Tip:** Show sincere curiosity through your body language by turning toward the person you're speaking with and nodding along to show that you're following what they're saying. Communication researchers refer to this as having an open posture, as opposed to a closed body posture where arms are folded, for example. Ask a few questions before offering a comment or advice. These can be as simple as, "Can you tell me more about that experience, person, or idea?"

76%

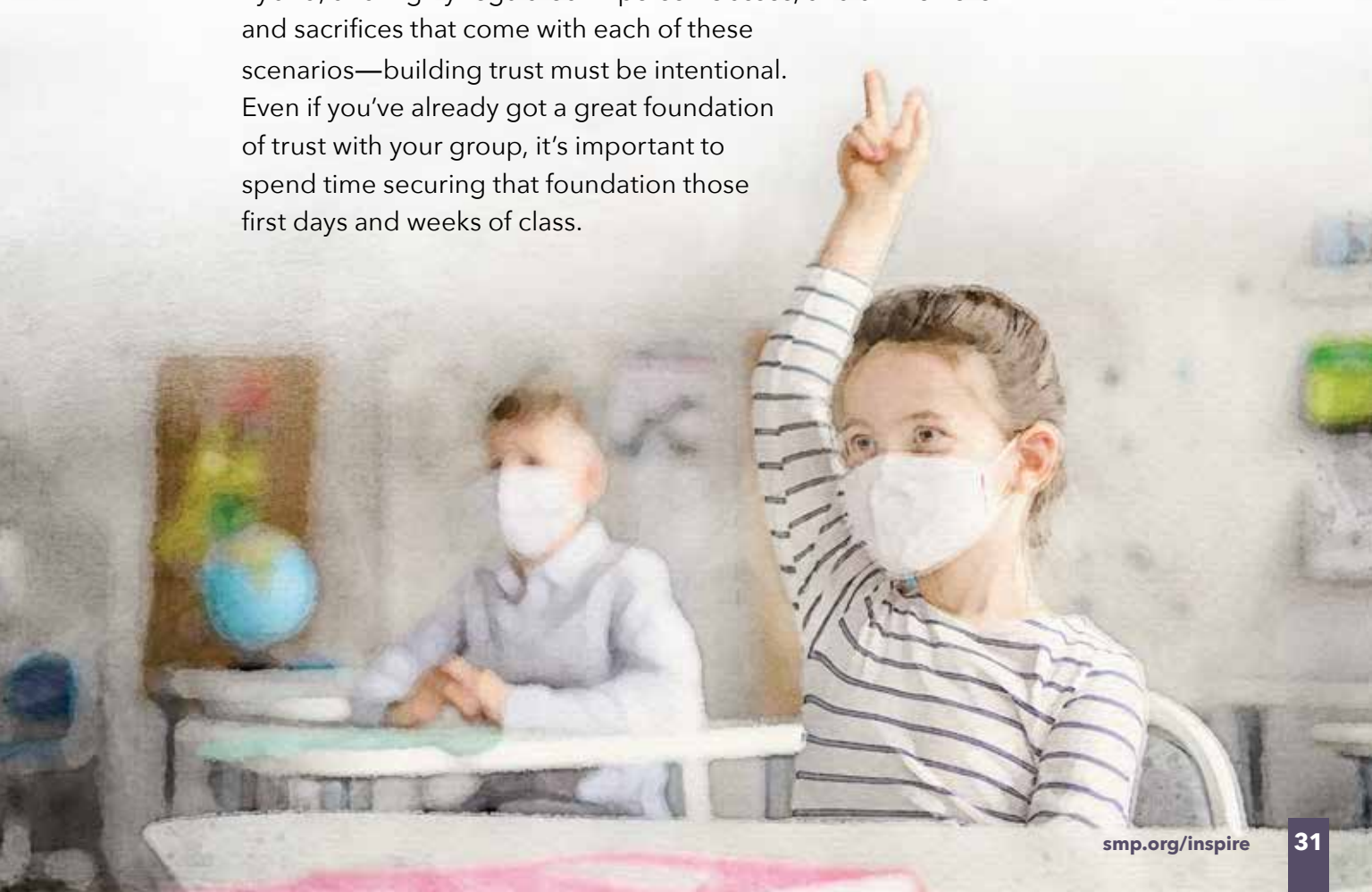
of young Catholics say they **feel listened to when people remain present and engaged as they speak to them.**

73%

say they **feel listened to when they are allowed the space to say what they need to say without anyone else interjecting.**

 **Tide-Turning Tip:** Follow up by asking questions to clarify or repeating what you heard as ways to help your recollection. If your conversation is about actions, jot down notes as a way of showing your intention to follow through.

As children head back to school, they need this kind of transformational environment that builds trust. But after what schools, parishes, and children have been through this past year—a combination of online, hybrid, and highly regulated in-person classes, and all the risks and sacrifices that come with each of these scenarios—building trust must be intentional. Even if you’ve already got a great foundation of trust with your group, it’s important to spend time securing that foundation those first days and weeks of class.




Springtide™ Research, a sociological research institute dedicated to listening to the inner and outer lives of young people, conducted research on how adults can build trust with the young people in their lives. We asked over 10,000 13-to-25-year-olds what trust looks and feels like. We learned, among other insights, that **integrity is key**.


ADULTS WITH INTEGRITY FOLLOW UP AND FOLLOW THROUGH.

Here are two key ways to begin practicing integrity and building the foundation of trust to make your classroom experience transformative for your group this year.

1. Follow Up: Eighty-five percent of young people say that their trust in another person grows when that person takes action that responds to the young person's needs, so following up in ways that show children that you care about their needs is crucial.

 **Tide-Turning Tip:** Following up starts with remembering what was exchanged—a hallmark of listening and a foundational aspect of building trust. For children in your care, track upcoming events and milestones on a spreadsheet or list and set reminders. If they have a big event coming up, wish them luck just beforehand. If they are moving, or experiencing some other life transition, check in regularly.

2. Follow Through: Eighty-two percent of young people say they trust someone who does what they say they are going to do, so we need to make sure we are following through with our commitments. Follow-through is at the heart of integrity, and integrity is at the heart of trust. It is a simple but important practice of doing what you say you're going to do.

 **Tide-Turning Tip:** Don't overstate commitments that will be hard to keep, and keep all the commitments you make. If you commit to something big, break it down into steps and note deadlines for yourself. This practice of following through might be a given for teachers and catechists,

but even in life outside the classroom, this is important. As children adjust to being back in school, they will need clarity about what's expected and flexibility about how to accomplish it—from all the adults in their lives.

Making your classroom transformative for children, not just transactional, starts with building trust so they feel safe and receptive to new ideas and information. One of the best ways to build trust is to practice integrity. Think about following up and following through as simple practices for growing in integrity this fall.



Get your free copy of *The State of Religion & Young People 2020: Relational Authority* at springtideresearch.org. You may also like *The State of Religion & Young People 2020—Catholic Edition*.

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Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

(1873-1897)

Do every
little thing
with
love!



The activity on the following page is taken from the *Discovering the Saints* book.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
DISCOVERING THE SAINTS

visit smp.org/discoversaints



Thérèse of Lisieux taught the sisters whom she lived with what she called her “Little Way”: doing little things for Jesus and helping others even when it is hard. She saw herself as a “little flower” in God’s garden—not big and strong like the roses, but like a little wildflower that sometimes gets stepped on but pops right up again.

Before her death, she wrote her life story, *The Story of a Soul*, which became popular all over the world. Her “Little Way” helped many others to follow Jesus in their ordinary lives. The rose is her special sign of her love and prayers.



Prayer

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, ask Jesus to show me how to live your “Little Way” in my everyday life.



Saint Thérèse taught about her “Little Way.” In the space below, write down three to four little ways you can follow Jesus and help others this week.





saint mary's press

touching hearts. enlivening minds.

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ANOTHER

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MAKE IT YOUR

MISSION

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