



Guided by God's Grace: The Moral Life

Before You Begin

- Print the Chapter 8 BLM: Living Virtues found at the end of this document.
- Have a Bible available during the session for reference.
- Download and print the Chapter 8 Prayer Service: Giving Ourselves to God and Others.

Engage: Page 57

- ◆ Read aloud the chapter title and the opening questions on page 57. Invite your child to share his or her responses. Then say: **Our actions often speak louder than our words. One of the ways that people know us is by the way we behave. Jesus taught as much by his works as he did through his preaching. In the Gospels, he provides us with many examples of how we can live good and moral lives.**
- ◆ Read aloud the Scripture passage at the bottom of the page. Say: **When we strive to love God above all and to love others as ourselves, we will be faithful to God's commandments. We will work to make love the basis of and reason for all we do.**
- ◆ Say: **Let us profess our love for God as we pray together the Act of Love.** Pray together the Act of Love, which can be found on page 92.

Explore: Pages 58–63

- ◆ Share the following quotation from Saint Teresa of Calcutta: "Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work." Reflect on its meaning with your child.
- ◆ Read aloud the section *Loving Others* on page 58. Read Matthew 25:31–46 with your child. Ask: **How might you live out this teaching in your life? How does it apply to the way you interact with family, friends, and others you see daily?**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the first three paragraphs of *A Guide to Living Morally*. Say: **The Ten Commandments give us directions, or rules for loving God and our neighbors. How can rules telling what not to do be considered the Law of Love?** (Possible answers: *They are intended to guide us in a way of behaving that will help us gain eternal life.*) Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity at the bottom of the page.
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the section *The Ten Commandments* on page 59. Say: **Jesus didn't focus only on what we should not do. He also gave instructions on what we should do.**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the section *The Beatitudes*. Say: **The Beatitudes teach us to reach out to others and provide help and comfort. These acts of love and mercy make our lives meaningful and bring us closer to God while we are here on earth.**
- ◆ Have your child choose a beatitude that speaks to him or her and think about how it applies in modern life. Have your child use art supplies to draw his or her interpretation of the beatitude on the sheet of paper. Have your child complete the Chapter 8 BLM: Living Virtues.

- ◆ Read aloud the first paragraph of *Virtues* on page 60. Say: **Virtues are a person's good qualities, features, or habits. Theological Virtues are qualities that are directly related to God and to the grace we live through the Holy Spirit. Cardinal Virtues are sometimes called moral virtues, because they guide our conduct, order our passions, and direct our actions.**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the rest of the section, which continues on page 61. Share with your child where people might learn about virtues, such as the teachings of the Church, schools, the laws of a just society, family rules, and stories. Discuss what virtues can be learned from such places.
- ◆ Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity at the bottom of page 60 and discuss together why sin seems so prevalent in the world today.
- ◆ Read aloud the first paragraph of *Sin and Grace* on page 61. Say: **Even though Baptism frees us from Original Sin, this first sin makes us vulnerable to temptation. We must continually work against temptation to make the right choices. When we fail to do so, we need to seek God's forgiveness.**
- ◆ Have your child read the section *Kinds of Sin* on page 61. Discuss different examples of each kind of sin. Have your child provide examples to show his or her understanding of both. Say: **Sin breaks our relationship with God. It separates us from him. Sin also separates us from one another. When we lie, steal, cheat, or become angry and jealous, we damage our relationships and hurt the people in our lives. Sin has consequences.**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the section *The Seven Capital Sins and Virtues* on pages 62–63. Invite your child to reconsider each of the seven capital sins. Ask: **Why might these sins break relationships? How can the virtues make or fix relationships?** Have him or her provide specific examples.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the section *Mercy* on page 63. Ask: **What can we do to respond to God's love with repentance and contrition?** (*Possible responses: receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, try not to commit the same sins again*) Remind him or her that at the beginning of Mass, we ask for God's mercy. Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity at the bottom of the page

Sacred Sign: Page 61

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the *Sacred Sign* feature on page 61. Explain that Romans used crucifixion as a form of punishment for non-Romans or slaves. Crimes such as murder, robbery, treason, and rebellion were punishable by crucifixion.
- ◆ Say: **The image of the crucifix is a great source of spiritual and physical help to many who are troubled and in need.**

Rite: Page 62

- ◆ Read aloud the *Rite* feature on page 62. Say: **We strike our breast during this part of the Mass to emphasize our sorrow and regret for our sins.**
- ◆ Point out that in the Penitential Act, we acknowledge God's mercy in sending Jesus to redeem our sins.

Witness: Page 63

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the *Witness* feature on page 63. Point out that Saint Monica remained patient and pious when Augustine turned his back on the Catholic faith.
- ◆ Say: **Monica prayed, fasted, and persisted, and after 17 years, Augustine converted and went on to do great works in God’s name. Saint Monica is an exemplary figure of virtuous behavior.**

Reflect

- ◆ Have your child reflect on what he or she has learned about living a moral life. Say: **Christ lives in each of us. Because of this, we all deserve to be loved and respected. We also have a responsibility to love God and others. When we commit sin, it separates us from God. Fortunately, God is merciful. His compassion and kindness are freely given. When we accept his mercy, we grow closer to him.**
- ◆ Proceed to your family’s prayer space. A prayer space can be a simple table on which you place a Bible, crucifix, statue, icon, or another religious icon. Invite your child to assist you in creating this sacred space.
- ◆ Distribute copies of the Chapter 8 Prayer Service: Giving Ourselves to God and Others. Choose who will read the part for Leader. You and your child will both read the parts labeled “All.” Lead by example, participating actively and with reverence.
- ◆ To prepare your child to pray, remind him or her that the Holy Spirit is always with us to support, guide, and strengthen us as we practice the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.
- ◆ Pray together the prayer service, following your assigned roles. Adapt it to your circumstances if needed. Observe the periods of silence and keep a prayerful pace. Allow time in between sections for reflection.
- ◆ Pause for a moment of silence before concluding.

Respond: Page 64

- ◆ Review with your child the *Faith Summary* on page 64. Ask your child to explain each sentence in his or own words and revisit concepts as necessary.
- ◆ Have your child read the *Remember* section silently and be sure he or she understands the main points of the chapter.
- ◆ Ask your child to choose one *Reach Out* item and follow the directions. Check in with your child and ask him or her to reflect privately on the outcomes.
- ◆ Read aloud the *Words to Know* and ask your child to use the words in sentences. Consult the Glossary at the back of the book and at www.loyolapress.com/calledtobecatholic if more clarification is needed.
- ◆ Invite your child to think about the *Reflect* scenario and write a response on the lines provided. If your child is comfortable doing so, encourage him or her to share the response with you.
- ◆ Pray together the closing prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Invite your child to pray this week whenever he or she feels the need for help or guidance.

Name _____

Date _____

Living Virtues

The Theological and Cardinal Virtues are habits and desires that serve the good. Recognizing them and trying to live them in your daily life will help you grow in your relationship with God.

The Virtues in Action

Directions: Choose a virtue. Complete the following questions and prompts about the virtue of your choice.

1. Virtue: _____

2. Explain the virtue in your own words. _____

3. Think of someone you know who exhibits this virtue. Explain how and provide an example.

4. What is one way you can model this virtue in your daily life? _____

