

BE MY DISCIPLES (APRIL OUTLINE)

“Throughout the year you have the opportunity to enter into the mystery of faith with your children and walk with them as they learn what it means to know, love, and serve God.”

CHAPTER 21

Grade 1 – Jesus and the Children

“God loves all people and wants all people to come to him; God wants us to live in heaven.”

Grade 3 – Witnesses of Faith

“Saul, who became known as Paul, was a disciple of Jesus; women disciples also accompanied Jesus and the apostles; missionaries travel the world to help people come to know Jesus.”

Grade 4 – Love God with All Your Heart

“The first commandment teaches us to worship only God; the second commandment teaches us to show our love and respect for all that belongs to God; the third commandment teaches that the Lord’s day is holy.”

Grade 5 – Love of God

“The first, second, and third commandments describe our privilege and responsibility to worship God; the Lord's day is a holy day; Sunday is the Lord's day for Christians.”

Grade 6/7 – Love of God

“The first commandment teaches us to worship only God; the second commandment teaches us to use the name of God reverently; the third commandment teaches us to keep the Lord’s day holy.”

Theme: Love of God

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.” (Matthew 22:31-38)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: God’s love for all people; God's desire for you to come to him and to live in heaven; the importance of wise choices; missionaries help people come to Jesus; and the first three commandments teach us to love God.

Main Focus

- In all we do, we “seek the Lord”

Starting prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Loving God,

Be with us and bless us as we seek to respond to your Son Jesus’ invitation to be his disciples. Help us to love you with all our hearts, every minute of the day.

Amen.

How do you show your love for God?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own.

How do you put God first in your life?

In the Book

Pg. 191 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 192 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 193-195 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 193-95 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children how their family shows their love for God.

Pg. 196 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 197 – Have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing prayer

Leader: *Loving God,*

We are thankful for the time we have shared today.

Be with us as we pray together.

All: *God, help us remember always to live by your commandments and to show our love for you.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen*

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CHAPTER 22

Grade 1 – We are Children of God

“God created all people in his image; God gives us the gift of life; we are to take care of the gift of life.”

Grade 3 – The Creeds

“We profess what we believe about God in the creeds; praying the creeds of the church helps us grow as a church family.”

Grade 4 – Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

“The fourth, fifth, sixth, and ninth commandments teach us to express our love in appropriate ways.”

Grade 5 – Love of Neighbor

“The fourth commandment teaches us to obey and respect our parents; the fifth, sixth, and ninth commandments teach us to express love in appropriate ways.”

Grade 6/7 – Commandments of Love

“The fourth commandment teaches about our responsibilities as family members and citizens; the fifth, sixth and ninth commandments teach us to express friendship and love in respectful ways.”

Theme: Love Never Fails

“Love is patient, Love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude... it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5, 7-8)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: God created all people in his image; we are to take care of the gifts of life; we make wise choices when we choose to live as Jesus taught; we profess what we believe about God’s love in the creeds of the church; the fourth, fifth, sixth, and ninth commandments teach us about love and respect toward other people.

Main Focus

- As Jesus’ disciples, we are called to lives of love.

Starting prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Loving God,

Be with us and bless us as we learn how to live the spirit of your laws, and to live with love always. Help us to love those in our family and all with whom we come in contact with today and every day.

Amen.

How have you shown love or respect this week?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Have them come up with a concrete example of how love is shared within your family.

Love never Fails. What does this mean in your life?

In the Book

Pg. 199 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 200 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 201-203 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 201-203 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children in what ways do members of our family show love for one another.

Pg. 204 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 205 – Have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing prayer

***Leader:** Living God we are thankful for the time we have shared today.*

Be with us as we pray.

***Leader:** Love is patient*

***All:** Love never fails*

***Leader:** Love is kind*

***All:** Love never fails*

***Leader:** Love is not jealous*

***All:** Love never fails*

***Leader:** Love is not rude*

***All:** Love never fails*

***Leader:** Love rejoices in the truth*

***All:** Love never fails*

***Leader:** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things*

***All:** Love never fails*

***Leader:** God of love, we praise you and we thank you for the love that you give us. Help us be a sign of your love by loving you, others and ourselves.*

Amen.

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CHAPTER 23

Grade 1 – Jesus Teaches about Love

“Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan to help us live as his followers; God wants us to care for others; we show charity when we love our neighbors.”

Grade 3 – Living Our Faith

“We profess what we believe about God in the creeds; praying the creeds of the church helps us grow as a church family.”

Grade 4 – Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

“The beatitudes show ways Jesus wants his disciples to live and tell us what happens to people who obey God’s Laws.”

Grade 5 – Living a Just and Truthful Life

“The seventh commandment teaches us to not take what doesn’t belong to us; the eighth commandment teaches us to be truthful; the tenth commandment teaches us good stewardship.”

Grade 6/7 – Love of Neighbor

“The seventh and tenth commandments teach us to respect the resources God has given us and the goods belongings to others; the eighth commandment teaches us to speak the truth; we use our talents for the common good.”

Theme: Love One Another

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.” (John 15:12)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: grace is a gift from God; the Beatitudes show ways Jesus wants his disciples to live; the seventh, eighth, and tenth commandments guide us in how to love and respect others.

Main Focus

- As Jesus’ disciples, we are called to love one another.

Starting prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Heavenly Father,

Help us love and respect all people as brothers and sisters.

In those times when it is hard to do so, remind us to look again and see the value and goodness you have given them.

Help us to love one another as you have loved us.

Amen.

What does it mean to love one another?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Have them come up with phrases and words that describe or define “love one another”.

How are you a role model for your children of what it means to one another?

In the Book

Pg. 207 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 208 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 209-211 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 209-211 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children in what way does your family show love for others.

Pg. 212 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 213 – Have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing prayer

***Leader:** Spirit of the Lord,*

Lead us in prayer.

Help us hear the voice of Jesus who calls us to love one another

Invite family members to offer prayers of petition

***Leader:** Dear God, help us show love.*

***All:** Dear God, help us show love.*

***All:** Amen.*

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“Throughout the year you have the opportunity to enter into the mystery of faith with your children and walk with them as they learn what it means to know, love, and serve God.”

CHAPTER 24

Grade 1 – The Our Father

“Jesus taught us to pray the Our Father, the prayer for all Christians.”

Grade 3 – Praying as Jesus Did

“Jesus taught us to talk and listen to God the Father; Jesus taught us to pray with trust.”

Grade 4 – The Prayer of the Disciples

“Jesus is our teacher who helps us live as children of God; Jesus taught us to call God Father; When we pray the Lord’s Prayer we tell God that he is the center of our lives.”

Grade 5 – Lord, Teach us to Pray

“Jesus taught his disciples to pray the Our Father; the Our Father teaches us how to pray; the Our Father teaches us how to live the gospel.”

Grade 6/7 – The Summary of the Gospel

“The Lord’s Prayer is the prayer of all Christians; and it teaches us to live the gospel.”

Theme: Teach Us to Pray

“Lord, teach us to pray as John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray.”

(based on Luke 11:1)

Background

The main focus of this chapter is the Our Father. Children will learn that Jesus invites us to address God the Father as Abba, and to place our trust unconditionally in the Father as he himself did.

Main Focus

- As Jesus’ disciples, we are called to lives of love.

Starting prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

God our Father,

Help us pray the Lord’s prayer as Jesus did

With all our heart,

With all our mind,

And with all our soul.

Amen.

When are some of the times we pray the Our Father?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Examples may include during the rosary, at Mass, before bed, and at Religious Education.

What is the “daily bread” you would like to ask the Lord to provide for you today?**In the Book**

Pg. 215 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 216 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 217-219 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 217-219 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children how the family teaches and help us to pray.

Pg. 220 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 221 – Have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing prayer

Leader: *God our creator,*

We are thankful for the time we have shared today. Be with us as we pray together.

God help us remember to always pray as Jesus taught us. We ask through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*