

LESSON 3 Friendship and Bullying

In This Lesson

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What the Church Says About

Family Love

The Fathers of the Church . . . have spoken of the family as a “domestic church,” a “little church.” They thus referred to . . . love as a possible system of human life and coexistence: “to be together” as a family, to be for one another, to make room in a community for affirming each person.

Pope John Paul II,
Letter to Families (1994)

Growing with GOD™

Safe and Sacred

The Blessing of Family

Before children ever learn their role as part of a community or classroom, they first find their identity inside the family. The way in which they learn their role within the family determines how children see themselves and others.

It is in the family that children learn how to love and that they are worthy of love. Kindergarten is a new setting where children can put what they have learned in the family into practice.

Talk with your child about how each of your family members has different gifts given by God. Express thanks to God for your child’s gifts and those of family members.

Young children are naturally self-focused and still learning how to turn their attention to others. When children learn to appreciate the gifts and differences of others early, they may more readily embrace friendships and develop an attitude of cooperation with their classmates. You can support your child in learning to focus on the needs of others by reminding him or her that every person is created by God and deserves love and care.





3minute
RETREAT

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 2:5

Reflection

When four men carried a friend who was paralyzed to be healed, they saw a crowd surrounding the house where Jesus was staying. They climbed up the straw roof, broke through it, and lowered their friend inside. Jesus responded with love and forgiveness because he saw their faith. He healed the man, body and soul. We are called to support one another in the same way the paralyzed man’s friends supported him—by bringing one another to Jesus.

Questions

Who has lovingly brought me to Jesus? How can I help my child to become closer to Jesus?



Prayer

Pray to Jesus, using this prayer or one of your own.

Jesus, thank you for calling me to be a friend to others so we may all approach you in love.

Lead Your Child to Grow with God: Spiritually, Socially, and Physically

Spiritual Look at old family photos and talk about each family member in them. Help your child develop the sense that every family member, even those your child never knew, is valued and loved.

Social Encourage sharing Jesus’ message by providing more opportunities to talk about him and spread his love. Invite your child’s friends and their parents to church or host a children’s Bible story hour at school or home.

Physical Help your child develop gross motor skills by participating in physical activities together. Play catch or follow-the-leader and find ways to engage in activities together. Express appreciation for the skills your child has or is developing.



Safe and Sacred at Home



The Joy of Discipleship (Loyola Press)
by Pope Francis

What is the power that unites the family? It is indeed love, and the one who sows love in our hearts is God, God’s love. It is precisely God’s love that gives meaning to our small daily tasks and helps us face the great trials. This is the true measure of humankind: going forward in life with love, with that love the Lord has sown in our hearts, with God’s love. This is the true treasure.

Big Ideas

In Lesson 3, your child will:

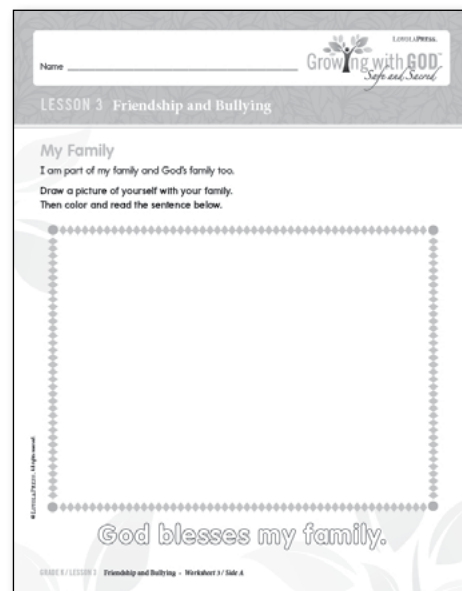
- describe his or her family and thank God for it.
- tell that Jesus is part of a family.
- identify himself or herself as part of a family.
- define *family*.

Word to Know

family • A group of people, often related, who love and care for one another.

Bringing the Lesson Home

Determine ahead of time when and where you and your child will engage with the lesson content. Read or complete Side A of the worksheet with your child.



STEP 1 ENGAGE & EXPLORE

SAY: Each family is one of a kind. No two families are alike. I am happy to be part of our family, and I thank God for you and for every person in our family. Tell me some things you love about our family. Allow time for your child to answer. Share with your child the things you especially love about your family.

Invite your child to talk about the family portrait drawn on Side A of the worksheet. Designate a special place in your home to display your child's artwork.



Bringing the Lesson Home *(continued)*

STEP 2 REFLECT & RESPOND

Read or complete Side B of the worksheet with your child.

SAY: We show our love for one another every day in different ways. You may not even notice some of the ways we show love for one another. Washing clothes and cleaning our home are ways of showing love, just like giving hugs, spending time together, and saying *I love you*.

ASK: What are some of your favorite ways to show love and be shown love? Listen to your child's responses and remember what makes him or her feel most loved. Take the opportunity to share how you like to show love and what makes you feel loved. Read aloud the blackline master. Together, think of a family story. Then invite your child to draw a picture.

SAY: Let us pray together. Pray the prayer from the Pray Together feature or a prayer of your own. Begin and end the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.



Pray Together

Thank you, Lord, for my family. Please help me show my love in big and small ways every day and help me to be thankful for the way others show love for me.

