

LESSON 1 God Creates Us

#### In This Lesson

#### For You

Pages 1–2

Pages 3-4

- Called to Keep Our Promises
- 3-Minute Retreat
- Lead Your Child to Grow with God
- Safe and Sacred at Home

#### For You and Your Child

- With Your Child: Bringing the Lesson Home
- Pray Together



What the Church Says About



In Baptism, God calls the faithful to grow in love. This vocation to love, in imitation of God's infinite love, is also a vocation to grow in holiness, for greater participation in God's love necessarily entails a greater participation in God's holiness.

U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Letter on Marriage (2009)



# Called to Keep Our Promises

Most eighth-graders have not given much consideration to what their futures will look like, short of dreaming how great life will be once they are "grown up." Too often, we think about our calling in terms of our work. A great place to begin conversation is to help your child understand that God's call is much deeper. Each of us is called to holiness. Fulfilling this call begins with how we relate to God and one another. God invites us into relationship with him, and through this closeness, we come to know God better and do his will. Guide your child to understand that this invitation comes every day of our lives, not just when we are grown up.

### We answer God's call each time we make a commitment to share God's love and to be faithful to the promises we make to God and others.

Making and keeping promises is key to our call to holiness. By eighth grade, children are very invested in relationships. Encourage your child to reflect on promises or commitments he or she has made with family, friends, classmates, or teammates. Within this context, you can help your child recognize that each time he or she



chooses to be loyal, faithful, truthful, and respectful to someone, he or she is answering God's call. Most importantly, you can teach your child that we do not answer God's call only once in our lives. Every interaction with another person is an opportunity to accept and honor our own personal call to holiness.

## 3 minute 3 RETREAT

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. 1 John 4:9

#### Reflection

Being faithful to our promises strengthens the relationships we have with God and one another. Sometimes we may struggle to keep our commitments.

During these difficult moments, we can remember that God's promises are fulfilled through his Son, Jesus. From this gift of unconditional love, we receive the graces we need to honor the promises we make.

### Questions

Where do I turn for strength when I struggle to keep a promise? In what ways am I modeling for my child how to honor a commitment?

# Prayer

Speak to God, using this prayer or one of your own.

Thank you, Father, for your steadfast love and grace and for sending us Jesus as our Savior.

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

**Spiritual** Set aside time each week to select a story from the Gospels and read it aloud together. Invite family members to imagine themselves as part of the story. Take turns talking about what lesson you might learn or what part you might play in the events described. Use these discussions to talk about ways you can follow Jesus' teachings in your daily lives.

**Social** Whenever possible, eat meals together as a family. Use these times as opportunities to have family members share events from their day. Encourage reflection with questions, such as "How might that have made him or her feel? What could you have done differently? How did you keep your promise in that situation?" These discussions will help to nurture compassion and awareness in all family members.

**Physical** Find opportunities for your family to volunteer in your parish or local community. Together, make and keep commitments to help those in need.



### Safe and Sacred at Home

*Love Will Steer Me True* (Loyola Press) by Jane Knuth, Ellen Knuth

As my children become adults, my role is changing. It is transforming slowly into a pause to watch God work on my daughters' faith, instead of anxiously trying to shape it myself. This isn't obedience. It is another way to practice my religion. This feels something like that way of life Jesus hints at when he talks about the Holy Spirit.

### **Big Ideas**

In Lesson 1, your child will:

- describe the kinds of vows a person might make when responding to his or her vocation.
- demonstrate an understanding of the importance of honoring promises and recognizing the consequences of being unfaithful to beliefs and commitments.
- explain the meaning of vocation and vow.

### Words to Know

**vocation** · The call each person receives to seek God's kingdom, grow in holiness, and be the person God wants one to be

**vow** • *A powerful, deliberate, and free promise made to God* 

### 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.

Name ,		_ Growing with GOD Sefe and Second
LESS	ON 1 God Creates Us	
God	's Call	
our veo is the co in holme others. N Commo Part of r Some p Some p Some p a vew. S as attem Men an dedicate women What vo God any	In each of us to holes. We be out this call through the Autorian to more than a particism or a (p. B.). Bleach of uncreaters to seek Gody larged mereds of them we folder our vacation, we member Jesué Grean Merror to bes God and the sourie registro of users registrating to Gody and the our participation of users registrating to Gody and the output particular sources and the souries of the output particular sources and the souries of the output participation and participation to Gody and the parts in Gody Mark sources and when the more device of the output participation of the the source service of the output participation of the device output parts and the source device output devices and the the source output parts and comparison of the the source service of and the Output Merror should be an output to the source output and should be sources and the sources.	Contraction of the second

## STEP 1 ENGAGE & EXPLORE

Making and keeping promises is something you have likely talked with your child about many times. As he or she grows into adolescence, you can help your child see that acts of loyalty and faithfulness are key components to building and maintaining healthy relationships.

SAY: I am so proud of you and the person you are becoming. You are learning more about yourself every day. Recognize some of your child's special gifts and talents. SAY: One day you will choose what vocation, or path in life, is right for you. While that may seem like a long way off, I want you to know that you are already following God's plan. You do this through your relationships with others, especially when you make and keep promises.

Use the blackline master as a springboard for discussion about the importance of keeping promises and commitments. Then review the worksheet together to discuss what your child learned about vows and the powerful kind of promise they represent.

## Bringing the Lesson Home (continued)

## STEP 2 REFLECT & RESPOND

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

**SAY: You might find that making promises is easy but keeping them is harder.** Talk with your child about a promise you made and some of the challenges you may have faced in keeping it. Share with your child what you do to find strength to honor the commitments that you make. Listen as your child shares his or

her responses from Side B of the worksheet.

**SAY: Let's pray together now.** Pray the prayer from the Pray Together feature or one of your own. Begin and end the prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross.

Growing wit	th GOD			
Keepir	ng My Promises		•	
godparent offirm our When we a	were baptized into the Catholic Ch is made promises for you. The prom belief in God and our desire to do are faithful and true to our promise ssage and share Christ's love.	ises at our Baptism good and avoid sin.	Scripture I have competed welt I have finished the race: I have kept the failt. 2 Territy 47	
brother, sh	It the roles you have, such as son a udent, or friend. In these roles, how nade for you at Baptism? Complete	r can you fulfill the		
As a student, I promise		As a teammate. I	As a teammate. I promite	
		<u> </u>		
As a child of God. I promise		As a friend, I pror	As a friend, I promise	
As a family member, I promise		As a missionary di	As a missionary disciple, I promise	
	Act of Fath O my God. I femily believe that San and Haly Spirit. I believe th our sins and that he will come to and of the main which the Haly revealed them who are internal be deceived. In this fath I inter-		in and died for	
			LOYOLA PRESS	
ERADE I/LES	2011 God Creates Us - Wavilaheet 1 / Side I		www.loyolapress.com	

Pray Together

Loving Father, give us the strength to be faithful and true to the promises we make, knowing that by honoring our commitments, we are answering your call to holiness.



Scan this code and guide your child through a simple review of the lesson.



**GRADE 8** / LESSON 1 God Creates Us · Parent Guide