Saint Louis IX: King and Servant

Listening fairly and serving with care

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:02 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth The retelling highlights Louis listening to disputes, serving poor and sick people, and placing God above royal status.

Learning goals Children will recall his listening and service, explain fairness beyond power, and practice a fair turn-taking decision.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: Should the strongest or most popular person always get their way? Watch how Louis listens before making a judgment.

Watch and notice

Notice his mother's teaching, hearing both sides, welcoming poor people at his table, humble service, and hardship during crusading.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Louis listen to a dispute?
He heard both people rather than letting wealth or power decide the answer.

2. How did he serve people in need?
He shared meals, visited sick people, and performed humble acts of care.

3. What should a leader's role be used for?
Serving people fairly, rather than demanding admiration or special treatment.

4. How can you practice fairness?
Listen to both sides, take turns, and ask an adult to help when a dispute is hard or unsafe.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw Louis listening or serving, then a fair classroom choice.

Read & Write Recall justice and humble service, then plan fair turn-taking.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: practice taking turns with a shared item.

Ages 9-11: discuss how status can unfairly influence decisions and why adults must protect everyone.

Listen before deciding | Optional 4 minutes

Use a pretend disagreement over a game. Give each person a turn to explain, then suggest a fair solution. Ask an adult to guide the decision; do not put children in charge of serious conflicts.

Look for understanding Children connect leadership with service and understand that honoring a saint does not approve every historical policy or war.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us listen fairly and use our gifts to serve. Protect those who suffer and guide leaders toward justice. Saint Louis, pray for us. Amen.

At home Try a fair turn-taking plan with an adult and offer one humble act of help.

Handout answer notes Justice: hear both sides, seek what is right. Service: meals, visits, humble care. Fairness: turns or adult-guided solution.

Teach with care

Preview Queen Blanche's severe saying, captivity, and death. Reassure children that parents should protect their lives and no mistake makes them less loved. The biography simplifies Louis's rule and dramatizes scenes. His crusades and policies require historical context; canonization does not endorse every action. Blanche's severe saying should not be repeated as a threat to a child. Every child deserves protection and love, including after wrongdoing.

Words to explain Justice: giving people what is due and treating them fairly. Service: working for another person's good. Responsibility: using a role or gift with care.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English subtitle

Historical life: Saint Louis, King of France - Vatican News