

Saint John Vianney

Perseverance and God's mercy

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:17 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Learning difficulties do not lessen our dignity; with support we can grow and serve others.

Learning goals Recall John's studies and ministry in Ars; identify practical learning support; explain how a priest serves God's mercy.

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 what helps when learning feels hard. Offer examples: practice, a different explanation, rest, and help from a teacher.

Watch and notice

Notice John's struggle with Latin, his perseverance, and his loving work visiting families and hearing Confessions in Ars.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What was difficult for John in the story?

His studies, especially Latin. A struggle in one area does not determine a person's worth or future.

2. How did he keep growing?

He studied, prayed, and received help. Persistence works best with guidance and appropriate support.

3. How did Father John care for people in Ars?

He prayed, visited homes, taught, and heard Confessions. He helped people return to God's mercy.

4. What support could help you learn?

Ask a teacher for another explanation, practice a small step, or use suitable learning tools. Prayer can accompany real support.

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 learning support rather than comparing children's grades or ability.

Read & Write Recall his struggle and ministry, then make a supported learning plan.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: choose one simple practice step and draw an adult helper.

Ages 9-11: discuss different learning tools and explain how asking for support shows perseverance.

One step and one helper | Optional 4 minutes

Choose a learning task. Break it into one small step, draw or write a helpful tool, and name someone who can explain it. Practice briefly, then thank your helper.

Look for understanding Look for a practical learning plan and one accurate ministry detail. Children should not think stronger faith replaces educational support.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us keep learning with patience. Bless our teachers and priests, and draw us close to your mercy. Saint John Vianney, pray for us. Amen.

At home Tell an adult one learning task and ask for a helpful next step. Pray for your parish priests.

Handout answer notes Studies: Latin. Ministry: teaching, prayer, visits, Reconciliation. Learning plans should include practical help, not simply trying harder alone.

Teach with care

Preview the frightening night-noise episode. Explain that ordinary sounds or learning struggles are not evidence of evil; respond calmly to children's worries. The video's school imagery and dialogue are dramatized; do not diagnose John or a child from it. Faith does not guarantee easy grades or replace learning support. In Reconciliation, Christ forgives through the priest's ministry. Night-noise traditions should not become a frightening explanation for normal household sounds.

Words to explain Latin: a language John needed in his studies. Mercy: compassionate help and forgiveness. Confession: the sacrament of Reconciliation, receiving God's forgiveness through a priest.

Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Vatican teaching: [Benedict XVI: John Mary Vianney. August 5, 2009](#)

Keep learning with help

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John kept growing and became a priest who shared God's mercy.

Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw John studying with a helpful teacher.



2 Draw a tool or helper that supports your own learning.



Tell What is difficult? What small step or explanation could help?

Pray Jesus, give me patience to learn and courage to ask for help. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

Persevere and serve

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Remember John's studies and his care for people in Ars.

Name _____

1 Recall a struggle

What subject was especially hard for John?

He struggled with ...

2 Name his service

How did Father John help people come close to God?

He served by ...

3 Plan a learning step

Name a small practice step and a person who can help.

My next step is ...

Pray Jesus, give me patience to learn and courage to ask for help. Amen.

Go deeper How might a difficult experience help someone understand another person's struggle?