

Saint Peter Claver: Dignity and Care

Every person matters

Ages about 7-11 | Video 3:43 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Peter Claver brings food, water, medicine, and attentive care to people enslaved and transported to Cartagena.

Learning goals Children will name slavery as an injustice, recall Claver's practical help, and choose respectful service without treating people as objects.

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 does every person need and deserve? Explain that the people on the ships were taken from their homes through an unjust system.

Watch and notice

Notice food, water, medicine, gentle listening, translators, and the care shown to the sick man in the rain.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Why were the people arriving on the ships suffering?

They had been taken from home and enslaved, denied freedom and dignity by others' wrongdoing.

2. What practical help did Peter bring?

Food, water, medicine, and gentle care.

3. Why did translators matter?

People deserved to understand and be heard in their own languages.

4. How can we serve respectfully today?

Ask what help is needed, listen, share with permission, and involve adults rather than deciding for someone.

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 practical care without chains or harm, then a respectful helpful action.

Read & Write Name slavery's injustice, recall Claver's help, and plan service that listens.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: explain simply that no person belongs to another person.

Ages 9-11: distinguish a person's inherent dignity from kindness others choose to show.

Listen, then help | Optional 4 minutes

Create a card with two questions: "What do you need?" and "How can I help safely?" Use a pretend example of a classmate needing supplies. Plan help with adult permission while respecting the person's choices.

Look for understanding Children state that dignity already belongs to every person; Peter's kindness recognized it rather than created it.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us honor every person and oppose cruel treatment. Guide us to listen and help with care. Saint Peter Claver, pray for us. Amen.

At home With an adult, discuss a respectful way to help someone and why no person may be treated as property.

Handout answer notes Wrong: each person has dignity and deserves freedom. Help: food, water, medicine, listening. Questions: respectful offers, choices, adult guidance.

Teach with care

Preview chains, forced removal from home, suffering, and illness. Explain slavery clearly and non-graphically. Never reenact captivity, auctions, or master-and-slave roles. The retelling simplifies slavery in colonial Cartagena and dramatizes scenes and dialogue. Slavery is gravely unjust; every enslaved person retained full human dignity, agency, and a life beyond the suffering shown. Claver's service did not by itself abolish the system. Do not reenact captivity or compel religious responses.

Words to explain Enslaved person: a person wrongly treated as property and denied freedom. Dignity: the worth every person has as God's creation. Translator: someone helping people understand across languages.

Sources for the leader

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

Historical life: [Saint Peter Claver - Vatican News](#)

Care that honors a person

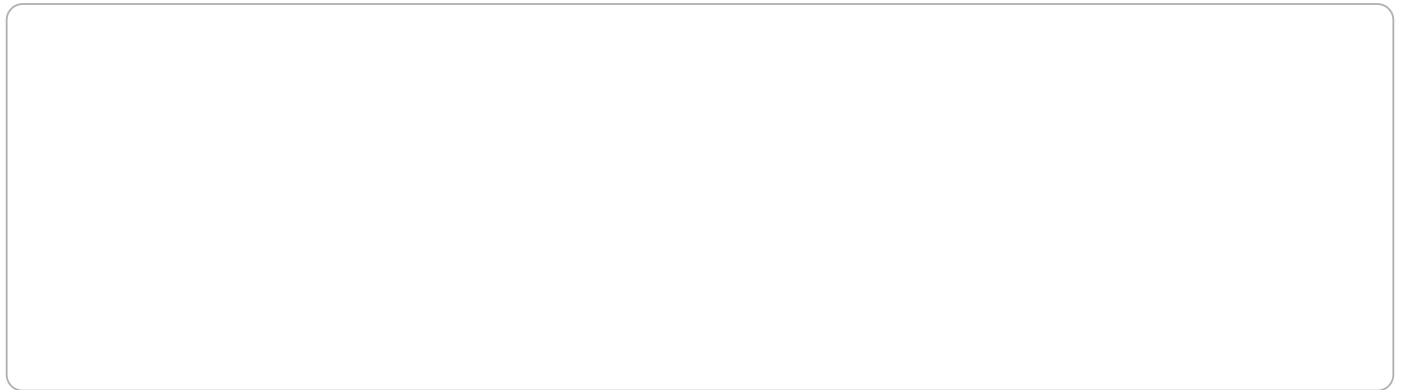
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Every person has dignity. Peter offered practical care.

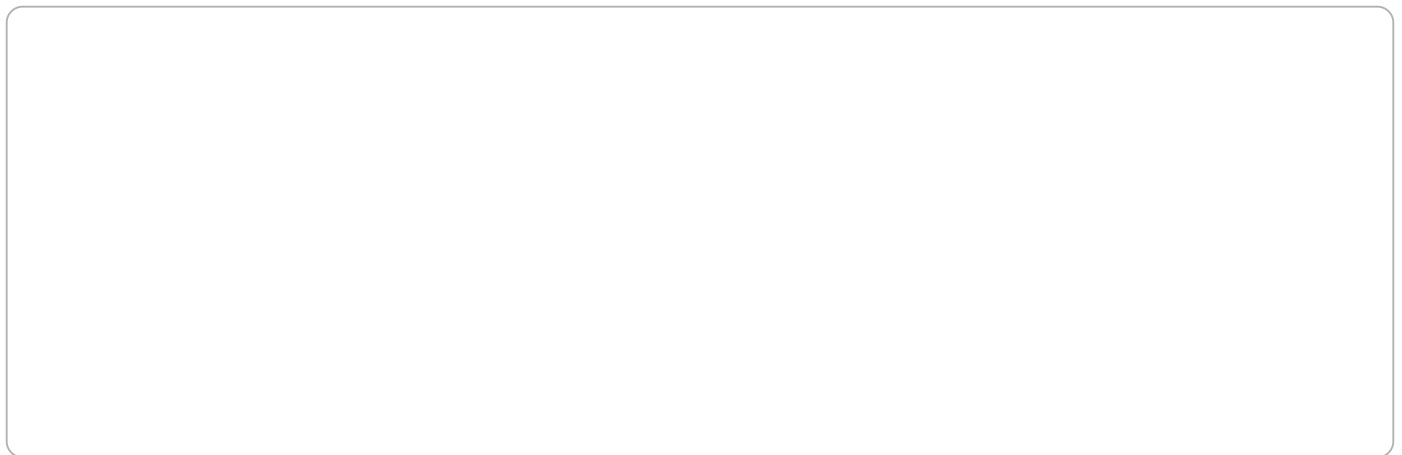
Name _____

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

1 Draw Peter offering water, food, or medicine, without drawing harm.



2 Draw a respectful way to help someone with adult guidance.



Tell What help is offered? How can you listen to what the person needs?

Pray Jesus, help me honor people and care with respect. Amen.

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

Every person has dignity

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Remember Peter's service and the people he cared for.

Name _____

1 Name the wrong

Why is treating a person as property wrong?

Every person ...

2 Recall practical care

Name two kinds of help Peter brought.

Peter brought ...

3 Listen before helping

What respectful question could you ask someone who needs help?

I could ask ...

Pray Jesus, help me honor people and care with respect. Amen.

Go deeper Why does a person's worth stay the same even when others treat them unjustly?