

Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio

Faithful love and safe courage

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:05 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Jose's love for Christ calls us to faithful, peaceful choices with God's help.

Learning goals Recall Jose's prayer and devotion to Christ the King; explain that persecution is wrong; identify safe everyday courage.

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 about a safe brave choice, such as telling the truth or asking for help. Explain that loving Jesus does not mean seeking danger.

Watch and notice

Notice Jose's family prayer, Mass and Eucharistic devotion, and the words Viva Cristo Rey, meaning Long live Christ the King. The later persecution scenes need adult preparation.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Jose practice his faith?

He prayed the Rosary, attended Mass, and loved Jesus in the Eucharist. These habits helped shape his faith.

2. What does Viva Cristo Rey mean?

Long live Christ the King. The words express devotion to Jesus, whose kingdom is love and truth.

3. Was the harm done to Jose right?

No. Persecution and torture are wrong. His holiness does not make anyone's cruelty acceptable.

4. What safe courageous choice can you make?

Tell the truth, include a lonely person, or seek adult help when someone is hurt. Children should not join violence or seek suffering.

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

Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio

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 Focus drawings on family prayer and safe courage, avoiding images of torture.

Read & Write Recall faith habits and meaning, then plan safe, peaceful courage.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use a gentle adult summary; choose prayer and kindness as the response.

Ages 9-11: explain that witnessing to faith never makes persecution or child involvement in war acceptable.

Courage with a helper | Optional 4 minutes

Draw three safe choices: tell the truth, welcome a friend, and ask for help. Circle one to practice. Name a trusted adult who can support you.

Look for understanding Look for a faithful choice with a safety plan. Courage can mean leaving danger and telling a trusted adult.

Closing prayer Jesus our King, lead us in truth and peace. Help us be faithful and protect people who face persecution. Saint Jose, pray for us. Amen.

At home Tell an adult your safe courage plan. Pray together for people whose faith puts them at risk.

Handout answer notes Faith habits: Rosary, Mass, Eucharistic prayer. Viva Cristo Rey: Long live Christ the King. Plans must be peaceful and include adult help when needed.

Teach with care

This video explicitly describes torture and the death of a fourteen-year-old. Preview carefully; use a gentle adult retelling instead of showing the violent section when appropriate. The Cristero conflict is complex; the video simplifies its history. Jose's martyrdom must not become a lesson urging children toward armed conflict, secrecy, or death. Salvation is God's gift, not a reward earned by taking risks. Do not reenact the violent scenes.

Words to explain Christ the King: Jesus, whose reign is truth and love. Martyr: someone killed because of faith in Christ. Rosary: a prayer that reflects on Jesus' life with Mary.

Sources for the leader

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

Vatican source: [Thanksgiving for Jose Sanchez del Rio, 2005](#)

Choose peaceful courage

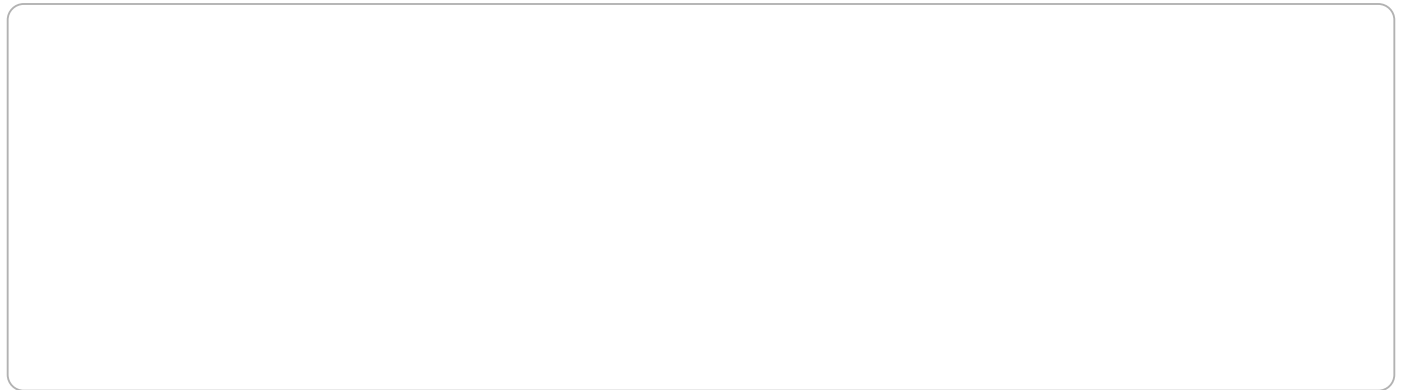
Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio

Jose's story reminds us to love Jesus and choose what is right.

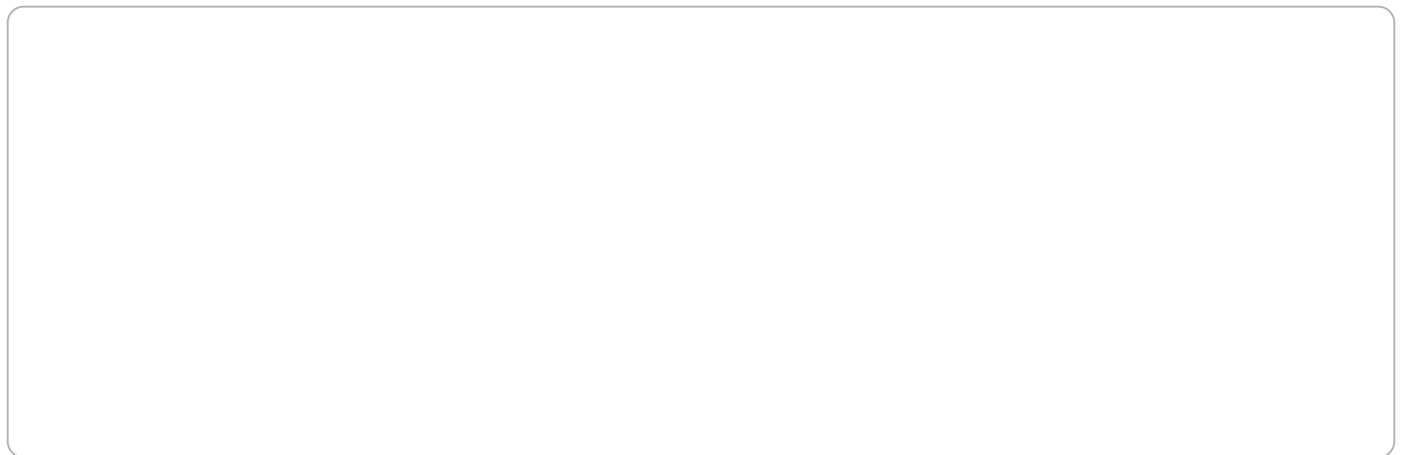
Name _____

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

1 Draw Jose praying with his family before the dangerous events.



2 Draw a safe brave choice with a trusted adult nearby.



Tell What choice shows love? Who can help keep you safe?

Pray Jesus, help me choose truth, kindness, and peace. Amen.

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

Faith without fear of asking for help

Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio

Remember Jose's prayer and plan a peaceful response today.

Name _____

1 Recall his prayer

Name one prayer or sacrament important in Jose's story.

Jose loved ...

2 Explain his words

What do the words Viva Cristo Rey express?

They mean ...

3 Plan safe courage

Name a right choice and an adult who can help you make it.

My safe brave choice is ...

Pray Jesus, help me choose truth, kindness, and peace. Amen.

Go deeper Why can asking for help be a brave choice?