

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin: The Family God Built

Ordinary work, patient love

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:06 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Louis and Zélie grow in holiness through marriage, work, family prayer, service, and care amid loss.

Learning goals Children will recall watchmaking and lacework, name shared family care, and recognize that faith and grief can coexist.

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 ordinary tasks show care at home? Explain that holiness can grow in work, marriage, family life, and many other vocations.

Watch and notice

Notice lace and watch work, partners helping each other, prayer, care for workers and neighbors, and family support after loss.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What work did Louis and Zélie do?

Louis repaired watches and clocks; Zélie made lace and ran a business.

2. How did they share responsibility?

They helped when the other was tired, worked together, prayed over decisions, and cared for their daughters.

3. Did faith take away their grief?

No. They mourned their children and Zélie's death while trusting God and seeking family support.

4. What ordinary kindness can you offer at home?

Help with a task, listen, apologize for a sharp word, or ask a trusted adult how to care.

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 a family work or prayer scene, then an ordinary kindness in your home.

Read & Write Recall the parents' work and partnership, then plan practical care.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: choose a picture of a simple helpful task.

Ages 9-11: discuss shared responsibility and why grief deserves support.

Small work, real love | Optional 4 minutes

Draw a card with three spaces: a task, the person it helps, and when you can do it safely. Choose a small chore or kind word with adult guidance. Avoid making children responsible for adult work, worries, or grief.

Look for understanding Children recognize ordinary love and shared responsibility without idealizing the family or ranking their own home against it.

Closing prayer Jesus, bless our families and those who care for us. Help us share work, speak kindly, and support people in sorrow. Saints Louis and Zélie, pray for us. Amen.

At home Choose one small helpful task with an adult and thank someone who cares for you.

Handout answer notes Work: watches/clocks and lace. Partnership: shared work, prayer, care, decisions. Plans: safe, small family kindness.

Teach with care

Preview the deaths of four young children and Zélie's illness and death. Let children pass; do not invite public disclosure of family loss or compare family structures. The retelling includes simplified biography, imagined domestic scenes, and conversations. It names child loss and a parent's death. Faith does not erase grief or imply illness is punishment. Different families need different support; no child is responsible for making a home perfect.

Words to explain Vocation: a calling to love and serve God. Marriage: the covenant of husband and wife. Holiness: growing in God's love in daily life.

Sources for the leader

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

Canonization and family vocation: [Canonization homily for Louis and Zélie - Pope Francis](#)

Love in ordinary things

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Louis and Zélie cared through work, prayer, and daily kindness.

Name _____

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

1 Draw the Martins working, praying, or helping one another.



2 Draw a small kindness you can offer at home.



Tell Who is helped by this task? What help do you need from an adult?

Pray Jesus, help me show love in small everyday ways. Amen.

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

A home learning to love

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Recall work and care in the Martin family.

Name _____

1 Recall their work

What did Louis and Zélie make or repair?

Louis and Zélie ...

2 Recall partnership

Name one way they helped one another.

They ...

3 Choose kindness

What small task or kind word can you offer at home?

I can ...

Pray Jesus, help me show love in small everyday ways. Amen.

Go deeper Why can a family keep loving faithfully while still feeling grief or frustration?