

A Crown for God

The story of Saint Henry II

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:16 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth We can serve God by caring for the people and responsibilities entrusted to us.

Learning goals Recall how Henry served; explain the abbot's surprising advice; choose one ordinary responsibility to do with love.

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 is a responsibility you have at home or school? Explain that Henry was a ruler with many people depending on him. Invite children to notice what mattered more to him than his crown.

Watch and notice

Notice Henry praying, Cunigunde advising him, their gifts to churches and neighbors, the building in Bamberg, and Henry's visit to the monastery.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Henry and Cunigunde use their resources?

They supported churches and monasteries and gave to people who needed help. Their gifts could serve others rather than stay in a treasure chest.

2. What did Henry ask the abbot?

According to an old story, Henry asked to become a monk. He was willing to obey instead of giving commands.

3. Why did the abbot send him back?

People depended on Henry. He could seek holiness by caring for them and doing the work entrusted to him.

4. How can we begin where we are?

Choose a reasonable task such as helping with dishes, putting things away, or being patient with a sibling, and do it with love.

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 one way Henry served and one responsibility you can do with love. Invite children to explain their pictures aloud.

Read & Write Connect a detail from Henry's story with a realistic act of responsibility. Accept several thoughtful answers.

Adapt by readiness

Ages about 7-8: Read aloud; accept drawings, pointing, or brief spoken answers.

Ages about 9-11: Ask for a story detail and a specific plan for helping at home or school.

A responsibility with love | Optional 4 minutes

Give pairs an ordinary task, such as tidying shared supplies. Name who benefits, how to do it carefully, and one kind attitude to practice. Act out a short example.

Look for understanding A child explains that Henry could serve God as a ruler and identifies one ordinary responsibility that helps another person.

Closing prayer Lord Jesus, help us love you in our daily work. Give us humble hearts and patient hands to care for the people you place in our lives. Saint Henry, pray for us. Amen.

At home With your family, choose one helpful task for this week. Ask for help when a task is too difficult or unsafe.

Handout answer notes Henry: prayer, gifts, churches, care for people. Abbot: return to his responsibilities. Plans: a specific, age-appropriate act of service.

Teach with care

Preview the film. Invite children to discuss ordinary tasks without comparing families or requiring personal disclosures. The monastery episode is an old tradition; quoted dialogue and visual details are dramatized. Henry was imperfect. Responsibility never means obeying an unsafe or wrong instruction.

Words to explain Responsibility: a task or care entrusted to us. Abbot: leader of a monastery. Diocese: a community of churches cared for by a bishop.

Sources for the leader

Biography: [Vatican News: Saint Henry II](#)

Feast day: [USCCB: Memorial of Saint Henry, July 13](#)

Old tradition: [Catholic Encyclopedia: Verdun](#)

Serve God right where you are

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Saint Henry learned that caring for his people could be a way to love God.

Name _____

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

1 Draw one way Henry and Cunigunde helped others.



2 Draw one responsibility you can do with love this week.



Tell Who is helped by what you drew? How can you do your task kindly?

Pray Jesus, help me do my daily responsibilities with love. Amen.

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

Responsibility becomes service

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Think about Henry's crown and the abbot's advice. Answer in your own words.

Name _____

1 Remember

Name one way Henry and Cunigunde served God and their neighbors.

They served by ...

2 Explain

Why could Henry seek holiness after returning to his people?

Henry could love God by ...

3 Choose

What responsibility will you do with love this week? Who will it help?

This week I can ...

Pray Jesus, help me do my daily responsibilities with love. Amen.

Go deeper Do we need to be famous to become saints? Explain using a detail from the story.