Saint Joan of Arc

Faithful courage and a love of truth

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:29 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Faithful courage seeks truth and love, with wise guidance and care for others.

Learning goals Recall Joan's prayer and role in France; recognize the retelling's imagined dialogue; choose a peaceful way to stand for truth.

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 how someone can be brave peacefully. Offer examples of correcting an unkind rumor, asking for help, or admitting a mistake.

Watch and notice

Notice Joan's home and prayer, her banner, the mission in France, and faithfulness during an unjust trial. Treat exact speeches and visual details as retelling.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What mattered deeply to Joan?
Jesus, prayer, and serving the mission she believed God gave her. Her banner expressed her faith.

2. How did she serve France in the story?
She helped lead forces at Orleans and supported the king. Her historical situation is not an invitation for children to join fighting.

3. Was her condemnation a final judgment of her goodness?
No. She was wrongly condemned; a later Church investigation cleared her. She was eventually canonized.

4. What can peaceful courage look like today?
Tell the truth kindly, refuse an unkind rumor, and ask a trusted adult for help. Courage does not require danger or secret actions.

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 Joan of Arc

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 Use peaceful prayer and truthful everyday actions; no combat or execution drawings.

Read & Write Recall a faith symbol, recognize injustice, and choose guided peaceful courage.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use a gentle summary and draw truth, kindness, and help symbols.

Ages 9-11: discuss why authority can make mistakes and how truth requires careful investigation.

A banner for peaceful courage | Optional 4 minutes

Design a paper banner with three words: truth, kindness, help. Add a peaceful example below each word. Explain one example to a partner, without treating the banner as a military invitation.

Look for understanding Look for truthful, peaceful action and a named trusted helper. Never tell a child to obey a perceived voice or undertake a secret mission.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us love truth and seek wise guidance. Give us peaceful courage and protect people facing injustice. Saint Joan, pray for us. Amen.

At home Discuss a fictional rumor with an adult. Plan how to respond truthfully and kindly while asking for help.

Handout answer notes Banner: devotion to Jesus and Mary. Justice: wrongful condemnation, later cleared. Plans should be peaceful, truthful, and supported by trusted adults.

Teach with care

Preview battle, imprisonment, trial, and death by burning. Use a gentle summary if needed; never reenact combat or ask children to imagine the execution. The retelling adds dialogue and imagined scenes to Joan's life. Her unjust condemnation was overturned in 1456; she was canonized in 1920. Private visions are not instructions for children to follow voices, leave home, or fight. Any frightening or confusing perceived message should be shared with a trusted adult; safe discernment needs guidance.

Words to explain Witness: showing what we believe through words and actions. Discernment: seeking wise help to judge a choice. Banner: a cloth sign carried by a group.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English transcript

Vatican biography: Benedict XVI: Joan of Arc, January 26, 2011