

Saint Edith Stein

Seeking truth with a caring heart

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:17 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth We can ask honest questions, seek God, and respect each person's dignity.

Learning goals Recall Edith's love of learning, Carmelite vocation, and care for others; ask a thoughtful question; practice respectful listening.

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

Invite one question about God or the world. Explain that careful questions and patient study can help faith grow.

Watch and notice

Notice Edith's Jewish family, her study of philosophy, the book by Teresa of Avila, and her life as a Carmelite. Look for care for frightened people.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did Edith enjoy doing?

She loved questions, reading, and learning. Her search for truth included study and prayer.

2. What book helped her discover a new direction?

The life of Teresa of Avila helped her turn toward Jesus and the Catholic faith.

3. How did she respond to frightened people?

The retelling shows her comforting mothers and children. Caring for someone matters even when we cannot solve everything.

4. How can you seek truth respectfully?

Ask an honest question, listen, and seek a reliable answer with a trusted adult. Respect people whose beliefs differ.

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 Edith Stein

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 moment of learning and a moment of kind listening; accept spoken explanations.

Read & Write Recall a source detail, form an honest question, and plan respectful listening.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw a question and let an adult record it; focus on learning and kind care.

Ages 9-11: discuss reliable sources and the difference between disagreement and disrespect.

A question worth exploring | Optional 4 minutes

Write a question on a card. Name an adult or reliable book that can help you explore it. In pairs, practice listening without interrupting. A question need not have an immediate answer.

Look for understanding Look for thoughtful curiosity and respectful listening. No child's question should be dismissed or used to insult another faith.

Closing prayer Jesus, guide our questions toward truth. Give us wisdom to learn and compassion for people who are afraid. Saint Edith, pray for us. Amen.

At home Ask an adult one question about faith. Listen together and choose a reliable source to explore.

Handout answer notes Book: Teresa of Avila's life. Questions vary; encourage sincere curiosity. Respect: listening, kindness, and no insults.

Teach with care

Preview the Nazi persecution and death references. Explain that antisemitism is hatred of Jewish people and is wrong. Avoid graphic Holocaust detail for this age group. Edith remained connected to her Jewish people after becoming Catholic. Never present Judaism as inferior or blame victims for persecution. The video compresses her imprisonment: reports of her care for children concern the transit camp at Westerbork, before her murder at Auschwitz. Dialogue is dramatized.

Words to explain Philosopher: someone who studies deep questions about life and truth. Carmelite: a member of a community dedicated to prayer. Dignity: every person's God-given worth.

Sources for the leader

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

Vatican biography: [Teresa Benedicta of the Cross: Edith Stein](#)

Questions and kindness

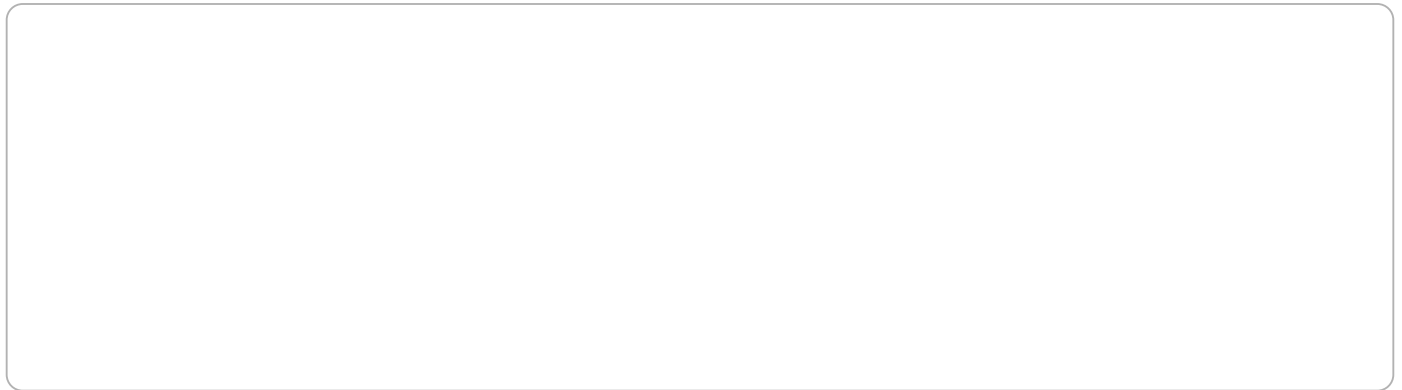
Saint Edith Stein

Edith loved learning and cared for people who were afraid.

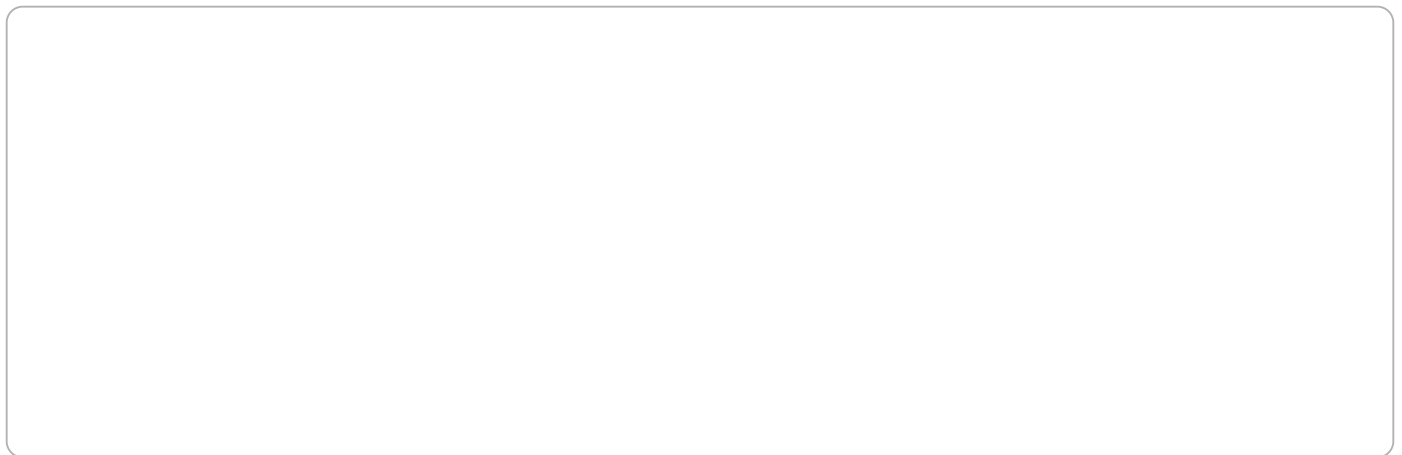
Name _____

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

1 Draw Edith reading or asking a question in the story.



2 Draw a way you can listen kindly to someone's question.



Tell What are the people learning? How does listening show respect?

Pray Jesus, help me seek truth and treat others with care. Amen.

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

Seek, listen, care

Saint Edith Stein

Remember Edith's search for truth and her compassionate choices.

Name _____

1 Recall learning

What book helped Edith learn about following Jesus?

Edith read ...

2 Ask thoughtfully

Write one question you would like to explore with a trusted adult.

I wonder ...

3 Respect a person

How can you listen to someone whose beliefs differ from yours?

I can show respect by ...

Pray Jesus, help me seek truth and treat others with care. Amen.

Go deeper How can asking a good question be part of prayer?