

Saint Francis of Assisi and the Sultan

Sharing faith with humility and respect

Ages about 7-11 | Video 3:41 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Francis turns from admiration toward Jesus and approaches the Sultan with peaceful respect.

Learning goals Children will recall Francis repairing a church and meeting the Sultan, explain peaceful witness, and choose a simple act of care.

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: Is being admired the same as being loving? Watch how Francis's idea of greatness changes.

Watch and notice

Notice repairing the small church, choosing simplicity, speaking respectfully to the Sultan, and giving thanks for creation.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did Francis first do after the call to rebuild?

He repaired a damaged church stone by stone; the story also connects that call with renewal of his life and the Church.

2. How did Francis approach the Sultan?

Without threats, he spoke gently and respectfully about Jesus.

3. Did the Sultan become Christian in this story?

No. The story says he welcomed Francis and sent him safely home. Respect did not depend on agreement.

4. What can you do with peaceful respect?

Listen to someone different, share without showing off, or care for a part of God's creation.

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 Francis's respectful meeting, then a small act of peaceful care.

Read & Write Recall the church repair and the meeting, then describe respectful witness.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: rehearse listening and a friendly greeting.

Ages 9-11: discuss respecting another person while honestly sharing your own faith.

A peace-and-care card | Optional 4 minutes

Fold a card in half. On one side draw two people listening respectfully; on the other list one way to care for creation. Choose a safe action such as picking up litter with an adult or sharing materials.

Look for understanding Children connect peaceful witness to listening and respect, and avoid treating religious differences as a reason for hostility.

Closing prayer Jesus, make our words gentle and our choices generous. Help us honor every person and care for your creation. Saint Francis, pray for us. Amen.

At home Practice a respectful greeting and choose one simple way to waste less or share more.

Handout answer notes Repair: a damaged church. Meeting: gentle and respectful, without threats. Plans: safe listening, sharing, or care for creation.

Teach with care

The retelling refers to war. Explain that children should never cross battlefields or approach danger. Treat Muslims and Christians with dignity. The meeting with Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil in 1219 is historical; conversations and scene details are dramatized. Animal episodes belong to Franciscan tradition. Religious differences never remove a person's dignity. Voluntary simplicity is different from hardship imposed on poor people.

Words to explain Humility: recognizing our gifts without placing ourselves above others. Sultan: a Muslim ruler. Creation: the world God made and entrusted to our care.

Sources for the leader

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

Meeting and peace: [Francis and the Sultan: anniversary reflection - Vatican](#)

Peace begins with respect

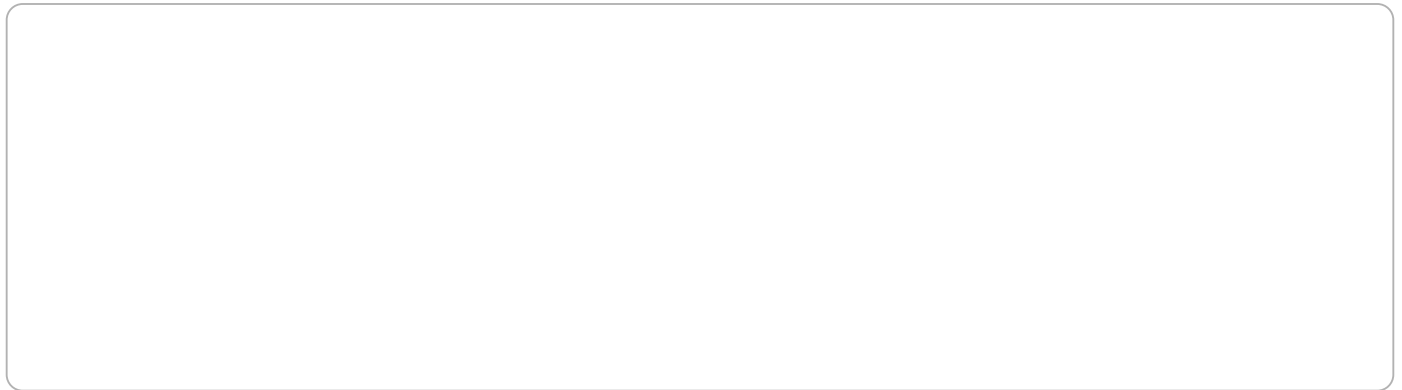
Saint Francis of Assisi and the Sultan

Francis shared his faith gently and loved God's creation.

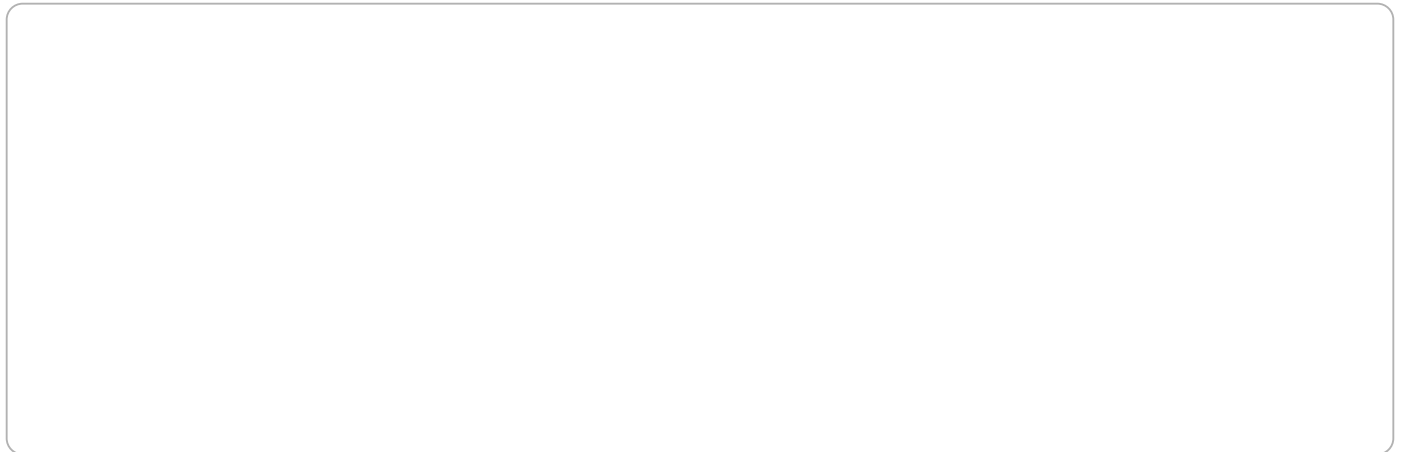
Name _____

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

1 Draw Francis speaking respectfully with the Sultan.



2 Draw a peaceful or caring action you can choose.



Tell How can you show respect when someone thinks differently?

Pray Jesus, help me listen, share, and care peacefully. Amen.

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

A gentle way to share

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Remember how Francis changed and how he treated the Sultan.

Name _____

1 Remember rebuilding

What did Francis begin repairing?

Francis repaired ...

2 Remember respect

How did Francis speak to the Sultan?

He spoke ...

3 Make a choice

Name one peaceful act or way to care for creation.

I can ...

Pray Jesus, help me listen, share, and care peacefully. Amen.

Go deeper Can we share our faith honestly and still listen kindly to someone different?