# Saint Josemaría Escrivá

The Saint of Ordinary Things

**Ages about 7-11** | Video 8:37 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

**Central truth** With God's grace, ordinary work and small acts of care can become gifts of love.

**Learning goals** Recall two ways Josemaría served others; explain how love changes an ordinary task; choose one small, safe act of service.

**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 one ordinary job you do each day? Could it help someone? Explain that holiness means growing close to God and learning to love as Jesus loves.

### Watch and notice

Notice the footprints, the church he cleans, the young man's broom, and his gentle care for a sick person. Listen for what he teaches about beginning again.

### Talk together | 6-8 minutes

**1. What question did the footprints awaken in Josemaría?**
He wondered what he could give God. He prayed and gradually discovered his vocation.

**2. What changed when the young man began sweeping with love?**
The task was still ordinary, but he offered it to God and served the people around him.

**3. How did Josemaría show that people matter?**
He taught a child and cared gently for sick people. They were worthy of love even when others overlooked them.

**4. What can we do when we complain or make a mistake?**
Ask Jesus for help, say sorry when needed, repair harm, and begin again. God's love is not a prize for perfect work.

**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 Josemaría Escrivá

**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 the two picture spaces to recall a kind action and imagine an everyday act of love. Children may point or tell their answer.

**Read & Write** Invite a story detail, an explanation, and one practical choice. Encourage short answers; spelling is not the goal.

## Adapt by readiness

Younger or emerging readers: read prompts aloud and accept drawing or dictated answers.

Older children: connect careful work with gratitude for their abilities and the people they can serve.

## My next little thing | Optional 4 minutes

On a small card, draw one safe task: put books away, set a place at the table, or include someone in play. Name whom it helps. Pray briefly, then choose when to do it with an adult's guidance.

**Look for understanding** The child names both an action and the person it helps, rather than saying that completing chores earns God's love.

**Closing prayer** Jesus, thank you for loving us and helping us grow. Teach us to do our ordinary work with care, notice people who need kindness, and begin again after mistakes. Saint Josemaría, pray for us. Amen.

**At home** Choose one small task together. At the end of the day, thank God for one gift and one chance to help.

**Handout answer notes** Recall: cleaning, teaching, or caring for the sick. Explain: an ordinary task can express love of God and neighbor. Apply: a specific, age-appropriate act with help as needed.

## Teach with care

Preview the brief references to family loss, illness, and wartime danger; pause for questions as needed. The dialogue is dramatized to express his teaching, not presented as a transcript. Do not reenact barefoot walking in snow or dangerous travel. Children help safely; adults are responsible for medical care.

**Words to explain** Vocation: God's call in our lives. Grace: God's loving help. Opus Dei: Work of God. Gratitude: recognizing gifts and giving thanks.

### Sources for the leader

Biography: Vatican canonization biography

Teaching: John Paul II: canonization homily, 6 October 2002