# Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

Royal gifts used in loving service

**Ages about 7-11** | Video 5:49 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

**Central truth** God's gifts invite us to care for our neighbors with practical love and respect.

**Learning goals** Recall Elizabeth's care for hungry and sick people; distinguish the rose tradition from documented ministry; plan responsible generosity.

**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 use a privilege or resource to serve rather than expect service. Include time and attention alongside money or possessions.

### Watch and notice

Notice Elizabeth sharing food, her husband's support, the rose tradition, and her later hands-on care in a hospital.

### Talk together | 6-8 minutes

**1. What did Elizabeth do with her resources?**
She shared food and supported care for people who were hungry or sick. She also served with her own hands.

**2. What do the roses represent in the tradition?**
The beauty of loving charity. The story is a devotional tradition; generosity does not require a miracle to matter.

**3. Did sorrow mean she had lost faith?**
No. She grieved and continued to seek God's help. Sadness deserves compassion and support.

**4. How can you share responsibly?**
Ask an adult first, consider needs and limits, and use a trusted project. Do not give away needed food or belongings secretly.

**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 practical service and responsible generosity; roses may be shown as a traditional symbol.

**Read & Write** Recall care, interpret the traditional symbol, and plan responsible generosity.

## Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw a gift of time and dictate whom it could help.

Ages 9-11: distinguish a traditional miracle story from historical ministry and discuss stewardship.

## A basket of responsible gifts | Optional 4 minutes

Draw a basket with three gifts: time, attention, and an adult-approved resource. Choose one neighborly need and match it with a safe gift. Add a helper and a way to respect the person's privacy.

**Look for understanding** Look for practical care and responsible permission. Children need not surrender necessary belongings or stay cheerful when grieving.

**Closing prayer** Jesus, teach us to use your gifts with care. Comfort those who grieve and help us serve our neighbors respectfully. Saint Elizabeth, pray for us. Amen.

**At home** With an adult, learn about a trusted food or care project. Choose a safe way to contribute while keeping everyone's dignity in view.

**Handout answer notes** Care: food, hospital support, hands-on service. Roses: beauty of charity, a devotional tradition. Gifts must be safe, permission-based, and respectful.

## Teach with care

Preview the husband's death, loss of home, and Elizabeth's death. Explain that grief is natural and does not contradict faith or joy. The rose episode and its dialogue are devotional retelling; the cited Vatican biography supports Elizabeth's practical charity and hospital service. The video simplifies her loss of status after her husband's death. Its question about being sad should not be used to deny grief: faith allows tears and seeking help. Hospital tasks require trained adult care.

**Words to explain** Charity: love put into action. Hospital: a place where sick people receive care. Stewardship: using what is entrusted to us responsibly.

### Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English transcript

Vatican biography: Benedict XVI: Elizabeth of Hungary, October 20, 2010