

Saint Thomas Aquinas

Big questions and a heart that loves God

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:28 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Thomas used his thoughtful mind to seek truth and teach others, while loving God more than achievement.

Learning goals Recall Thomas' questions and Dominican calling; explain why faith welcomes honest learning; and practice a respectful question about God.

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 an honest big question sounds like. Watch how Thomas' learning and prayer support each other.

Watch and notice

Notice the question about God, the teasing, Albert's encouragement, Thomas' writing, and his desire for God above rewards.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did Thomas enjoy doing?

He asked big questions, listened, studied, and prayed. His learning was a way of seeking and loving God.

2. Who recognized gifts other students overlooked?

Saint Albert the Great. He encouraged Thomas despite the unkind nickname used by other students.

3. Why did Thomas want to become a Dominican?

He felt called to the friars' life of prayer and teaching. Marriage and family life are also good vocations.

4. What did the prayer before the crucifix show?

In the traditional account, Thomas desired God above another reward. Knowledge and achievements serve love rather than replacing it.

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 Thomas Aquinas

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 Thomas studying or praying before the crucifix. Then draw yourself asking a respectful question and listening. Accept an oral explanation.

Read & Write Recall the story, explain its central teaching, then apply it through a specific choice.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw or dictate answers; revisit the named story moment together.

Ages 9-11: explain the connection between the story detail and the planned response.

A question worth asking | Optional 4 minutes

Create a question card with three spaces: My honest question, A person or source that can help, and A prayer for understanding. Choose a question about faith; identify a trusted adult, Scripture, or Church teaching. Practice listening without teasing another child's question.

Look for understanding Look for the named story details in the answers and a practical response connected to faith, learning, humility, and love.

Closing prayer God, help us seek truth with humble minds and loving hearts. Saint Thomas Aquinas, pray for us. Amen.

At home Explore your question card with an adult; thank God for minds that can learn.

Handout answer notes Albert the Great encouraged Thomas. In the traditional prayer account he desired God himself. Questions should be sincere, with a trusted person or source for exploring them.

Teach with care

Provide paper and pencils. Preview the video and invite children to ask questions or pass. The prayer dialogue at the crucifix is a traditional biographical account; other dialogue is dramatized. Unkind nicknames should not be repeated as a classroom game. Honest questions are welcome, and answers may take patient study.

Words to explain Dominican: a member of the Order of Preachers. Theology: learning about God and the truths he reveals. Humility: receiving gifts without boasting.

Sources for the leader

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

Background: [Benedict XVI: Saint Thomas Aquinas, June 2, 2010](#)

Background: [Benedict XVI: faith and reason in Aquinas, June 16, 2010](#)

Learning with heart and mind

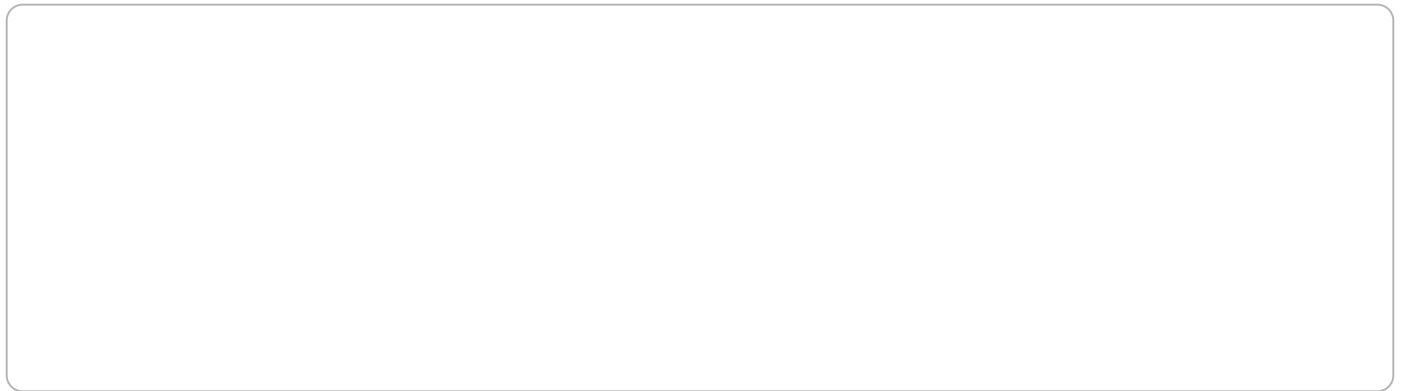
Saint Thomas Aquinas

Thomas used his thoughtful mind to seek truth and teach others, while loving God more than achievement.

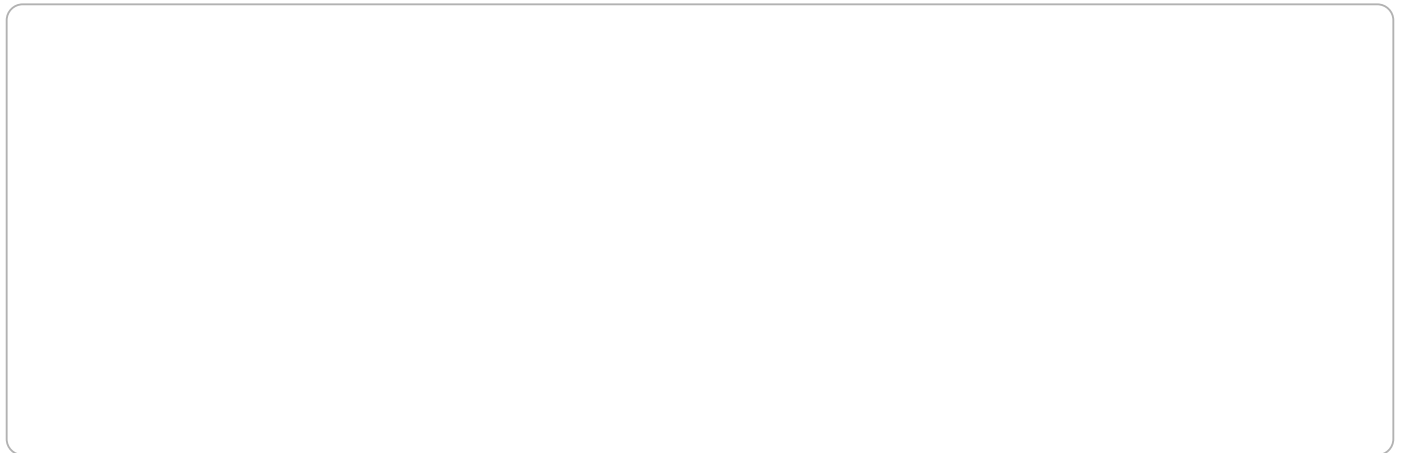
Name _____

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

1 Draw Thomas studying or praying before the crucifix.



2 Draw yourself asking a respectful question and listening.



Tell How do learning and love work together in your pictures?

Pray God, help us seek truth with humble minds and loving hearts. Saint Thomas Aquinas, pray for us. Amen.

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

Questions that seek truth

Saint Thomas Aquinas

Big questions and a heart that loves God. Remember, explain, and respond.

Name _____

1 Remember

Who encouraged Thomas' learning?

His teacher was ...

2 Explain

What reward did Thomas desire most?

Thomas desired ...

3 Respond

Write an honest question and name a helpful source.

I wonder ...

Pray God, help us seek truth with humble minds and loving hearts. Saint Thomas Aquinas, pray for us. Amen.

Go deeper How can learning a true answer help us love rather than merely feel clever?