



FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH 2025

Daily Walk + Talk

Simple, Easy Ways to Share and Live Scripture with Children

Get even more out of *Living Faith Kids*. The *Daily Walk and Talk* provides suggestions and tips for class discussions, prayers and activities based on the daily reflections on the Mass readings. Scroll down to find the date for the devotion you're reading with your class, then use the question, prompt or idea to extend your lesson.

January 1

How will you use the gifts God has given you? Will you spend time every day in prayer? How will you help others?

Create a January 2025 calendar page for students. Have them decorate their calendars in whatever way they wish, but have them print the words "gifts," "prayer" and "help" at the top as a reminder to share gifts, pray and help others. Invite children to note days on their calendar when they do any of these things.

January 2

The Bible says that God looked at everything he made and found it very good.

Invite your class to pause for a few moments. Have the children close their eyes and imagine something they have made or accomplished recently. Invite them to think about what's good about it and ignore any negative thoughts about it. They can take a few moments to simply enjoy what they have made. Next, have them imagine God looking at each one of them. What might he say that's good about them? End this short meditation by praying the Sign of the Cross.

How will you use the gifts God has given you?

JUBILEE 2025: PLANT SEEDS OF HOPE/GOOD DEED SEEDS

Choose a strong reader or two to read about the Jubilee. Share about any Jubilee events in your parish or diocese. Then read about the good deed seeds on page 7. Have children work in pairs thinking about people who need hope or help. Remind your class that even the smallest good deeds—a smile, kind word or simply listening—can bring someone hope. **Note:** A follow up activity on page 108 invites children to record what happens as a result of these good deeds. Check back with students next week, and invite them to fill in the results on page 108.

January 3

Long ago, people offered gifts to show that they loved God...

Ask: What can you offer as a gift to God? (Ideas: daily prayers, the good deeds from page 7, praise such as reading the Psalms, gratitude for gifts, etc.)

January 4

Imagine Jesus asking, "Why are you following me? What are you looking for?"

This might be sound like an unusual question for children to hear. But it's important to help them take steps toward developing their own lives of faith and know that God doesn't force

us into belief. Take some time with this question. There is no right or wrong answer, and many children may not have an answer at all right now. Explain that it is always good to listen to what Jesus says and asks of us.

January 5

We remember that Jesus came for all of us—not just a few people.

One way to help students understand this is to talk about ornaments on a Christmas tree. Invite students to share about favorite Christmas ornaments. Explain that every tree has individual ornaments with various shapes and colors. Some are old, some are new. Some might have stories. But still, they all work together to make a Christmas tree a thing of beauty and joy. Just as all the people of the world are individuals, but we are one in Christ.

BLESS YOUR HOME ON EPIPHANY

Take a moment to bless the doors of your learning space. Use the letters and numbers over the door as a reminder this month to pray for peace in the hearts of everyone who enters.

January 6

André Bessette shows us that everyone can find ways to love and serve God—and be saints!

Did you know that Canada's largest church began as a humble, one-room

shrine built by St. André? Learn more about St. André of Montreal and St. Joseph's Oratory of Mt. Royal at Saint-Joseph.org/en.

January 7

St. Raymond shows us that when others sin, we don't have to follow. We can trust God to guide us toward what's right.

Visit BayardFaithResources.com to find saint stories and resources for children and adults. Use search word: "saints" or click on "free e-resources" to sign up for a weekly newsletter containing free coloring pages, reflections and more.

January 8

Jesus, I have more fun when I love others. Show me how.

Share about a time you shared Jesus' love with someone, and invite students to do the same. **Ask:** What made it fun? Why is sharing with others more fun than keeping things to yourself?

January 9

Help me love all the people in my life.

Have students work in pairs or small groups to imagine a story about the children in the pictures. Start with the top picture. Prompt with questions such as, how do you think the two children feel? What are their names? Describe what may have happened, etc. Then have students look at the picture at the bottom and ask: What's different? What do you think has happened? How do the children feel here? Have students finish the story with a happy, peaceful ending. Invite volunteers to share with the class or group.

January 10

When Olivia turns out her bedroom light each night, she feels safe and

surrounded by her dad's love and protection.

Have a conversation about feeling safe. **Ask:** What does your family do to make you feel safe? Are there ever times when you don't feel safe? What can we do as members of our class to help others feel safe?

January 11

The very best thing we can do is point people toward Jesus and say, "He's the one you're looking for."

Ask: What kinds of actions can we take to point the way to Jesus?

January 12

When you are baptized, you get someone special in your corner. That someone is the Holy Spirit.

Invite students to share photos from their Baptisms. **Ask:** Why is this such a big celebration? (It is the first sacrament of our initiation into the Church, God's family. We receive the Holy Spirit at our Baptisms. That's a good reason for celebrating!)

WHERE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Have the children complete the dot-to-dot before or after Mass on Sunday. Explain that although we can't see the Holy Spirit in this same way, the same thing happens to us at our Baptism.

January 13

Our solar system is fascinating.

The Vatican Observatory has an education section on its website that's a treasure trove of information for all ages. Topics include "Faith and Science for Younger Readers," "Life in the Universe" and "Was There Really a Star of Bethlehem?" Visit and explore at VaticanObservatory.org.

livingfaith.com/kids

January 14

Do you ever hear others using God's name in a bad way? How does it make you feel?

Repeat the question from the text in your own words. Invite children to recall a short prayer to say when this happens. It might be as simple as praying the words of the Sign of the Cross silently or the beginning of the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name."

January 15

To look for the Lord is to look for the good in our brothers and sisters, our friends and enemies, our parents and teachers.

Invite students to write down the name of a family member or friend they care about. Then have them write three good things about this person. Next, have them write the name of someone they don't know well, followed by three good things about them. Talk about the difference between searching for good things in people we know and in people we don't know well. **Ask:** How might it change how we feel about a person if we decide to look for only good things about them?

January 16

Was the Holy Spirit speaking to Peggy's family? How did they respond?

Ask: What do you think the Holy Spirit said to Peggy's family? What do you think the Holy Spirit is saying to us today?

January 17

What ideas do you have for bringing friends to Jesus?

Invite students to look at the picture and recall the Gospel story. (Explain that when someone is paralyzed, they are unable to move.) Then have children think of someone who needs

Jesus' help in some way and fill in the name. Invite students to reflect silently on the person's needs, what might be keeping them from getting help, and how they might help. Note that help may simply be by bringing that person to Jesus in prayer.

January 18

Do you have a favorite teacher or coach?

Invite students to think about a favorite coach or other leader. Invite them to reflect silently on the question from the text: What is it about that person that you like? Lead the class in a short prayer of thanksgiving for leaders.

January 19

Jesus calls Mary "Woman" as a title of honor because she is "blessed...among women" (Luke 1:42).

Ask: Do you recognize these words? (They are from the Hail Mary prayer.) Explain that we honor Mary for her faith and trust in God and in her son Jesus. We can pray to have this same kind of faith and trust. Pray the Hail Mary together.

January 20

Jesus asks us to be open to changing our ways. He invites us to live in his love, hope, mercy and truth. This way, we can become new.

Explain that changing our ways is a lifelong process and that there is always something we can work on.

Ask: What are some ways you have seen people change their ways for the better? Then invite students to think about changes they can make to live in Jesus' love.

ASK FATHER JOE

...the fact that you even asked this question shows that you are someone who thinks about important things.

Ask: Why do you think Father Joe says this in response to Aleesha's question?

January 21

You can travel with hope because your anchor is in the hands of Jesus.

Invite students to look at the picture and imagine being on the boat. Younger students can stand and mime the actions of being on a boat at sea. Ask questions such as: What do you see around you? Is the water calm or choppy? Deep or shallow? Who is with you on your boat? What is your anchor connected to? Read the reflection again, and invite students to reflect on the picture. Finish with the prayer at the bottom of the page.

January 22

When you're unsure about doing the right thing, ask Jesus for help.

Ask: Can you think of a time when it was hard to do the right thing? How can praying help with that?

January 23

Marianne went to Molokai. She built and managed hospitals, homes and schools for people who were suffering.

You can learn more about St. Marianne Cope and download a free coloring book (PDF) detailing her life from the St. Marianne Cope Museum in Syracuse, NY. Visit SaintMarianne.org/coloring-book.html.

January 24

When you speak, try adding some of the sweetness of love to your words.

Use an example to help students apply this: Let's say a friend has borrowed something of yours but they've kept it for a long time, and you really need it back. How could you add "the sweetness of love" to your words to ask them to return it? You might try some role playing for this exercise.

January 25

But teasing or making fun can hurt too.

Invite children to share how it feels to be teased. Help them connect how it feels to be teased with empathy for others, rather than a desire to lash out. **Ask:** How can we help when we see someone being teased or made fun of?

January 26

Now you are Christ's body...

Read the poem aloud together. Read it once again slowly, pausing after each line to ask what it might mean. You might offer some examples of ways we can do Christ's work on earth. Invite students to choose one way to do this work and draw it on page 94.

January 27

Jesus is still loving his Father, and he is still loving us—and he always will, forever and ever.

Talk about the image of Jesus on the page. The artist has added many colors to the picture. **Ask:** What do you think the artist is trying to say here? (To learn more about the artist and his family, and see more of his work, visit 5sparrows.com.)

January 28

A brother who listens to you, plays with you and shares everything he has with you.

Have students find and circle the action words in the text, such as trust,

When you're unsure about doing the right thing, ask Jesus for help.

listens and shares. Invite them to choose one of these words and draw a picture of Jesus in a way that illustrates this action.

January 29

Maybe we worry about whether people will like us if we do what is right.

Take this opportunity to build awareness of others' feelings, especially anxieties and worries. Start by polling students on their feelings about subjects that might cause anxiety or distraction: tests, class presentations, scary movies or amusement park rides, bugs, etc. Now ask how they think their best friend might feel about these. Then how a younger sibling or relative might feel. Remind students that everyone reacts differently to certain things and what might not worry or distract us might cause others to worry or get distracted. End by praying the prayer, substituting "we" and "us" for "I" and "me."

January 30

That means that we encourage others, even when they receive something we may have wanted.

Share about an experience when this has happened to you and invite volunteers to share their own experiences. **Ask:** What do you think Jesus says to us when this happens?

January 31

What can you learn from St. John Bosco?

Learn more about St. John Bosco from one of the religious orders he founded.

Is God asking you to be patient about something?

The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco have put together a short biography with videos about Bosco and other inspiring saints associated with the order. Visit SalesianSistersWest.org. Navigate to "Who We Are" and "Our Saints."

February 1

Is God asking you to be patient about something?

Invite students to mention things they've had to wait for: school vacations, birthday parties, special family outings for example. **Ask:** What did you do to make the time go by? How can that help you at other times when you have to wait? What does it say here on the page about something we can do to help us wait?

February 2

These two elderly people had spent most of their lives in prayer, waiting for the Messiah.

Explain that two of the main people we celebrate on today's feast are elderly. Invite students to think about senior citizens they know—grandparents, neighbors, etc., and how their families might honor them.

PRESENTING...BABY JESUS

After students find the differences, invite them to identify Simeon, baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph and, in one of the images, the Holy Spirit.

February 3

But Jesus wasn't afraid.

This story has frightening images for children, but we don't have to skip over stories like these completely, as they teach important lessons. Explain that while it's OK for us to avoid certain people for our own safety, we can always remember that Jesus has no reason to be afraid of anyone. In Jesus' sight, we are all part of his family. Jesus wants us to be happy and healthy and whole.

February 4

What kinds of good actions can you take for others who are sick and can't help themselves?

To answer the question, invite students to look at the picture and describe what is happening. (The girl is praying for someone who is receiving care. She may also be praying for the healthcare worker who provides care.)

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Check your parish bulletin or website to learn who is sick in your parish—and pray for them too.

February 5

Active love for God means doing things to live the amazing life God has planned for us.

Ask: How might this child be doing something active—and loving? (Perhaps he is doing this work without being asked, or without complaining, or perhaps he is doing it for a neighbor.) Brainstorm other active things children can do at home and at school to love God and others.

February 6

But Jesus gave them everything they needed for the job.

Have a conversation about courage. Talk about a time you were given a job to do that you weren't sure you could do. What kind of courage did you need? Invite students to share any similar experiences. Finish by repeating the prayer for courage at the bottom of the page.

February 7

At the beginning of his papacy, he told the world, "Be not afraid!"

Read the reflection together. **Ask:** From what you have read here, what in John Paul II's life gave him experience with courage?

February 8

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who guides and teaches us.

Ask: What is something Jesus teaches us? Invite students to point out various Gospel stories in which Jesus teaches lessons.

GO TO THE LOST AND FOUND

After students complete the activity, read aloud the full Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7).

February 9

And still, our mighty God rules over all—angels and humans alike!

Children may be more familiar with guardian angels than seraphim. Make a habit of praying the Guardian Angel prayer together as you send students out after classes or meetings: Angel of God, my guardian dear; to whom God's love commits me here; ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

February 10

There are birds of all colors, sizes, calls and habitats.

Invite students to notice the birds on the grounds of your school or parish, or on the way home. Invite them to say a brief prayer of thanks for them—it can be as simple as, "Thank you, God for birds of all colors and sizes." Incidentally, February is the month of the Great Backyard Bird Count, an international event that brings together bird lovers of all ages. Do an Internet search of "February bird count" to learn more, and keep thanking God for these amazing creatures.

February 11

God, open my eyes to see the blessings all around me.

Play "I Spy" with blessings. Without naming it, describe a blessing you

can see in your classroom or one that children will know by guessing. Invite volunteers to do the same.

February 12

When we hear in the Bible that the Lord is clothed in majesty and glory, we remember that Jesus is the King of our hearts.

Ask: How do you picture a king? How is Jesus like a king and not like a king?

February 13

It's a good day to pray for all the people God has created—people you know and people you don't—who make it possible for you to live, love, laugh, sing, dance, play, eat, sleep, learn and grow.

Suggest that as students prepare valentines, they pray a short prayer for each person to whom they send a card.

February 14

Jesus, help all who need healing. Fill them with your peace.

Go back to page 46, and pray as a class: "Lord, God, we pray for all the sick, especially: (Invite students to call out names of people they have listed here.) We pray especially for these good people to feel your peace. Amen."

February 15

Jesus, thank you for providing all that we need.

Pray together: "Thank you, Jesus for all the good things you give us that we can't touch, like the love of our families. (Invite students to share other examples, such as a song they like or a recent family gathering.) Amen."

February 16

There are many kinds of hunger in the world, but we know that Jesus will provide.

Read the examples of different kinds of hunger, and invite students to share general examples of people in need of God's hope and justice, such as people who are homeless or poor, refugees, those who have been wronged, etc.

February 17

Are there times when our behavior might make the people we love sigh in frustration or sadness?

Before answering the question, take a moment to practice sighing together. Take a deep breath, and let it out loudly. Invite the class to do the same. Talk about how we might feel when we sigh. Tired? Frustrated? Angry? How does a long sigh help? Now that everyone has had a chance to sigh, address the question in the text as well as its follow up: When that happens, what can we do?

February 18

Noah's biggest job was putting all of his trust in God.

Invite students to identify the animals in the ark, and talk about what they know about the story of Noah. Emphasize the faith Noah had in God.

February 19

Can you remember times when your friends helped you?

Invite students to share about times a friend has helped them. Invite students to pray for their friends every day with a simple prayer such as, "Thank you, Jesus, for good friends like (name)."

February 20

If God has created you—and everyone—in his own image, that means there’s a whole world full of people who are important to God...

Look at a world map. Choose a volunteer to close their eyes and point to a spot on the map. (If they land on ocean, try again.) Together, learn about this place and the people who live there. Say a short prayer for their needs.

February 21

And Jesus gave his life for us so that we could have life forever with him in his great joy and true peace.

Share your thoughts about what it means to you to have life forever in Jesus.

February 22

There is a special chair in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome known as the Chair of St. Peter. It represents the special leadership Jesus gave to St. Peter. Jesus called St. Peter the “rock” on which he would build his Church.

What does the Pope pray for? Learn about his monthly intentions. Share these with the class, and pray with him at PopesPrayerUSA.net.

February 23

God loves you and wants others to treat you with love and respect, just as you treat others.

Invite students to pay attention at Mass for all the ways we see and hear about God’s love for us—and for ways we are called to love others as well.

February 24

Prayer is an exciting adventure.

Remember your map prayer activity from last week? Invite students to

imagine a child the same age or grade level living there. What might it be like for that child? Do more research as a class, if you have time. Then pray together specifically for the children living in this area of the world.

February 25

It’s so simple and easy to do.

What are some other simple, easy things we can do to show others we care? Take some real time with this question. You might make time weekly or monthly for students to share.

February 26

It doesn’t have to be fancy. It can be as simple as thanking God for your abilities or just thinking of how happy you are because of God’s love.

Read the first line of the reflection again and do any or all of those things together—jump, sing, dance, have fun with this. Be silly if you want—and pray together.

February 27

God will forgive you—you just have to ask him.

Before reading this reflection, explain that no one needs to share or answer aloud. Note that the directions say to “think about it.” Simply take a few quiet moments and invite students to reflect on any unloving choices they may have made recently. Pray: “For all of the times we have been unloving, Lord, forgive us. Give us your strength and courage to make things right. Amen.”

February 28

He was glad he hadn’t given up on Curt.

Ask: Has something like this ever happened to you? Maybe someone you know started acting differently? What did you do about it? What do you think Jesus wants you to do about it?

March 1

So, the love and trust that you have for Jesus is very special to Jesus—and he wants others to learn from you!

Share something you have learned from your students. Express your gratitude for what you, as an adult, have learned from young people.

March 2

But really, the only thing that will make us feel better is confessing our sins—not anyone else’s—in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Help students find the dates and times your parish celebrates the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation listed in your parish bulletin or website. You may wish to arrange for your class or group to take a tour of your parish’s confessionals.

March 3

Katharine, whom we celebrate today as St. Katharine Drexel, spent her life and her money doing this work.

There are many Catholic schools and parishes named for St. Katharine. Lead a discussion about who your parish or school is named for. Help students research at your parish website. Or arrange for your pastor or church historian to speak about the parish’s history.

March 4

Casimir went out of his way to be generous and kind to the sick and less fortunate.

Ask: Who do you know who goes out of their way to help others?

Prayer is an exciting adventure.

March 5

The season of Lent helps us stay close to God. Think of it as 40 days of little reminders from God to keep following his Son, Jesus.

Discuss the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that children and families can do during Lent. Pray together as a class to grow closer to God through your Lenten practices.

AMEN TO ASHES

Once you have read tomorrow's reflection (March 6), have students cut out this page. Have them bring it home to display somewhere they will see it often, as a reminder of their Lenten plans. Remind them to reread the devotion on the back occasionally as a reminder to do a hidden good deeds every now and then.

March 6

Today, how can you share a special smile with God?

As a class, brainstorm hidden good deeds children can do at home, school, in the neighborhood or parish and in the wider world. Visit CRSRiceBowl.org to get more ideas.

March 7

If we are sorry for our sins, God can wash them away.

If you don't get a chance to talk to each individual learner today or any time, here's a tip from Janet Schaeffler, OP: "End your sessions about five minutes early; as each person leaves, share a sign of peace with them, calling them by name and commenting on something you know about their life." For more tips and wisdom, find Sr. Janet's inspiring booklet: *Catechists as Pilgrims of Hope: Reflections and Prayers for the Jubilee Year* from TwentyThirdPublications.com.

March 8

Jesus doesn't ask us to follow him because we are perfect. He invites us because we need God.

More tips from Sr. Janet Schaeffler OP: She suggests a way to start conversations and discussion is "by sharing what you have been thinking about rather than starting with a question." Today, you might start with something like, "I've been thinking about the mistakes I've made..."

March 9

Lent is a time when the whole Church is led into a kind of desert to face our own challenges as followers of Jesus.

Talk about what a desert is like—search the Internet for desert landscape images to share with your class. Invite students to describe what they see and how it would feel to be there. Talk about how a desert can be dry and harsh, but it can also be a place of beauty. **Ask:** How do you think the Lenten journey might be difficult? How can it be beautiful too?

March 10

When you feel like being angry or holding a grudge against someone, take a moment to think about what's happening in their lives.

Invite students to reflect on any similar experiences they may have had. **Ask:** How did someone's words affect the situation, by making it worse or better? What can we learn about how important it is to try to understand what's happening in others' lives?

March 11

Pray the Our Father. Once you have finished, just sit quietly with an open heart for a few minutes—for as long as you can.

Invite students to get comfortable for this silent meditation on the Our

Father. Point out that the boy in the picture has closed his eyes and put his hands together in prayer to help drown out any distractions he might see or reach for. Remind students that for this reflection, some students may choose to pray this way, but everyone prays differently and there is no single perfect way to pray for everyone.

March 12

Are you listening?

Jonah is familiar to many as the man who went into the belly of a giant fish. Take this opportunity to have your students "listen" to the story of Jonah. You can search YouTube for "Jonah and the giant fish" to find a video story that's appropriate for your group.

March 13

God answers our prayers but not always in the way we expect!

Take some time to think about a time God answered your prayer in a way you did not expect and share the story. Invite students to share similar experiences. Acknowledge that it can be difficult when we don't get the answer we want or when we want it, but that God always knows what is best for us.

March 14

Dear God, help me say I'm sorry.

Our stories today and tomorrow model some ways children can resolve conflicts, so have students pay attention to what happens and how the children feel. After reading today's story you might **Ask:** How did Jenny feel at first? (Sad, but she also feels her sister started the argument.) Why do you think Jenny felt this way? What changed for her? What did she do? How did she feel then? Explain that sometimes, it can take us a little while to sort out how we feel, but it's important to do this. It's also good for us to be honest with ourselves about the parts we play in arguments or about

times we have hurt others, because it can lead to healing for everyone, including ourselves.

March 15

Jesus, forgiving others can be hard. Help me.

Talk about the story by asking questions: What did Matt want to do when he got hit with the ball? What did he end up doing? What made the difference? What did Jeff do later that helped the situation? How do you think Matt felt then? Has anything like this happened to you?

March 16

Meanwhile, every little sign of beauty, truth and goodness gives us a glimpse of the greatness of God's glory.

Invite students to identify Jesus, Moses, Elijah and the three Apostles in the illustration and talk about how each might be feeling.

GLIMPSE THE GLORY

Remind students that Jesus is present at Mass for us in four ways. Briefly, they are: through the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine, through the Word of the Lord proclaimed in the readings and homily, in the person of the priest, and in the people gathered in Christ's name.

March 17

Name someone who has been merciful to you.

Invite students to name a person who has been merciful to them. Then say a short, spontaneous prayer thanking God for placing these merciful people in your lives.

March 18

Sacrifice has many meanings, but a simple way to think of it is something

you give up for yourself and offer instead to God.

Teach about some short prayers of praise by looking through the Psalms of the Old Testament. There are 150 Psalms, and many have verses that are short enough for children of all ages to learn.

March 19

God, give me the rest I need today.

Share this bedtime blessing or send it home with your students: "God of all goodness, let the day's activities now be set aside. Bring peace to our home. Grant (name) a restful night, and awaken us in the morning with energy for a new day. Amen." *From Faith-Filled Family Rituals for All Seasons* by Kathy Hendricks, TwentyThirdPublications.com.

March 20

When friends try to talk you into doing unsafe things, stop! Pray. Think.

Repeat the words together: "Stop! Pray. Think." You might want to add arm movements: For "stop," extend your arms straight in front of you, palms facing out. For "pray," place your palms together. For "think," place your index finger on your forehead. Encourage students to commit the words to memory and call them to mind when facing choices of any kind.

YOUR PAGE

If you wish, send drawings along with first names and ages to: LFK Editor, 1564 Fencorp Drive, Fenton, MO 63026, or email to Editor@LivingFaithKids.com. Please be aware that we are not able to acknowledge or print all submissions, but we do try!

March 21

Jesus is the cornerstone of our life and our faith.

Invite students to look back through this issue and find a picture of Jesus to copy. Display the drawings in your

classroom, and later, send them home, inviting families to display them prominently to show that Jesus is the cornerstone of their lives and faith.

March 22

We can rejoice, too, whether we're the ones being found or it's someone else.

The picture shows what happened at the beginning of this story, when the son leaves his father. Invite students to tell what happens next in the story. You may want to read Luke 15:11-32 to review.

March 23

When you see God's creation, what is God saying to you?

If feasible, go outside with your class for a few moments. Point out signs of new life. Remind your students that God speaks to us in his Creation. Provide some moments of silence to listen to what God says in the Creation all around you.

March 24

That scar reminds him that God is always at his side and wants him to always be careful.

Talk about something that reminds you of God's presence, his love for you or his desire for you to be careful and safe. Invite students to think about something in their own lives that can serve as similar reminders.

March 25

Mary is a model for us.

Look at the picture, and talk about what is happening. **Ask:** What do you

JESUS, FORGIVING
OTHERS CAN BE
HARD. HELP ME.

think the angel saying? Turn the page to read the answer.

THE ANNUNCIATION: MARY'S BIG YES

Invite students to look at the image of Mary and the angel. **Ask:** How do you think Mary feels? What is her answer to the angel? (The answer is in the activity.) Read the text aloud together and let students call out answers. Refer to Luke 1:26-31, 35-38 if needed.

March 26

When you fulfill a promise, it means you follow through with it.

Ask: Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How did it feel? What about times when someone kept a promise? How did you feel then? How does it help us to know that God always keeps his promises to us?

March 27

It is through our hearts that we "listen" to God's voice!

Ever wonder who writes the stories and reflections in Living Faith Kids? Share with your class that today's story was written by Gail Goleas, a grandmother who lives in the Chicago area. She says she gets many story ideas from her grandchildren. Invite students to pray for all the people who put together this publication: artists, writers, editors, theologians, printers, postal workers. Share that all of these people appreciate your prayers. (We really do—thank you!)

March 28

How can you give God your "all"?

Help students respond to the question by turning today's Gospel passage into a prayer, such as: Dear God, help us love you with all of our hearts, souls, minds and with all our strength.

March 29

Why not bring whatever it is you're thinking about to God?

Take a moment to pray silently together. Invite students to bring to God whatever is on their minds, no matter how small it seems.

March 30

As Jesus gives you a big hug, all you know is that Jesus loves you.

Invite students to wrap their arms around themselves and give

themselves a hug to help visualize the meditation.

March 31

Now, what will you do with this great gift?

Your class has read many Bible stories and learned about saints and other holy people in this issue. Invite students to go back and find a page or activity that stood out and place a bookmark or other marker there. Invite volunteers to share why it is special to them.

SEE YOUR SEEDS OF HOPE BLOOM!

It's healthy and affirming for kids to see positive results from the good things they do. Even if students did not witness results of personally, you can still talk about the good feelings these helpful deeds produced. Be sure to say the prayer together on page 109 too.

You've reached the end of this issue of Living Faith Kids. Don't miss the next issue for more ways to "Pause, pray and play with Scripture every day!"

And for helpful faith formation resources, visit BayardFaithResources.com

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