Blessed Margaret Pole

What the King Could Not Take

Ages about 7-11 | Video 7:03 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Margaret's care for Mary remains when Mary's royal status is taken away. Her refused offer to stay and her prayer from prison show love that matters even when it cannot fix the whole situation.

Learning goals Children will distinguish status from dignity, explain Margaret's offer to remain with Mary, and identify a loving action within their own reach.

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: Does losing a prize or a special job make someone less valuable? Watch what changes for Mary and what does not change in Margaret's love.

Watch and notice

Notice the patient lesson, the offer to stay without pay, the locked door, and the shared seat at the end. Each reveals something more lasting than rank.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What helps Mary with her difficult lesson?
Margaret's patient presence and encouragement. A grand title or fine clothes cannot do that work for her.

2. Why offer to stay at her own expense?
She values Mary herself, not only the honor or reward of serving a princess. Mary's changed status does not erase their relationship.

3. Does the refusal mean her love has failed?
No. She cannot force permission, but she can continue to care and pray. A good action is not worthless because it cannot fix everything.

4. What can the child at the lunch table change?
She can offer company to someone excluded. She may not change everyone's mind, but she can make this meal less lonely.

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 Children contrast the difficult lesson with the modern shared seat. Both pictures show being present to a person rather than valuing a title.

Read & Write Children sort what can change from what remains precious, explain the refused offer, and plan a practical act of companionship.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use the lesson and lunch-table scenes. Repeat that every person matters, with or without a prize or title.

Ages 9-11: discuss conscience as something we form through truth, prayer, and wise guidance, not simply doing whatever we feel.

What changes? What remains? | Optional 4 minutes

Name a title, a reward, another person's approval, and a person's dignity. Children identify what can be lost and what remains. Then offer a scenario about exclusion and choose one thing they can actually do, with adult support when needed.

Look for understanding Look for dignity that does not depend on wealth, popularity, or success. A loving response may be small and still matter.

Closing prayer God, help us see each person as precious to you. Give us patience, a well-formed conscience, and courage to offer company. Blessed Margaret Pole, pray for us. Amen.

At home Choose someone to encourage without expecting a reward. With an adult, name a situation you cannot fix and pray for those involved.

Handout answer notes Mary's dignity and relationship with Margaret remain despite lost status. Margaret can pray and continue to value her. Accept companionship, a kind invitation, or appropriate adult help.

Teach with care

Introduce Margaret as Mary's caregiver and godmother. Explain that the film includes unjust imprisonment and death. Keep attention on patient care, dignity, and faithfulness. Dialogue and private prayer are dramatized. Explain royal and religious conflict briefly, without blaming present-day groups. Children are not responsible for repairing adult family conflict. Seeking safety and trusted help is consistent with faithfulness.

Words to explain Governess: a person responsible for a child's care and education in a household. Dignity: the worth every human person has as God's creation. Conscience: our judgment about the goodness or wrongness of an action.

Sources for the leader

Life and care for Mary: Catholic Encyclopedia: Blessed Margaret Pole

Love beyond separation: Romans 8:35-39