Saint Andrew Dung-Lac

And Companions: A Brave and Gentle Heart

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:55 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Andrew first received kindness and teaching, then shared them as a catechist and priest. The companions remind us that the Church's witness includes many people serving faithfully together.

Learning goals Children will trace Andrew's journey from receiving help to serving, explain why the hidden Mass mattered, and identify different ways a community can support faith.

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: Who helps us learn and grow? Watch how kindness offered to a hungry boy becomes part of a much larger story of service.

Watch and notice

Follow three places: the welcoming doorway, the road between villages, and the room where Mass is celebrated. What does Andrew receive or share in each?

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What first helped Andrew encounter the Christian community?
A catechist noticed his need and welcomed him. Food, kindness, and teaching helped him begin to know Jesus.

2. How did he later offer what he had received?
He taught as a catechist and then served as a priest, bringing prayer and the sacraments to others.

3. Why did the hidden Mass matter without a choir or large church?
Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist. The gathering's importance did not depend on size, music, or public recognition.

4. Why does the title include companions?
Many witnesses shared this faith, including laypeople and clergy. Andrew's story belongs to a Church made of people with different responsibilities.

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 Andrew Dung-Lac

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 draw the doorway of welcome, Andrew teaching, and a community praying. Three pictures show care received becoming care shared.

Read & Write Children order Andrew's journey, explain the hidden Mass, and name a small contribution to the faith and care of their own community.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use the sequence welcomed, taught, served. Keep the ending simple: Andrew remained faithful and was killed.

Ages 9-11: discuss the difference between courage and seeking danger. Notice how families, catechists, and priests contribute differently.

A circle of companions | Optional 4 minutes

Name different helpers in a parish or family: someone teaches, welcomes, prays, brings food, or celebrates the sacraments. Children add one safe contribution they could make. Notice how no single person does every job.

Look for understanding Look for the link between receiving and sharing care, the Eucharist's importance, and appreciation for a community of witnesses.

Closing prayer Jesus, thank you for those who help us know you. Give us brave and gentle hearts, and help us care for one another. Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, pray for us. Amen.

At home Thank a person who teaches or supports your faith. Ask an adult to help you offer one useful act of service.

Handout answer notes Sequence: 3, 1, 2. Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist; Mass nourished their faith. Accept prayer, welcome, learning, or a safe act of service.

Teach with care

Locate Vietnam on a map if available. Explain that persecution was the action of particular rulers and officials, not the character of a whole people. The film dramatizes scenes and dialogue. The 117 canonized martyrs lived and died across different years; they were not all killed together. Do not reenact arrests or demands to step on a cross. Children may seek safety and trusted help; suffering is not a goal.

Words to explain Catechist: a person who helps others learn the faith. Companion: someone who shares a journey or mission. Martyr: a person killed for faithfulness to Christ.

Sources for the leader

Andrew and the martyrs: Vatican News: Andrew Dung-Lac and companions

Many members, one body: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27