Saint André Bessette

The Little Brother at the Door

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:50 | Group lesson about 25-30 minutes

Central truth Brother André served God by welcoming people, listening, and praying. God is the source of healing; saints are our friends in heaven who pray for us.

Learning goals Children will recall how André served visitors, explain that asking a saint's intercession means asking for prayer, and practice one small act of attentive service.

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: Can a small act make someone's day easier? Introduce André as a religious brother whose work included answering a school door. Invite children to notice what he gives visitors besides directions.

Watch and notice

Watch the whole story. If helpful, pause after the visitors begin asking André for prayer: What can he offer even when he cannot solve someone's problem? Then watch how he responds to praise.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What was André's work, and how did he make it an act of love?
He answered the school door and did everyday tasks. He welcomed people, listened to their concerns, and prayed with them.

2. Did André claim that he could heal people by his own power?
No. He directed people toward God and asked Saint Joseph's intercession. God's gifts were not a reason to boast.

3. What does it mean to ask Saint Joseph to pray for us?
We ask a saint, alive with God, to join in prayer for us. We worship God; asking a saint's prayers does not make that saint God.

4. What can you offer someone when you cannot fix their problem?
Listen, speak kindly, pray, offer appropriate help, or ask a trusted adult to help. We do not need to promise a cure.

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 André Bessette

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 10-15 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Read the prompts aloud. Children draw one way André helped a visitor and one small act they can offer. Invite them to tell you about each picture. An adult can write down their words if desired.

Read & Write Children connect an everyday task with charity, explain intercession in their own words, and name a specific act of service. Accept dictated answers; spelling is not the lesson's focus.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: model intercession as asking someone to pray for another person. Invite one concrete example of André's care.

Ages 9-11: discuss why small acts still matter when a problem continues. Ask how humility differs from pretending we have no gifts.

Practice listening with care | Optional 4 minutes

In pairs, one child talks for half a minute about a favorite activity while the other listens without interrupting. The listener recalls one detail and asks a kind question. Switch roles. Ask how careful attention can be a gift to another person.

Look for understanding Ask: Who is the source of healing? What can saints do for us? Listen for God and prayer. Then ask children to show or describe an act of service they can do without needing money or special talents.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us welcome people with kindness and listen with care. Teach us to offer small acts of love and to trust you with what we cannot fix. Saint Joseph and Saint André, pray for us. Amen.

At home Offer one small act of service with an adult's guidance: help set the table, listen to someone, or make a kind card. Pray for that person. Ask: How did this action help me love God and my neighbor?

Handout answer notes Welcoming, listening, or praying; intercession means asking for prayer; a specific act of service.

Teach with care

The story mentions the deaths of André's parents and people who are ill. Allow children to pass on personal questions. Have a pencil or crayons and one chosen handout ready for each child. André was a Holy Cross religious brother, not a priest. His original name was Alfred. The video is a simplified biography with reflective storytelling. Prayer is not a guarantee of physical recovery; illness is not evidence of weak faith. The oil mentioned in the story is a devotional practice, not medicine or magic. Do not reproduce a healing ritual as a classroom activity.

Words to explain Hospitality: helping someone feel welcome and cared for. Intercession: praying for someone else. Humility: recognizing our gifts as God's gifts and using them to serve.

Sources for the leader

Life and ministry: Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Saint Brother André

The saints pray for us: Catechism of the Catholic Church 956

Compassion for the sick: Saint Joseph's Oratory, Companion of the Sick