Saint Blaise

The Gentle Bishop

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:26 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Blaise is remembered for caring tenderly and remaining faithful to Jesus. We ask God for help and offer practical care to people who are suffering.

Learning goals Children will recall two acts of care, explain who answers prayer, and describe a response that is both gentle and brave.

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 someone be gentle and brave at the same time? Invite children to look for Blaise caring for others, and for someone caring for him.

Watch and notice

Watch the story. Pause, if helpful, when the woman brings food and candles. Recall how Blaise helped her earlier. Notice how care moves in both directions.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Blaise respond to people who were hurting?
He cared for sick people and prayed for them. The story also remembers his gentleness toward animals.

2. Why did the woman bring food and candles?
She remembered the help she had received and cared for Blaise in prison. A person who gives help can need help too.

3. When Blaise prayed for the boy, where did healing come from?
From God. Blaise asked God for help; neither Blaise nor the candles had magic powers.

4. What made Blaise brave as well as gentle?
He stayed faithful to Jesus when threatened. Courage need not be harsh. Children can tell the truth and seek a trusted adult's help.

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 Blaise

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 Use three small story panels: Blaise cares, the woman brings help, and the Church prays. Children draw or tell one detail for each; captions are optional.

Read & Write Children trace who helped whom, explain prayer, and choose a gentle, courageous response to an unkind comment. Accept brief or dictated answers.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: name the helpers together before drawing. Use the phrase 'We ask God to help.'

Ages 9-11: discuss why asking for help can be courageous. Distinguish a saint's intercession from God's power to heal.

Gentle and brave words | Optional 4 minutes

Read: someone laughs at a classmate who has a sore voice. Children suggest a kind reply and a way to find adult help. Try calm words without acting out choking, threats, or punishment.

Look for understanding Listen for care given and received, God as the source of healing, and a response that protects someone without returning cruelty.

Closing prayer Loving God, care for all who are ill. Give us gentle hearts and courage to do what is right. Saint Blaise, pray for us. Amen.

At home Pray for someone who is ill and ask an adult about a welcome kindness. Ask your parish about the February 3 blessing of throats.

Handout answer notes In the tradition, the woman's pig was returned; she later brought food and candles. Healing comes from God. Accept calm support, refusing to join mockery, and seeking adult help.

Teach with care

Introduce this as a story drawing on traditions about Blaise. Explain simply that some rulers punished Christians for their faith. Details about the animals, woman, and fishbone come from later tradition; historical evidence is limited. A blessing is not a guarantee against illness or a substitute for care. Do not reenact choking or handle candles near anyone's neck; get adult help immediately in an emergency.

Words to explain Intercession: praying to God for someone. Bishop: a successor of the Apostles who shepherds a local Church. Martyr: someone killed for faithfulness to Christ.

Sources for the leader

Life and tradition: Vatican News: Saint Blaise (French)
Care and prayer: James 5:13-16