

Saints Francisco and Jacinta

Two Small Candles

Ages about 7-11 | Video 8:24 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth The film follows ordinary shepherd children whose hearts change through prayer. Francisco's quiet presence with Jesus and Jacinta's concern for others reveal distinct ways to respond to God's love.

Learning goals Children will compare the siblings' ways of praying, explain the candle image, and choose a small, healthy act of love appropriate to childhood.

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 two people love God deeply and show it differently? Watch for a quiet way Francisco prays and an outward-looking way Jacinta cares.

Watch and notice

Notice ordinary play at the beginning, Francisco by the tabernacle, and Jacinta praying for people in need. The great crowd is not the only sign of change: look at the children's choices.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Why did Francisco ask Lucia what Mary had said?

He could see Mary but did not hear her words. Lucia helped him understand; receiving help did not make his faith less important.

2. What did Francisco mean by the Hidden Jesus?

Jesus truly present in the Eucharist, reserved in the tabernacle. Francisco offered quiet, loving attention, not only spoken words.

3. How did Jacinta's love reach beyond herself?

She prayed for suffering people, people far from God, and the pope, and wanted to share with poor children.

4. Why are the children compared with small candles?

Their lives brought hope and love despite their small size and ordinary beginnings. The image points to their growing holiness, not a need to be famous.

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

Saints Francisco and Jacinta

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 Francisco praying quietly and Jacinta caring or interceding. Oral comparison helps them notice two expressions of the same love.

Read & Write Children compare the siblings, explain the candle image, and plan a small gift of attention, patience, or sharing.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: allow a few comfortable seconds of quiet and name one person to pray for. Drawing may replace all writing.

Ages 9-11: discuss how the same child can practice both quiet prayer and outward care. Holiness does not depend on receiving an apparition.

Two ways to give God today | Optional 4 minutes

On two paper candles, draw or name a quiet prayer and an act of care. Choose one to practice today: a brief prayer, sharing a turn, or helping willingly. Offer both to God without comparing whose act is hardest.

Look for understanding Look for Francisco's quiet attention, Jacinta's intercession, and a healthy, specific response. Love is the measure, not pain or the number of prayers completed.

Closing prayer Jesus, receive our quiet prayers and small acts of love. Help us care for those who suffer. Saints Francisco and Jacinta, pray for us. Amen.

At home With an adult, choose a brief moment of prayer and a kind action for someone else. Ask Mary to help your family follow Jesus.

Handout answer notes Francisco prayed quietly before the Blessed Sacrament; Jacinta interceded and shared. Candles suggest small lives bringing hope. Accept a healthy act of generosity or brief prayer.

Teach with care

Explain that the story includes childhood illness and death. Offer pauses and a response focused on the children's living acts of love. Use paper candles or drawings, not flames. Teach sacrifices as safe, ordinary generosity, never skipped meals, lost sleep, pain, or neglected care. Illness was not caused by their prayers. No child must keep a worrying secret from trusted adults. This simplified Fatima retelling is not a complete account of the apparitions.

Words to explain Intercession: prayer for another person. Tabernacle: the place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Sacrifice: freely giving something good out of love; it is not a way to make God love us.

Sources for the leader

The children and their prayer: [Shrine of Fatima: Three Shepherds](#)

Canonization and Christian hope: [Pope Francis, homily, 13 May 2017](#)