

Blessed Laura Vicuña

A Gift of Love

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:43 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Laura finds joy, learning, and protection with the Salesian Sisters. Her concern for her mother becomes prayer and trust, while the story repeatedly reminds us that a child cannot control another person's choices.

Learning goals Children will name the care Laura received, distinguish love from responsibility for adult choices, and practice prayer alongside asking a trusted adult for help.

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 Laura learn, play, pray, and stay safe? Watch for the care she receives as well as the care she offers.

Watch and notice

Pause after the sisters make it possible for Laura to stay at school. Before discussing her offering, affirm that life is God's gift and no child should seek harm or imitate an offering to die.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What makes school a place of joy for Laura?

Learning, play, friendship, prayer, and people who care for her. Her life includes ordinary childhood joys as well as serious concerns.

2. What do the sisters do when her school funding stops?

They arrange for her to remain as a student assistant. Adults act to support and protect her; she does not have to face the problem alone.

3. Can Laura make her mother choose differently?

No. She can love and pray, but her mother's choices belong to her mother. God cares for both of them.

4. How should we understand her extraordinary offering?

As entrusting her life to God in love, not causing illness or wanting death. Our response is healthy daily love, prayer, and receiving care.

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 Three panels show Laura receiving care, praying for her mother, and a child asking a trusted adult for help. Children may use invented examples and need not discuss their own families.

Read & Write Children identify Laura's helpers, separate prayer from control, and form a clear help-seeking sentence for a made-up worried child.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: focus on the sisters' care and a simple prayer for a loved one. Restate that adult problems are for adults to address.

Ages 9-11: explain that love can coexist with boundaries. Another person's change is not proof that a child prayed enough or suffered enough.

A caring next step | Optional 4 minutes

Use a fictional child worried about a family member. Practice: I care about them; I can pray; I need an adult's help with this worry. Name trusted helpers and a simple request. Do not invite private family disclosures in the group.

Look for understanding Look for care received, prayer without control, and confidence in seeking protection. Correct any suggestion that a child must suffer to save someone else.

Closing prayer Jesus, care for the people we love and for us too. Help us pray, receive help, and trust you with what we cannot control. Blessed Laura, pray for us. Amen.

At home With a safe caregiver, name trusted adults a child can approach with worries. Pray briefly for a loved one, then enjoy an ordinary family activity.

Handout answer notes The sisters arranged continued schooling and care. Laura could love and pray but not control her mother. Accept a clear help request and prayer that includes the child's own wellbeing.

Teach with care

Preview first: the film includes an unsafe adult, family difficulties, illness, and a child's death. Say clearly that children deserve safety and are not responsible for fixing adults. Permit a pause or alternative response. Do not judge children's family arrangements or ask them to assess a parent's spiritual state. Never prescribe secrecy, illness, pain, or self-denial of basic needs. Seeking safety, medical care, and adult support belongs with faith. Laura's extraordinary offering is not a classroom exercise.

Words to explain Salesian Sisters: religious sisters devoted especially to the education and care of young people. Conversion: turning toward God. Entrust: place someone or something in another's care.

Sources for the leader

Beatification and Christian love: [John Paul II, homily, 3 September 1988 \(Italian\)](#)

Bringing our cares to God: [1 Peter 5:7](#)

Loved, helped, and held in prayer

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Laura could love her mother and receive care herself.

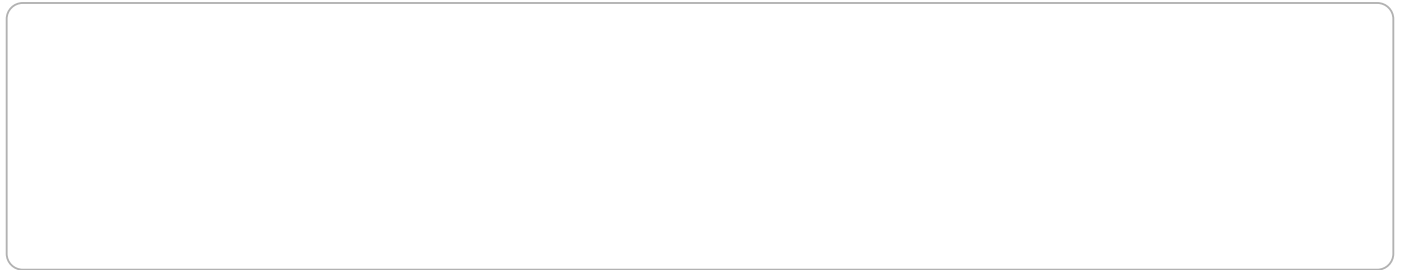
Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

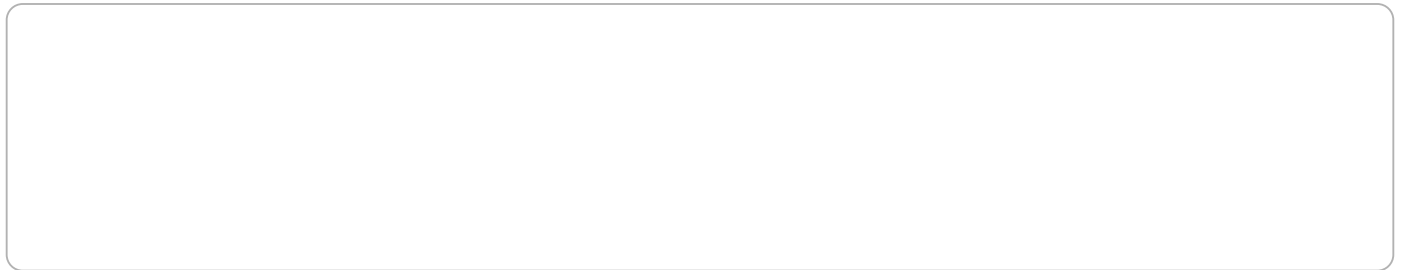
1 RECEIVE CARE: draw Laura with her helpers at school.



2 PRAY: draw Laura praying for her mother.



3 ASK FOR HELP: draw a child with a trusted adult.



Tell Who cared for Laura? Whom can a worried child ask for help?

Pray Jesus, care for those I love and help me receive care too. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

What love can do

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Use Laura's story or a made-up example. Private answers may stay private.

Name _____

1 Name the care received

Who helped Laura stay at school, and why did that matter?

The sisters ...

2 Love without control

Laura prayed for her mother. Could she control her mother's choices?

Laura could ...

3 Ask for support

Write what a worried child could say to a trusted adult. Add a short prayer.

I need help with ...

Pray Jesus, care for those I love and help me receive care too. Amen.

Go deeper Why is receiving care as important as offering care?