The Georgia Martyrs

The Promise They Kept

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:55 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth The story begins with a friar learning from a Guale child. Different gifts, a difficult correction, and a chief's offer of protection show that faithfulness includes listening, truth, and care across a community.

Learning goals Children will identify different forms of service, distinguish particular attackers from a whole people, and practice receiving a fair correction with humility.

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 teacher also need to learn? Watch what Miguel learns from a child and how Antonio helps both people understand each other.

Watch and notice

Notice learning the word, Pedro's difficult correction, the Christian chief's offer of help, and the closing invitation to accept correction ourselves.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Why begin with Miguel getting a word wrong?
He needs to listen and learn from his neighbors. The child and Antonio have knowledge that helps him serve respectfully.

2. How are the friars' gifts different?
Miguel sings and teaches; Antonio helps with language; Francisco is strong and gathers supplies. Pedro and Blas also serve through teaching, prayer, and care.

3. Does Juanillo's group represent all the Guale?
No. Many lived peacefully with the friars, and a Christian chief offered canoes, guides, and escape. The story explicitly distinguishes these choices.

4. What could Juanillo have done after correction?
He could have listened, admitted a wrong choice, and changed course. His violence was a choice, not an inevitable response to being corrected.

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 learning humbly, helping with different gifts, and accepting a fair correction. Use peaceful story moments rather than the attacks.

Read & Write Children explain mutual learning, use the chief's actions to challenge a generalization, and practice a truthful response to correction.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: focus on listening to the child and saying, I made a mistake; I can try again. Name the chief as a helper.

Ages 9-11: distinguish a fair correction from humiliation or an unsafe demand. A trusted adult can help judge an unclear situation.

Pause, listen, repair | Optional 4 minutes

Use an ordinary example: a child promised to put shared supplies away and forgot. Practice listening without an excuse, acknowledging the mistake, and making a repair. Then explain how the friars' first language lesson also models humility.

Look for understanding Look for respectful mutual learning, individual rather than group blame, and a concrete repair. Good promises concern what is right and safe; harmful secrets must not be kept.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us listen humbly, speak truth with love, and keep good promises. When we are wrong, give us grace to admit it and begin again. Amen.

At home Choose one small, realistic family responsibility. If it is forgotten, practice an honest apology and repair with adult help.

Handout answer notes Miguel must listen and learn from neighbors. The chief tries to protect the friars with practical escape help. Accept acknowledgment, apology, and a safe repair of the forgotten task.

Teach with care

Introduce Pedro, Blas, Miguel, Antonio, and Francisco. The film includes non-graphic martyrdom. Explain that the Guale have their own language, customs, families, and individual choices. Dialogue and small details are dramatized. Do not portray all Guale people as attackers or ask children to reenact violence. Adults' decision to remain is not a rule against escape. As checked on 22 September 2026, beatification is scheduled for 31 October 2026; consult the cause's site for later status.

Words to explain Franciscan: a member of a religious family following Saint Francis of Assisi. Guale: the Indigenous people among whom these friars lived. Faithfulness: living out a good commitment with love.

Sources for the leader

Official cause and current beatification details: Georgia Martyrs: Beatification FAQ

Listening and speaking: James 1:19-22