Saint Margaret of Castello

The Girl Who Made Room

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:59 | Group lesson about 25-30 minutes

Central truth Margaret was precious to God before she helped anyone. With God's help, we can recognize that same dignity in every person and make room for others.

Learning goals Children will recall one way Margaret received or offered welcome, explain that a person's worth does not depend on abilities, and choose one specific way to include someone.

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: What helps someone feel welcome? Explain that Margaret lived in Italy, was blind, and had difficulty walking. Invite children to notice who makes room for her and whom she later welcomes.

Watch and notice

Watch the whole story. If attention needs a reset, pause after the family welcomes Margaret at the table and ask: What changed for her? Resume without turning every scene into a question.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Who made room for Margaret?
Townspeople shared food and shelter; a family welcomed her into their home. Ask for one detail the child remembers.

2. How did Margaret make room for others?
She helped children pray, cared for sick or lonely people, and visited prisoners. She offered time and attention, even when she could not fix everything.

3. Did Margaret have to help people before she was worth loving?
No. She was precious to God all along. Being strong, talented, healthy, or helpful never determines a person's dignity.

4. A child wants to join your game but needs the rules explained. What could you do?
Invite the child, explain the rules patiently, and ask what would help. Adapt the game together when needed; welcome should respect the child's choices.

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 Margaret of Castello

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 each prompt aloud. The child draws one way Margaret was welcomed and one way to include another child. Invite an explanation; the adult may write the child's words. Drawing skill is not assessed.

Read & Write Children use a story detail to explain welcome, reject the idea that dignity must be earned, and plan a concrete action. Beginning writers may dictate or use the sentence starters.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: ask for one welcoming action. Offer the words invite, listen, share, and help; accept an oral answer or one sentence.

Ages 9-11: ask why needing help never reduces a person's dignity. Discuss how to offer help respectfully without taking over.

Practice making room | Optional 4 minutes

Describe a pretend child who is new to the group. Pairs practice an invitation and a helpful question, such as asking which game the child enjoys. Switch roles. Discuss how listening lets the new child help shape the activity. Do not assign anyone the role of being rejected.

Look for understanding Listen for two ideas: Margaret mattered before she did good works, and welcome involves a concrete action. If a child says she earned God's love, return to the story's final scene.

Closing prayer Jesus, thank you for loving each of us. Help us notice people who feel left out and welcome them with patience and respect. Saint Margaret of Castello, pray for us. Amen.

At home Choose one shared activity this week and help make it welcoming. Ask first, listen, and make space for someone else's ideas. At bedtime, thank God for each person's dignity.

Handout answer notes An accurate welcoming action; Margaret was always precious to God; a specific, respectful plan for inclusion.

Teach with care

Preview the scenes about rejection and abandonment. Say plainly that the adults' choices were wrong; Margaret's disabilities were not. Let children discuss the story without sharing private family experiences. Margaret was a lay Dominican, not a cloistered nun. The video is a historical retelling with brief dramatized dialogue; imagined conversations are not recorded quotations. Forgiveness does not make abandonment right or require remaining in an unsafe situation. Avoid disability simulations; invite respectful listening instead.

Words to explain Dignity: the worth every person has because each is made in God's image. Charity: loving God and our neighbor with God's help.

Sources for the leader

Human dignity: Catechism of the Catholic Church 1701-1703

Historical identity: Vatican News, canonization decree, 24 April 2021

Biographical context: Master of the Dominican Order, letter of 24 April 2021