Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

A Wonderful Gift

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:06 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Every person is a gift from God. Gianna grew in holiness through prayer and the everyday love she offered as a doctor, wife, and mother.

Learning goals Recall two ways Gianna cared for people, connect ordinary service with loving Jesus, and choose one safe, specific act of care this week.

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 could help a child who feels nervous at the doctor's office? Introduce Gianna as a doctor in Italy who loved her family, prayer, and outdoor adventures.

Watch and notice

Notice how Gianna cares for the frightened boy, her patients, and her family. Also notice what she enjoys. Watch the whole story, allowing a quiet moment afterward.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did Gianna notice about the boy before listening to his heart?
He was afraid. In this dramatized opening, she helped him feel less frightened by showing him the stethoscope.

2. How did Gianna serve God when she could not go to Brazil?
She cared for people near her home. A changed plan did not take away her opportunity to love and serve.

3. What shows that holiness was part of her ordinary life?
Studying, caring for patients, praying, and tending her children were ways to love. She also enjoyed skiing, mountains, and music.

4. Who near you might need patience or a helping hand?
Invite a specific, safe action: listen, include someone, help with a task, or ask a trusted adult to assist. Personal stories are optional.

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 Gianna Beretta Molla

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 Read the prompts aloud. Invite drawings, pointing, or spoken answers about Gianna's care and one kind action the child can offer.

Read & Write Invite a story detail, an explanation of service close to home, and a practical plan. Dictation is welcome; spelling is not assessed.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: offer words such as listen, welcome, help, and pray. Accept a picture or spoken answer.

Ages 9-11: ask how a changed plan can still leave room to serve. Request a story detail to support the answer.

Notice, ask, help | Optional 4 minutes

Offer a pretend situation: a classmate is left out or someone drops their pencils. In pairs, name what you notice, a kind question to ask, and a safe way to help. Never act out medical treatment or emergency choices.

Look for understanding Listen for one accurate story example and one achievable action. Ask: Can ordinary work become an act of love? How?

Closing prayer Jesus, thank you for the gift of every person. Help us notice those who need kindness and care. Comfort families who are sad. Saint Gianna, pray for us. Amen.

At home With an adult, choose one small act of care. Do it, pray for that person, and share how paying attention helped you choose what to do.

Handout answer notes Accept calming the boy or caring for patients; service in Mesero despite a changed plan; a concrete, safe act of care.

Teach with care

Preview the illness, childbirth, death, and grief scenes. Let children pass on discussion; do not ask them to imagine choosing who should live. Gianna wanted to live, and doctors tried to save mother and baby. Do not imply mothers must refuse care or that illness reflects weak faith. Grief is compatible with faith. The office and family scenes are gently dramatized, not records of exact events.

Words to explain Vocation: God's call to love and serve. Holiness: growing close to God and living in his love. Compassion: noticing suffering and responding with care.

Sources for the leader

Life and family: Vatican biography of Gianna Beretta Molla

Gospel connection: Matthew 25:35-40: caring for Christ in others