Saint Albert the Great

Faith, Science, and Wonder

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:30 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Albert studies creation with curiosity and gratitude. His encouragement of Thomas and his work for peace show that learning reaches its purpose when it serves truth and people.

Learning goals Children will distinguish an observation from a question, recall how Albert encouraged a quiet student, and connect learning with service.

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

Show the object and ask children for one thing they notice and one thing they wonder. Watch how Albert uses both careful attention and questions.

Watch and notice

Notice three uses of Albert's gifts: studying nature, encouraging Thomas Aquinas, and helping people make peace. Learning is not only collecting impressive facts.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Albert learn about nature besides reading books?
He looked closely, described, and compared things. He wanted to check what he could rather than only repeat an account.

2. What did Albert notice about Thomas?
The quiet student's thoughtfulness and gifts. He encouraged Thomas instead of assuming that speaking less meant understanding less.

3. How did being a bishop stretch Albert's service?
He listened to disagreements, helped restore peace, and cared for communities. People needed wise action as well as lessons.

4. How did Albert join study with faith?
He understood creation as God's work and studied it with gratitude. Honest investigation and prayer could both belong to his search for truth.

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 Albert the Great

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 make an observation sketch of a safe object, then draw themselves using something learned to help another person. Labels are optional.

Read & Write Children record observations separately from questions, choose a fair way to investigate, and connect Albert's treatment of Thomas with good learning habits.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: offer shape, color, and texture as observation prompts. An adult can record a spoken question.

Ages 9-11: separate a directly observed fact from a guess. Ask what further evidence could help answer their question.

An Albert field note | Optional 4 minutes

Study the chosen object for one quiet minute. Share two observations and one question. Decide whether the next step is another observation, a comparison, a book, or help from a knowledgeable adult. End with thanks for creation.

Look for understanding Look for observations grounded in the object, honest uncertainty, and respect for another learner's gifts. A good question is a successful response even without an answer yet.

Closing prayer God our Creator, thank you for the world and for minds that can wonder. Help us seek truth humbly and use what we learn to serve. Saint Albert, pray for us. Amen.

At home Ask one question about nature on a family walk or from a window. Choose a sensible way to learn more together.

Handout answer notes Accept two real observations, an answerable question with a sensible next step, and patient encouragement that makes room for a quieter learner.

Teach with care

Choose a safe leaf, stone, or familiar object for observation. A picture works too. Do not collect unknown plants or disturb living creatures. Albert worked with medieval knowledge and methods; admiration does not make every old scientific claim correct. In his title, Doctor means teacher of the Church, not medical doctor. The story's book of creation is a comparison, not a literal book in the forest.

Words to explain Observation: something noticed carefully through the senses or a tool. Dominican: a member of the Order of Preachers. Doctor of the Church: a saint recognized for outstanding teaching of the faith.

Sources for the leader

Study, teaching, and service: Benedict XVI, audience, 24 March 2010

Creation and its Creator: Wisdom 13:1-5