Saints Simon and Jude

The Quiet Apostles

Ages about 7-11 | Video 7:34 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Jesus knew and called Simon and Jude even though Scripture records fewer details about them. Their story connects strong conviction with charity and honest questions with growing faith.

Learning goals Children will distinguish these apostles from similarly named people, explain Jude's question, and practice caring deeply without becoming harsh.

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: Does someone need many stories written about them to matter? Watch for the ways Jesus knows, teaches, and sends these less familiar apostles.

Watch and notice

Notice Simon learning to join zeal with love and Jude asking Jesus a question. Follow their journey through the Resurrection and Pentecost to being sent.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Why do these two apostles matter when we hear less about them?
Jesus chose and knew them. A person's faithfulness and worth do not depend on public attention or the number of stories recorded.

2. What did Jude want to understand?
How Jesus would reveal himself to his followers rather than to the whole world. Jesus answered by speaking of love, keeping his word, and God's presence.

3. How can zeal become loving instead of harsh?
We can care strongly about what is right while listening, being patient, and treating people with dignity. Winning an argument is not the whole purpose.

4. Does asking Saint Jude's prayers guarantee the result we want?
No. The saints pray with and for us; they do not control God. We can bring hard situations to Jesus and also seek appropriate help.

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

Saints Simon and Jude

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 picture Simon's strong care becoming a loving action and Jude asking a sincere question. Help them connect each picture with the film.

Read & Write Children explain why quiet faithfulness matters, turn a harsh response into a charitable one, and compose an honest question about following Jesus.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: repeat the two names and their remembering words: Simon, loving zeal; Jude, honest questions.

Ages 9-11: distinguish what Scripture records from later tradition or a storyteller's possibilities. Discuss strength that remains peaceful.

Keep the care; change the words | Optional 4 minutes

Offer 'You never play fairly!' as a pretend complaint. Children keep the concern for fairness but choose clearer, kinder words: name the rule, ask a question, or invite help. Strong concern does not require a hurtful voice.

Look for understanding Look for charity alongside conviction, openness in questions, and respect for people who serve without much recognition.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us love what is true and speak with charity. Welcome our questions and guide our quiet service. Saints Simon and Jude, pray for us. Amen.

At home Notice an often-unnoticed helper. Thank that person for one specific act, and pray for someone facing a difficult situation.

Handout answer notes Jesus called and sent both apostles. Accept a specific, calm request about fairness and a sincere question. Questions do not need immediate or simple answers.

Teach with care

Clarify that Simon is not Simon Peter and Jude is not Judas Iscariot. Avoid treating the film's imagined inner thoughts as facts recorded in Scripture. Simon's title does not establish every detail of his earlier politics. Later mission and martyrdom accounts vary. Jude is remembered as a patron in desperate situations; prayer is trust in God, not a formula that forces an outcome.

Words to explain Apostle: someone sent by Jesus to proclaim the Gospel. Zeal: strong enthusiasm or devotion. Intercession: asking God to help another person.

Sources for the leader

The two apostles: Benedict XVI, audience, 11 October 2006
Jude's question: John 14:22-24