St. John Baptist de La Salle

One Step at a Time

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:53 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth God can lead us through small acts of love. Every child deserves patient care, and we can both give and receive help.

Learning goals Recall how John helped teachers and children; describe patient encouragement; choose one practical act of kindness.

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: Who has helped you learn something difficult? Explain that John was a priest in France who helped teachers offer free schools for children.

Watch and notice

Notice the welcome at John's table, the teacher helping a boy read, and the letter that calls John back to the Brothers.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did John's first small favor grow?
He helped start schools, welcomed teachers, and then shared their life and work.

2. What did John himself need to learn?
He needed patience and humility. He learned to listen to the teachers instead of looking down on them.

3. How does the teacher help the boy who struggles to read?
He waits and offers a small next step. Patient encouragement helps the boy try again.

4. Why is the Brothers' letter important?
They ask John to return. The community supports him too; no one has to carry the whole work alone.

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 Draw the patient teacher and one way to help someone today. Children may point or explain aloud; an adult can record their words.

Read & Write Recall John's work, explain the teacher's patience, and plan one small act of kindness with a clear first step.

Adapt by readiness

Emerging readers: read each prompt aloud and welcome drawing, pointing, or spoken answers.

Confident readers: explain how accepting help can show humility, then add that idea to a written response.

Practice patient encouragement | Optional 4 minutes

In pairs, teach a simple shape drawing. The helper gives one instruction, waits, and says, 'Let's try the next part together.' Switch roles. Ask which words made learning easier.

Look for understanding Each child recalls one way John served others and names a kind next step they can take.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us notice who needs care. Give us patience to teach, humility to learn, and courage to accept help. Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us. Amen.

At home Thank someone who teaches you. Ask a trusted adult to help you carry out your one small act of kindness this week.

Handout answer notes John helped teachers and free schools. The teacher waited and encouraged another try. Accept specific, realistic kindness plans and accurate story examples.

Teach with care

No child should be embarrassed about reading or family income. Offer response choices without ranking children. John was a priest; the Brothers were religious teachers, not priests. The doorway and reading dialogue are dramatized, not recorded quotations. Giving generously does not mean children must give away necessities.

Words to explain Humility: being ready to learn and receive help. Brother: a man who gives his life to God in a religious community. Patron saint: a saint whose prayers we especially ask for a group or need.

Sources for the leader

History: La Salle Worldwide: Founder biography
Story: Servus Dei: One Step at a Time