

Journey of Faith



Caring for All God's Creatures

"What's wrong?" Tomás was worried about Lisa. She'd been really quiet all class and she seemed upset.

"We had new neighbors move in. They're really nice, but they don't speak English very well because they came here from another country. This morning someone put a sign on their lawn that said, 'Go home.' It's not fair! I want to help them but I don't know how. What should I do?"





What do you think Lisa should do?

What do you think Jesus might tell Lisa to do?

Looking at God's Children

Look around the room right now. Does everyone you see look like you? Do you all like the same things? Eat the same food? Come from the same family?

But you're not totally different either. You all have friends. You all have families. You all need food and shelter to survive. You were all created by God.

We all have things that make us the same and things that make us different. We are all "very good" (Genesis 1:31) the way God sees us. God created us to be part of a community and completely ourselves.



Talk to the person next to you. What do you have in common? What makes you different? List a few of those things here.

Prejudice

God made each of us special. We all have things that make us different. But some people think some things make certain people better than others. They only like people who have the same skin color, speak the same language, or like the same things as they do. When people think this way, we say their thoughts are **prejudiced**.

Prejudice causes a lot of suffering and unhappiness. Imagine you went to school and sat down with your best friends. But then someone came by and said you weren't allowed to play with your friends any more because you had blue eyes and they had brown eyes. Then you find out people with blue eyes aren't allowed to eat lunch until everyone with brown eyes eats. And you have to play on an old playground because the new one is only for brown-eyed people.

If that happened you'd probably feel hurt. You'd probably be angry, too.



What are some things you can do to make everyone feel included at school? In your neighborhood?



Sharing What We Have

One way we're different from other people are the things we have. We might have one friend who has the newest clothes and toys. Another friend always gets to go on vacation. A third friend always wears hand-me-downs.

Sometimes we might feel like having things or enough money to get more things are the most important parts of life. Having what we need is important. We all need clothes. We all need food and shelter. It's even OK to like some of the special things we have. But when we care more about our stuff than God and other people, we aren't living like Jesus.

Loving things more than people hurts God and others. God asks us to take care of the poor. We should share what we have, give away toys and clothing we've outgrown, and put people before stuff at all times. God doesn't care if our electronics are outdated or our shoes aren't brand-new. God loves us for us. So we also should love other people for who they are, not what they have.



What are some ways you can share what you have with others?

God's World Is in Our Hands

People are the most important part of God's creation, but we have to take care of the rest of God's world, too! God made the world especially for us. That means it's our responsibility to take care of it.

Right after creating the world, God gave Adam the job of naming the animals and caring for the Garden of Eden. Every seed we plant, every tree we water is a gift we give back to God. Every bird we feed, every pet we care for, every animal we protect is both God's gift to us and a living sign of our love and faithfulness toward God.

List three gifts of God's creation that make your life better.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three things you can do to care for God's creatures and the environment.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____





LOVING GOD'S CREATION

In the first column, list three ways people hurt others or God's creation. In the second column, list one way we can respond to that hurt. The first one is done for you.

Sin / Hurt	Response
Not letting someone be on your team because he doesn't have the right equipment.	Instead of leaving him out, others on the team could take turns sharing their equipment so everyone can play.
1.	
2.	
3.	

In Short



- The dignity of human life is universal.
- Christians are called to protect human life and respect God's creation.
- Christians are called to support dignity, justice, and the rights for all people.

Journey of Faith for Children, Catechumenate, C14 (826344)

Imprimi Potest: Stephen T. Rehauer, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists.

Imprimatur: "In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish has been granted on May 3, 2017, by Bishop Mark S. Rivotuso, Vicar General, Archdiocese of St. Louis.

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