

# Journey of Faith

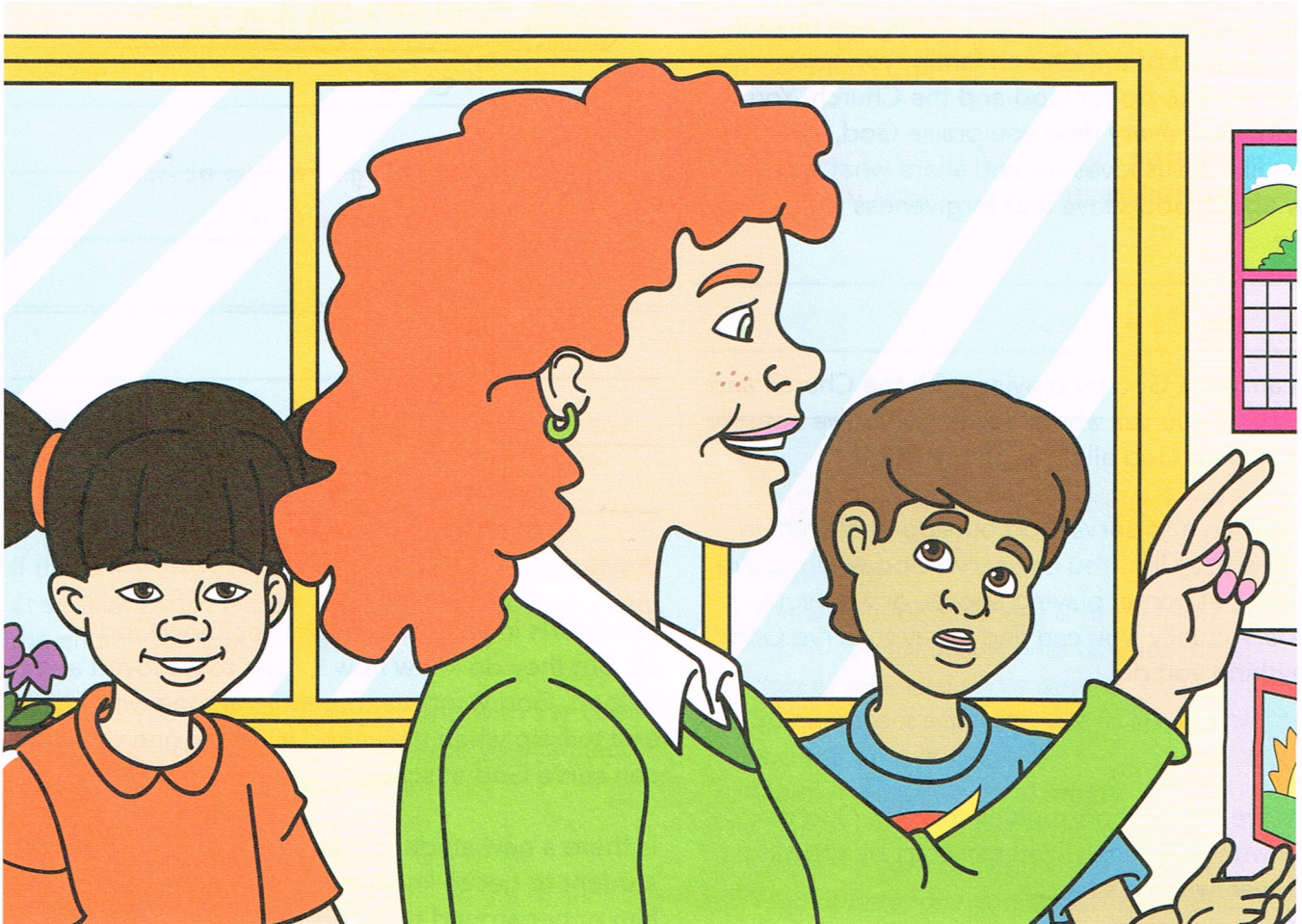


## The Role of the Laity

"When I grow up, I want to be like the disciples and go to new places telling people about Jesus," Lisa proclaimed.

"That's called being a **missionary**," Mrs. Evans said. "But you don't have to wait until you're grown up to serve God. You can start right now."

"Really?" Tomás wasn't so sure. "We're just kids. What can we do for the Church?"





**List at least two things you can do to help the Church right now.**

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## God Is Calling You

You don't have to wait until you're grown up to start working for God. Everyone in the Church has something to offer. No matter how old he or she is!

Some people, like priests and deacons, give their lives to God in a special way. But you don't have to be ordained to work for God. People who are not ordained are called **lay**. Right now, you're a layperson—and you're called to work for God.

At home, there are things you do to help your parents and siblings. Being part of a family means loving, helping, and working with the rest of your family. As part of the Church family, you have special work to do for God and the Church. You work for God every time you praise God, love others like Jesus loves us, and share what you know about God's love and forgiveness with others.

## How You Can Serve

You can serve God by praying with the Church and learning all you can about Jesus. So you've actually been serving God all through the RCIA!

But you can also serve God outside of church, in your everyday life. You can serve God when you're at school, at home, playing sports, or with your friends. Actually, you can find a way to serve God in anything you do!

### At Home

There are many opportunities to serve God at home with your family. You can start by showing love, even when it's hard.

Do you have a younger brother or sister who needs someone to play with? Think of a fun game you can play to make your younger sister or brother smile.

How does your room look? Is it a mess? Does your mom remind you all the time to clean it up? Clean it without being asked!

Who's doing the dishes tonight? After dinner, volunteer to help clean up without being asked (even if it's someone else's turn to do the dishes).



**List three things you do at home to serve God.**

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### At School

Some kids in your class might not know God at all. But they do know how it feels to be loved and helped. God wants us to treat everyone with love and to help when they need it. That's one way we can serve God at school.

Is there a new student in class? You can help that student to get to know everyone. You can show him or her around the school. You can be a friend on the playground.



**List two ways you can serve God at church.**

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**In Your Neighborhood**

You can also serve God by helping around your neighborhood. You might think you can't do big things, but sometimes the little things you can do have a big impact.

Is there a food pantry in your neighborhood? Food pantries need people to help collect food. See if there's a collection that you and your family can help with.



Does someone's yard need raking? Does someone's driveway need shoveling? Does someone need help taking out the trash? Ask if you can help.

**List one or two ways you can serve God in your neighborhood.**

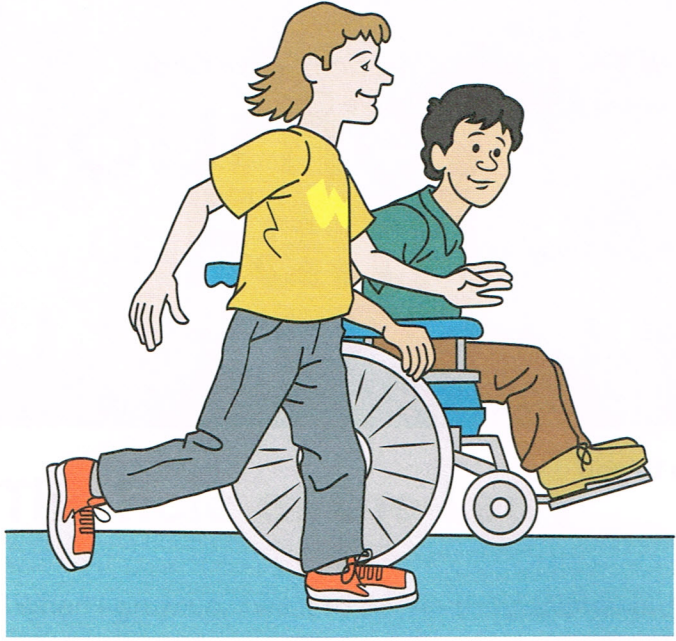
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Does someone need help understanding what the teacher is saying? Maybe you can help that person by working together on a subject he or she doesn't understand well.

**List two things you can do at school to serve God.**

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**At Church**

There are a lot of things you can do at church to help out. You can do a lot more than just go to Mass once a week.

If there is a children's group, you can join to work at special parish events or help decorate and clean the church for special Masses.

What are your talents? Can you sing with the choir or play a musical instrument? Maybe you can lead the readings or be an altar server.

**LORD, MAY I SERVE YOU?**

*Dear God,  
 Thank you for making me your child.  
 Thank you for Jesus, who teaches me how to love and serve others.  
 Sometimes it's hard for me to know what you want me to do.  
 Open my heart to love others.  
 Open my eyes to see other people's needs.  
 Open my ears to hear others clearly.  
 Teach me to love you by loving others.  
 Amen.*





# SERVING GOD

Put a ✓ next to actions that serve God. Put an ✗ next to actions that don't serve God. Then rewrite the phrases with an ✗ to make them actions that do serve God.

\_\_\_\_\_ Picking up trash on the sidewalk and throwing it away

\_\_\_\_\_ Ignoring your mom when she asks you to do your chores

\_\_\_\_\_ Saying a prayer for someone who isn't nice to you

\_\_\_\_\_ Complaining about your teacher

\_\_\_\_\_ Agreeing to be an altar server

\_\_\_\_\_ Lying about not doing your homework

\_\_\_\_\_ Donating part of your allowance to church or to a charity

\_\_\_\_\_ Spreading rumors about someone in class you don't like

## In Short



- The lay faithful are very important to the life of the Church.
- The laity serve God with the ordained priesthood and consecrated religious.
- The laity live their call to holiness in the world of family, work, and community.

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