

Journey of Faith



Our Call to Holiness

Tomás and his friends were going to play soccer after school. It was time to pick teams. Tomás was picked right away. Terrence was picked last. It seemed like Terrence was always picked last.

"I don't think I'm going to play today," Terrence told Tomás the next day at school.

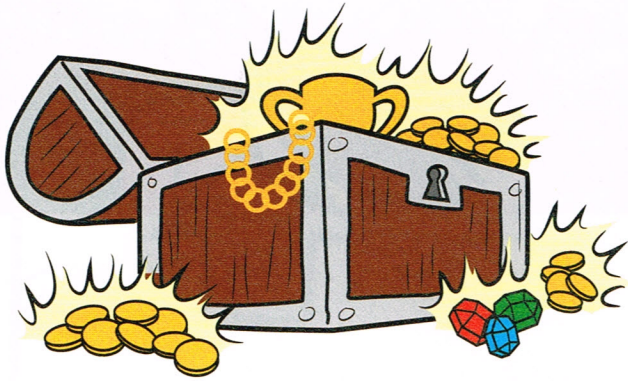
"Then why don't we just play together at my house? It wouldn't be the same playing soccer without my best friend!" Tomás said with a smile.

Terrence grinned and said happily, "That would be great!"





How is Tomás being an example of living a holy life?



List the three holiest people you know. Then, in one or two sentences, explain why you think they're holy. Leave number four blank for now.

1.

2.

3.

4.

CREATING A HOLINESS TREASURE MAP

FIRST STOP: Your church

The first stop on your search for holiness is church. Every time you go to Mass, you learn to praise God and love your friends and neighbors. You sing songs about God's goodness. You hear stories about God and God's people.

Best of all, you receive Jesus in your heart during Communion. Jesus is the best guide you can have on your search for holiness!

Finding Hidden Treasure

Today we're going to look for hidden treasure. But this treasure isn't gold. Today's hidden treasure is holiness. The kind of holiness we can find and share every day!



What do you think holiness is?

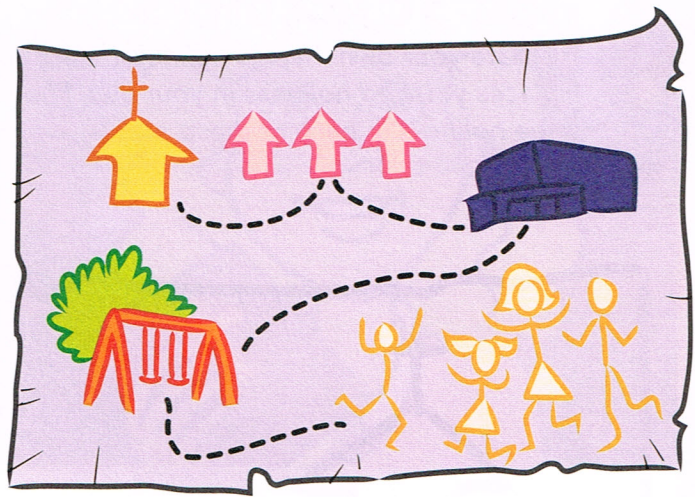


How else do you find holiness at church?

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SECOND STOP: Your neighborhood

Holiness is a big part of love. The second commandment Jesus gave us is “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Learning to love your neighbor takes practice. Is there someone who needs your help? Check with your parents. Maybe you can take out the trash or mow the lawn of a sick or elderly neighbor. Or you could pick some flowers or make a card and visit a neighbor who needs cheering up.



How can you find and show holiness in your neighborhood?



How can you act more like Jesus when you play?

THIRD STOP: Your classroom

Think about your classmates. Is there someone who's sometimes laughed at or ignored? Is there something you can do to make that person feel better? Is there someone who's having trouble with schoolwork? Maybe you can help that person study. You might not live next door to them, but your classmates are your neighbors, too.

FIFTH STOP: Your family

Sometimes it's harder to love members of our family than it is to love a neighbor or a stranger. But loving our family at home is one of the best ways to find and share holiness!



How can you find and show holiness at school?



What can you do to show love to your family?

FOURTH STOP: Your playground

On the playground, you'll find many clues about your hidden treasure. You can play games fairly. You can lose with kindness. You can win without making the other team feel bad. You can make sure no one who wants to play is left out. Remember that Jesus is still in your heart when you're on the playground. If you don't know what to do, ask Jesus what *he* would do.

FINAL STOP: Your church

We're back where we started! You've traveled in a perfect circle.

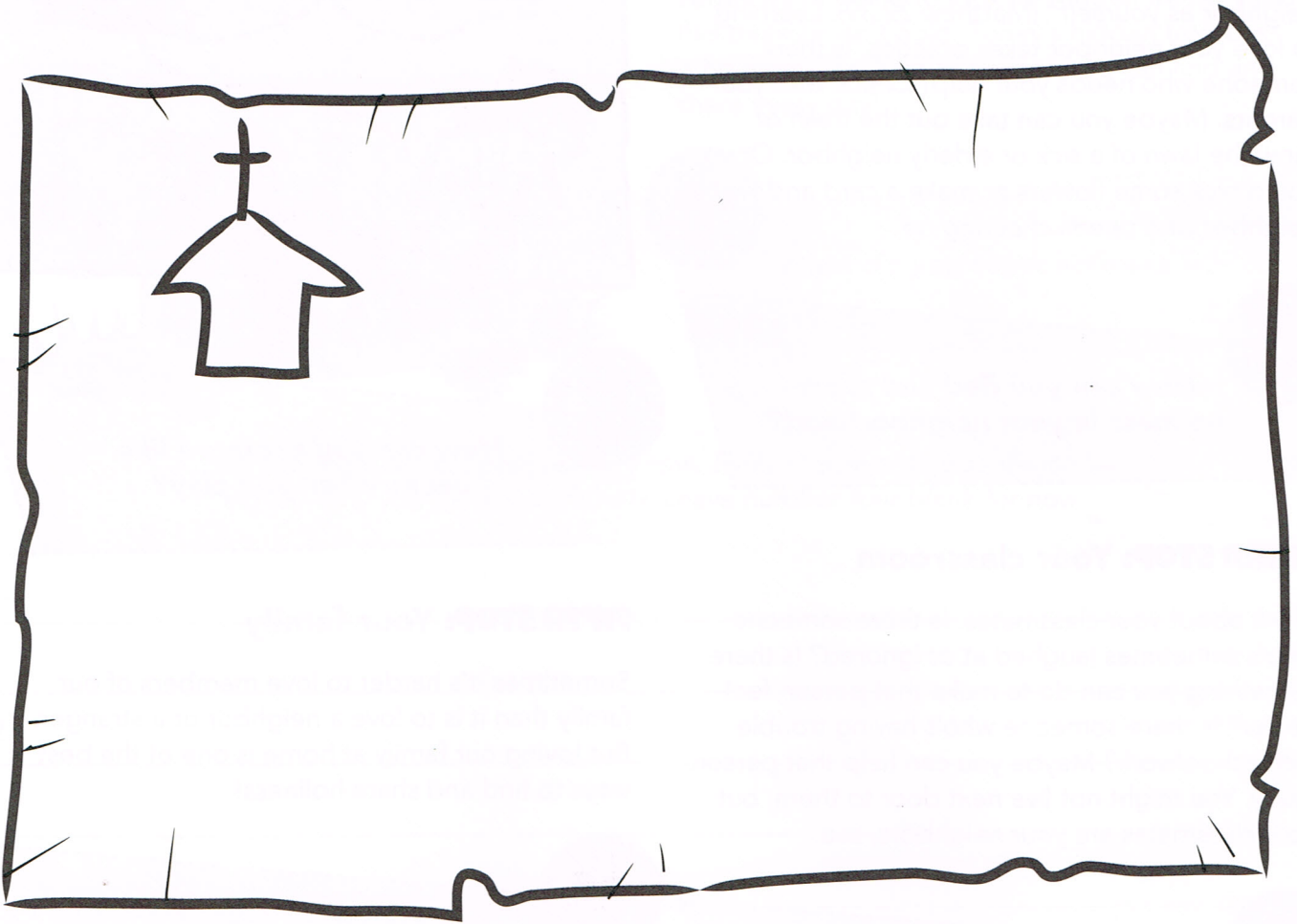
We all know we can find holiness with God and in the Church. However, you can't really experience or understand holiness until you reach out in love to neighbors, classmates, friends, and family. You won't be able to recognize holiness if you never practiced it in your neighborhood, classroom, playground, and at home.

Go back to your list of holy people from the beginning of the lesson. Add your own name to the list and explain how you find holiness for yourself and how you show holiness to others.



MAP TO HOLINESS

Create your own map to holiness! Start and end with the church, but include at least four places you find holiness in your own life. Write one or two sentences about how you share or see holiness in each of these places.



In Short



- All Christians are called to holiness.
- Growth in holiness is a lifelong process.
- We can overcome obstacles to holiness with the Holy Spirit's help.

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Editors of the 2017 *Journey of Faith for Children*: Theresa Nienaber-Panuski and Pat Fosarelli, MD, DMin.

Design and production: Wendy Barnes, Lorena Mitre Jimenez, John Krus, and Bill Townsend. Illustration: Jeff Albrecht.

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