

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

# Morality



## Our Catholic Tradition

- The Beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell how to live in God's Kingdom. (CCC, 1725)
- Jesus' New Commandment calls us to love and forgive one another as Jesus does. (CCC, 1985)
- We are lights to the world when we practice the Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity. (CCC, 1813)
- The Holy Spirit and Church teachings help us make good choices and avoid evil. (CCC, 2041)

How does God help you to make a good decision?



# Choose Love



## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Loving God, teach us to love as you love.

“The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.” **Psalm 19:8**

**All:** Teach me to love as you love. Amen.



## God's Word

“But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. . . . Do to others as you would have them do to you.” **Luke 6:27-28, 31**



### What Do You Wonder?

- Why should you love people who have done harm to you?
- How are you supposed to love like God?

# Learning to Forgive

## How did Joseph show forgiveness?

The Book of Genesis is the first book in the part of the Bible called the Old Testament. In it, we learn that God created human beings in his image and likeness. He gave us love and free will, which is the ability to choose.

During your life, you will have to make some hard choices. The following Scripture tells the story of a man who made a difficult choice after he was separated from his family. Joseph's story is found in the Old Testament.



Underline what Joseph's brothers did to him.

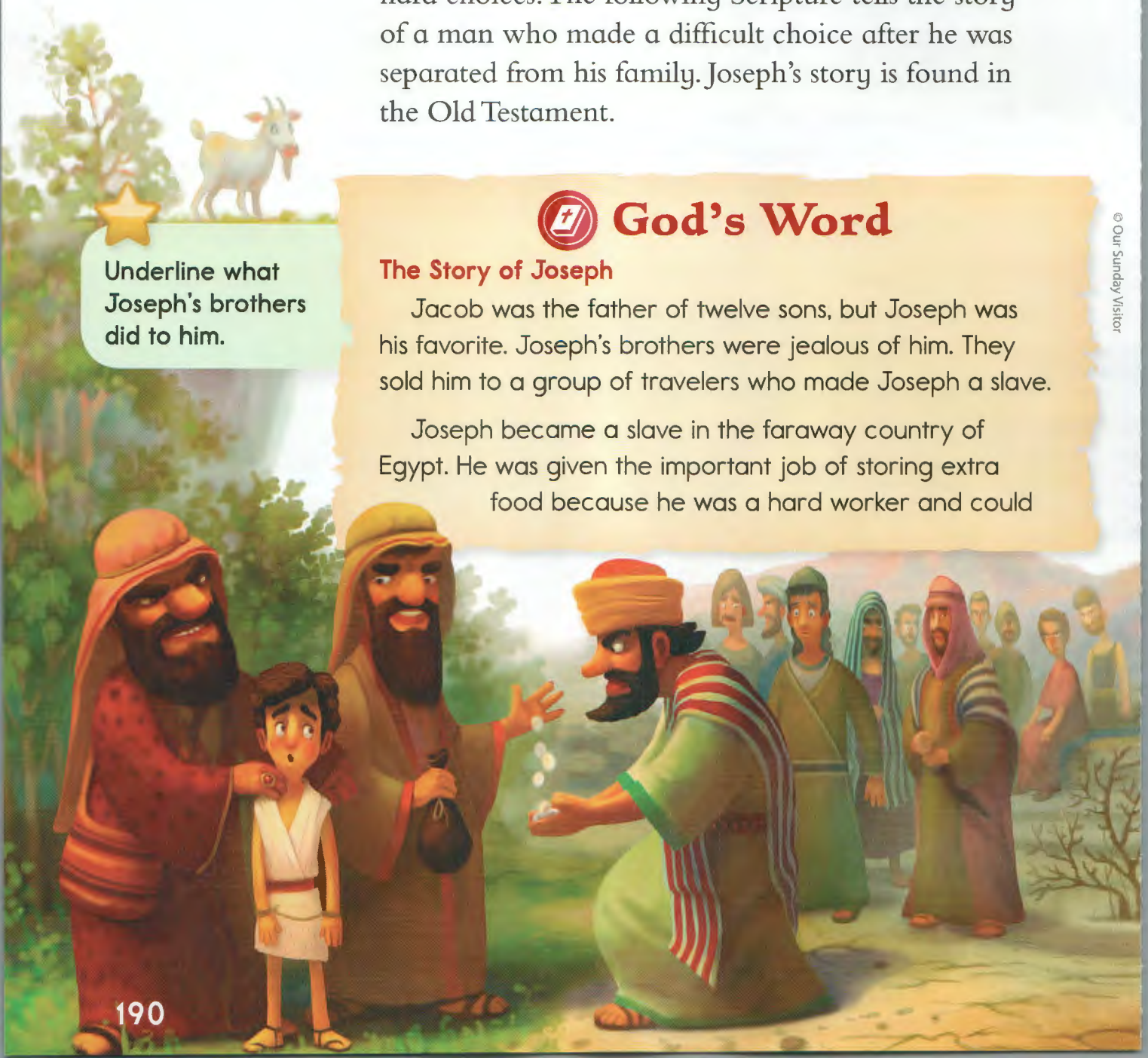


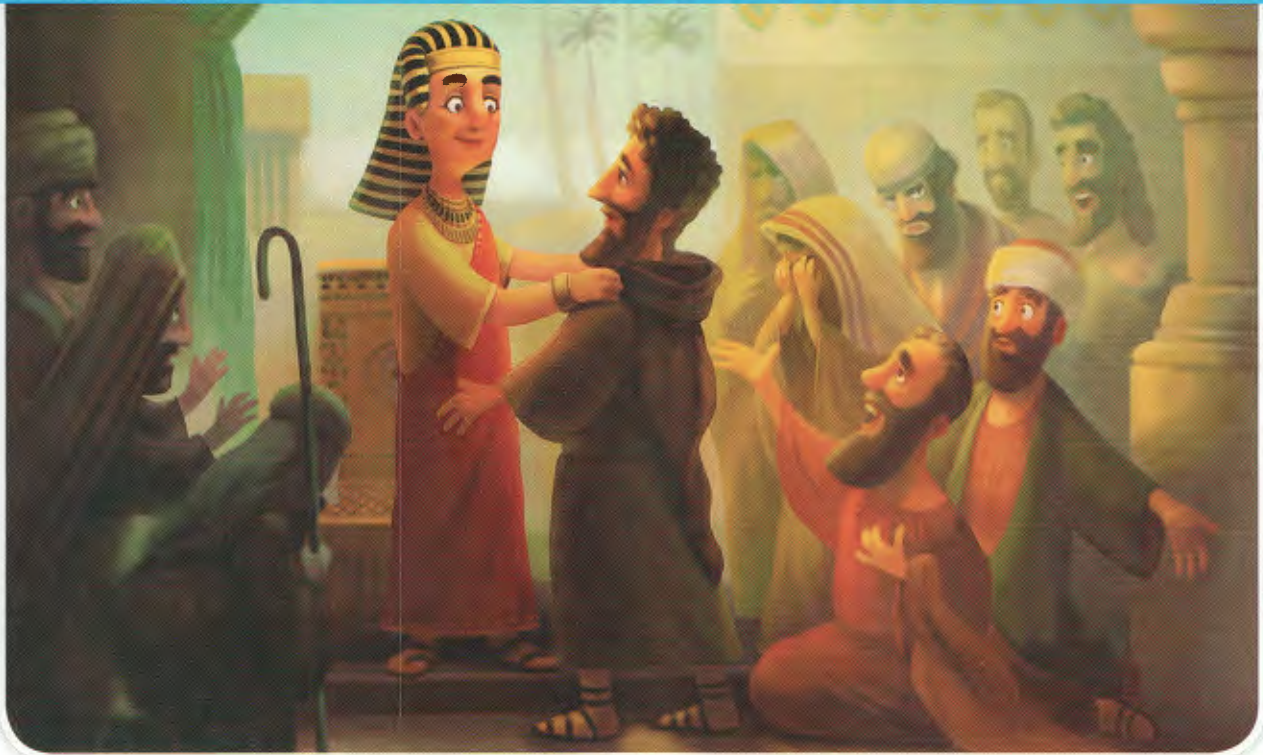
## God's Word

### The Story of Joseph

Jacob was the father of twelve sons, but Joseph was his favorite. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. They sold him to a group of travelers who made Joseph a slave.

Joseph became a slave in the faraway country of Egypt. He was given the important job of storing extra food because he was a hard worker and could





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explain dreams. During this time, Joseph's family needed food because they were starving, so they traveled all the way to Egypt. Joseph's brothers did not recognize him because so many years had passed.

At first, Joseph did not tell them who he was. He was still angry with them. **Based on Genesis 37-45**

Joseph chose to forgive his brothers because he loved them. Long before the time of Jesus, Joseph showed how to love those who hurt you.

- ➔ **How do you think Joseph's brothers felt when Joseph told them who he was?**
- ➔ **What other choices could Joseph have made?**

## Share Your Faith

**Think** Have you ever had to forgive someone else without making a judgment?

**Share** Take turns sharing your thoughts with a partner.

# The Way of Love

## What does Jesus teach about love?

One day, Jesus was talking with his followers about how to treat people. This is what he told them.



Underline what Jesus wants us to do.

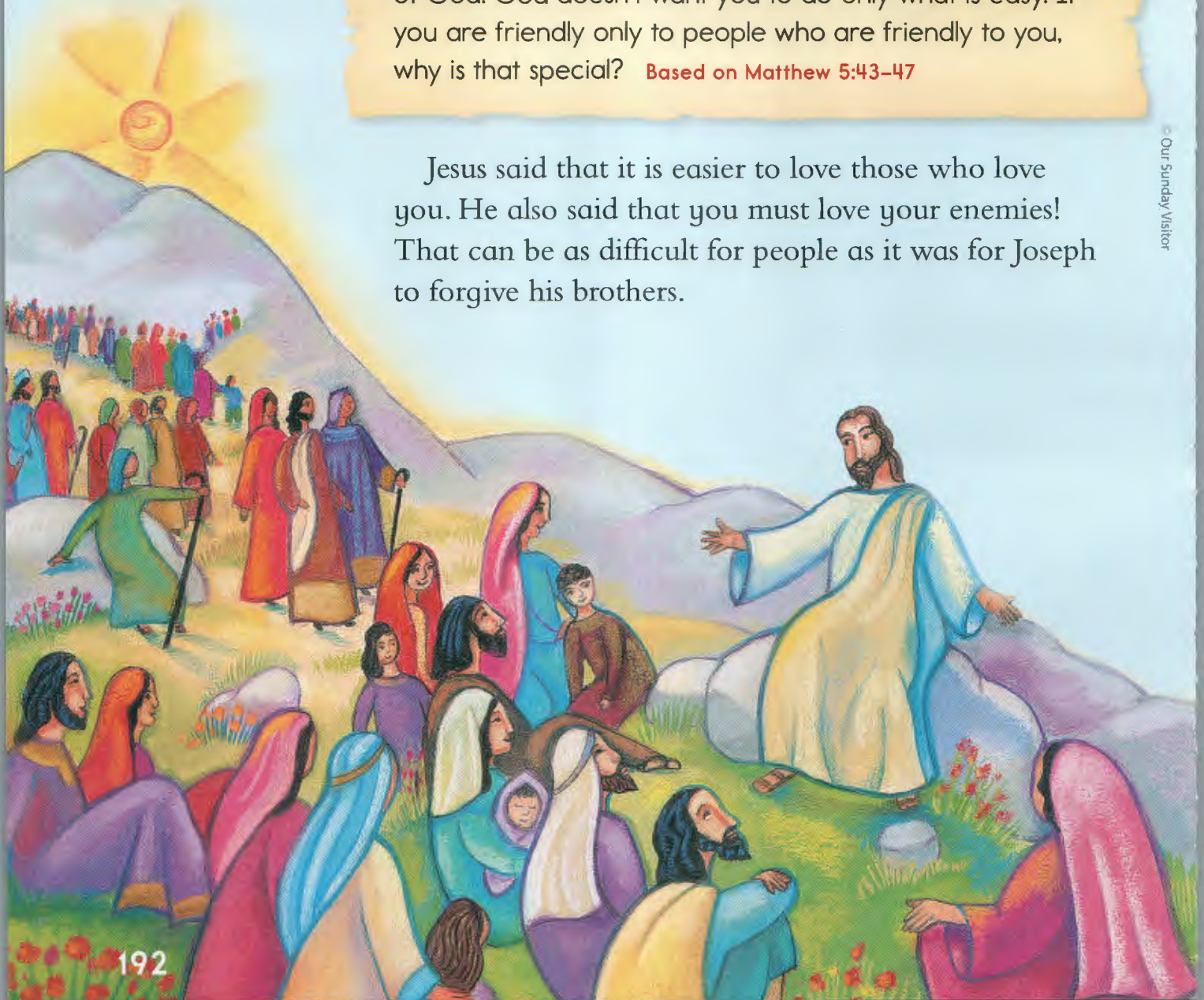


## God's Word

### Love of Enemies

You have been told to love your friends and hate your enemies. But now I am telling you: Love your enemies, and pray for people who hurt you. This will make you children of God. God doesn't want you to do only what is easy. If you are friendly only to people who are friendly to you, why is that special? **Based on Matthew 5:43-47**

Jesus said that it is easier to love those who love you. He also said that you must love your enemies! That can be as difficult for people as it was for Joseph to forgive his brothers.



## The New Commandment

Jesus' main teachings are about the love and care you are called to show God and others. In a teaching called the **Beatitudes**, Jesus said that those who make peace and show **mercy** are blessed by God. Jesus' **New Commandment** sums up the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes in one statement: "...Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (**John 13:34**).

### Living the New Commandment

People in your parish try to live by Jesus' New Commandment, too. There are probably volunteers who build houses, teach people to read, or give food to people who are hungry. They show their love by praying for and helping others. They show love by putting others' needs before their own.

## Catholic Faith Words

**Beatitudes** teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell how to live in God's Kingdom now and always

**mercy** kindness and concern for those who are suffering. God has mercy on us even though we are sinners.

**New Commandment** Jesus' command for his disciples to love one another as he has loved us

## Connect Your Faith

**Find the Message** Solve the code by placing the correct letter in each blank to answer the question.

G O D                    N E I G H B O R                    E N E M Y  
1 2 3                    4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11                    12 13 14 15 16

What do these three words have in common?

W    
5

A     
11 14

C A L L     
12 3

T    
2

L  V    
10 12

T      
8 14 15



## Our Catholic Life

### Why do we make the sign of peace?



Underline  
one way to  
obey Jesus'  
command.

There are many reasons that Catholics make the sign of peace during the Mass. Jesus told his followers to make peace with one another before they brought their gifts to the altar. The sign of peace is a way to obey Jesus' command.

Giving the sign of peace shows that the people gathered in the church are united as one community of believers.

God wants the whole world to live in peace. Remember to share a sign of peace with your family and neighbors. You get to know more people in your church family when you greet one another during the sign of peace.

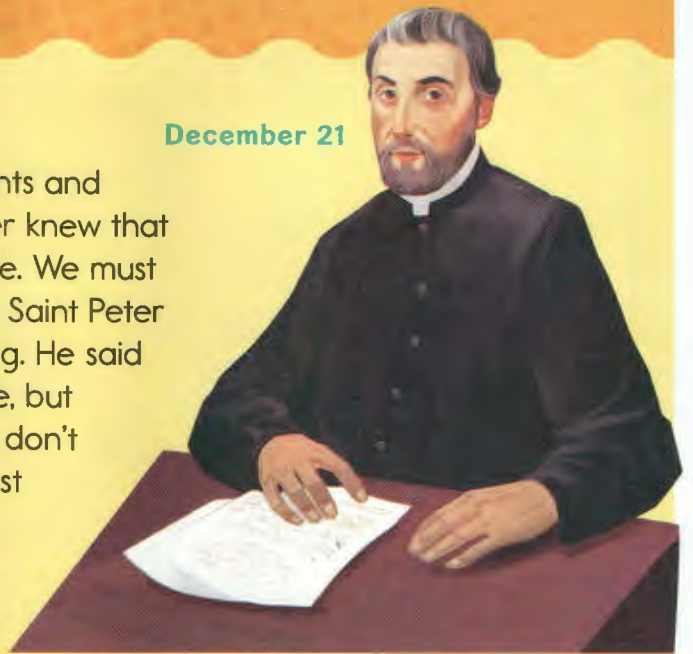


# People of Faith

## Saint Peter Canisius, 1521–1597

December 21

Saint Peter Canisius lived when Protestants and Catholics were fighting each other. Peter knew that Jesus told us that we must love all people. We must even love people who are our enemies. Saint Peter wrote books explaining Catholic teaching. He said that we need to explain what we believe, but we must never be mean to people who don't believe the same things. Instead, we must listen to them and live with them in love. Saint Peter also loved Mary very much. He often prayed the Hail Mary.



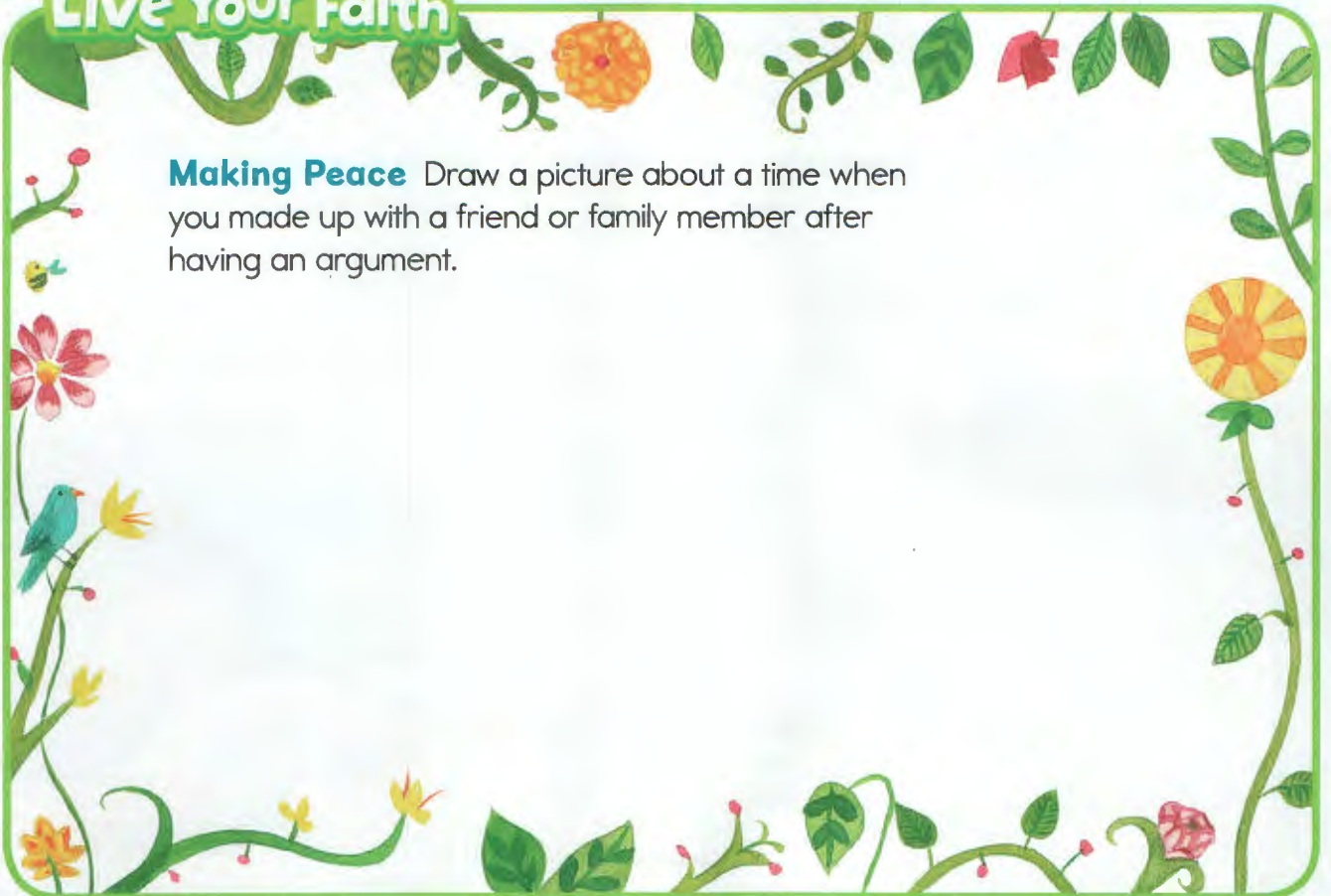
**Discuss:** How can you love someone you don't like?



Learn more about  
Saint Peter Canisius at  
[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Making Peace** Draw a picture about a time when you made up with a friend or family member after having an argument.



 Let Us Pray

## Act of Love

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** God our Father, help us love as Jesus did.

**Reader:** When someone is mean to us, as Joseph's brothers were to him,

**All:** Help us forgive as Joseph did.

**Reader:** When we find it difficult to love,

**All:** Help us love as Jesus did.

**Leader:** We pray together an Act of Love.

**All:** O God, we love you above all things, with our whole heart and soul, because you are all-good and worthy of all love. We love our neighbor as ourselves for love of you. We forgive all who have injured us and ask pardon of all whom we have injured.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Greatest Gift"  
Love, love, Jesus is love.  
God's greatest gift is the gift of love.  
All creation sings together,  
praising God for love.

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# FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

*This chapter describes the need to seek God's mercy and to ask for and offer forgiveness. It also focuses on Jesus' teachings to love others, especially our enemies.*

### God's Word



Read **Luke 6:27-31** and think about ways you can show your love for each family member.

### Catholics Believe

- Jesus' New Commandment is to love one another as he loves each of us.
- The Beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell how to live in God's Kingdom.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1933, 1716 at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Peter Canisius who urged us to always speak kindly to those with whom we disagree. He is credited with adding the sentence beginning, "Holy Mary, Mother of God" to the Hail Mary.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand the New Commandment** Loving God above all things and loving others as God loves us may sound simple to a third-grader—until it comes to practical applications. We are often tested in these commands by the things we get most excited about or the people we are with every day. Your child will need many reminders of how he or she can apply these principles in daily life choices. For example, he or she might choose to go to church rather than staying home to play a video game or make a choice to not fight with a friend or sibling.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

*How difficult is it to show kindness to someone who has harmed you?*

Forgiveness may be the greatest challenge in our spiritual journey. It is sometimes difficult to imagine how people can let go of the resentment and bitterness they feel when they are wronged. Yet, "the best way to obtain mercy is to be merciful. As Jesus taught us, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy' (Mt 5:7). Failure to forgive others is a major human problem. Holding grudges is common. Failure to forgive routinely tears apart families, neighborhoods, and even nations. Jesus stressed mercy and forgiveness in numerous ways" (*USCCA, p. 488*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Talk about a time when you've found it difficult to forgive. What did that experience teach you?
- Ask your child to name some times when he or she has asked forgiveness from someone else. How did it feel to receive that forgiveness?

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 13 Review

**A Work with Words** Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

## Column A

1. Teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness
2. Jesus' command to love others as he has loved us
3. A way to show that the people gathered in the church are one community of believers
4. Jesus wants us to love
5. The story of Joseph is about this

## Column B

- our enemies
- love and forgiveness
- Beatitudes
- sign of peace
- New Commandment

**B Check Understanding** Put these events from the story of Joseph in order by numbering the sentences correctly.

6.  Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him. Then Joseph tells his brothers who he is.
7.  Joseph's father loves him very much. Joseph's brothers grow jealous.
8.  Joseph forgives his brothers.
9.  Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to ask for food.
10.  Joseph's brothers sell him as a slave.

