

## CHAPTER 15 Jesus' Kingdom of Justice and Truth

### Centering

- ✦ Give your child a green strip of paper decorated like a \$50 bill. Say: **You are to decide how you would spend this money. Think about three things you could use this money for.** When your child is finished, ask him or her to share how the money was divided.
- ✦ Say: **Your decisions were determined by your values. Followers of Jesus share his values. In this chapter, you will take a closer look at the two values that are woven through the Beatitudes that we studied in the last lesson, which are justice and truth.**

### Sharing PAGES 121–123

- ✦ Read aloud the chapter title and have your child read silently the first paragraph on page 121. Have your child answer the questions and discuss the answers.
- ✦ Have your child read silently the rest of the opening section. Ask: **What keywords describe the Kingdom of God?** (God's love includes all people; it is love, peace, justice, and truth.)
- ✦ Say: **Our values give direction to our lives. We form them according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. What did you learn about your values from the way you spent \$50?**
- ✦ Ask: **How do we acquire our values?** (No one can force the standards of Christ on another; they must be freely chosen. We can influence others by the power of example.)
- ✦ Ask your child to read aloud A Crucial Decision and Jesus the King. Read or tell the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1–10. Allow time for your child to answer the question.
- ✦ Ask: **What are some lessons we can learn from the story of Zacchaeus?** (Jesus helps us be honest with God and others. We are obliged to pay back to others what we have taken. God forgives.)
- ✦ Have your child read silently People First on pages 121–122. Ask: **Why are people more important than things?** (God created people in his divine image and likeness with the right to possess property.)
- ✦ Say: **People are valuable. We should never treat people like things.** Ask: **Can you give an example of how one of your possessions helps you become a better person?**
- ✦ Ask: **How do we show respect for things and people?** (by protecting property, working honestly, sharing, and being satisfied with what we have) **What efforts are you making to protect our environment?**

- ◆ Ask your child to read aloud *Envy Kills and Greed Destroys* on page 122. Ask: **Why do people feel envy?** (They compare themselves with others. They are not satisfied with their own gifts. They want to be first or better than others.)
- ◆ Ask: **How does envy cause harm?** (It wastes energy. It can lead to sins that cause others to get hurt or suffer.) Say: **Greedy people sin because possessions become more important to them than God or others.**
- ◆ Ask: **How can restitution be made?** (by returning or paying for stolen items; by repairing or paying for damaged items; by contributing to a charity)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *A Sinful World* on pages 122–123. Ask: **How would you explain social sin in your own words? Can you give some examples?** (slavery, gender discrimination, unfair employment practices, extreme poverty in wealthy nations)
- ◆ Have your child complete the questions. Review his or her answers.
- ◆ Have your child read silently *The Power of Words* on page 123. Ask: **Why is telling the truth important?** (It builds relationships. When people tell the truth, they can love and trust one another.) **What does the Eighth Commandment forbid?** (untrue words and acts; anything that hurts the good name of another)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Why Do People Lie?* Ask: **Why is it good to admit “I’m wrong,” “I’m sorry,” and “I don’t know”?** (Admitting mistakes helps us realize that we all make mistakes and need support.)
- ◆ Decide who will read aloud the parts of Jena, Zach, Tyrone, Alexis, and the narrator in *Kayla’s Campaign*. Direct your child to write the answers to the three questions on page 124 and then discuss them.

### Sharing PAGE 124

- ◆ Have your child read silently *Keeping Confidences and Promises* on page 124. Ask: **What questions should we ask before we tell truths that may hurt others?** (Is it necessary? Is it kind?)
- ◆ Have your child read silently *Living in Truth*. Ask: **What are some of the ways you have learned from others to tell the truth?**
- ◆ Have your child read silently *Having Problems Being Truthful?* Ask: **Do you think any of these steps would help you tell the truth? Why or why not?** Discuss your child’s responses.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using *A Moment with Jesus*.

### Acting PAGES 125–126

- ◆ Read the Chapter 15 Summary on page 125 together, then have your child complete the Review Activities on page 126 independently. When he or she is done, go through his or her work and review any incorrect answers.

**Gather and Go Forth** PAGES 127–128**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 127. Say: **Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. When we act in truth and with justice, we will know God’s love.**

**PROCLAIM**

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Social justice comes from the dignity all people have by being created in God’s image. All people have equal rights.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Justice is a virtue. When we act with justice, we give God and people what is rightfully theirs.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 128. Say: **John did not let his advanced age or his illness stop him from helping others.**
- ✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ✦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

**TRANSFORM**

- ✦ Ask: **What careers exist in the justice system?** (Possible answers: police officer, lawyer, judge) **Is it necessary to work in the justice system to work for justice?** (No, every person can model justice through their own actions.)
- ✦ Challenge your child to find role models who work for peace and social justice. Ask: **How does their witness inspire you to work for justice?**