

CHAPTER 16 Jesus' Kingdom of Love**Centering**

- ✦ Work together, using building blocks or playing cards, to construct a tower. Stress to your child that he or she must try to prevent the structure from collapsing.
- ✦ Say: **This structure is like our friendships. They need to be built on a strong foundation so they do not collapse. The same is true of the gift of our sexuality. It must be treated with great care; otherwise, it can be damaged.**
- ✦ Say: **The Church gives us rules about sex so that we will have a strong foundation on which to build our sexuality. There are some people who see a structure like this and want to run in and knock it down. In the same way, some people rush into sexual relationships, not realizing the consequences they can have.**
- ✦ Say: **In this lesson, you will learn about real love. Real love is the foundation on which we build our friendships and our sexuality.**

Sharing PAGES 129–131

- ✦ Say: **There are at least five levels of friendship: casual acquaintance, friend, close friend, best friend, and intimate friend. Each of these levels has different degrees of what we reveal about ourselves. Sometimes people can confuse the need for intimacy with sexual feelings. Intimacy is a total self-giving of who we are to another person. In marriage, that also means sexual giving.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the opening paragraph on page 129. Have your child complete the exercise. Ask: **What qualities of friendship did you list?**
- ✦ Have your child read silently the rest of the section. Ask: **How did Jesus show us total love in reality and symbolically?** (He gave his life for us; his heart was pierced by a lance.)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud Marriage: Made in Heaven on pages 129–130 and then complete the Scripture activity by reading aloud Ephesians 5:25–33. Ask: **How does the Sacrament of Matrimony help a married couple?** (The grace of the sacrament strengthens the couple throughout their lives.)
- ✦ Have your child read silently Prepare Now! on page 130. Ask: **Was Carla experiencing love?** (No, not real love. She was probably just in the first stage of love, a physical and emotional attraction.) Say: **If you could not check anything in the list yet, don't worry. Every person grows on a different time schedule. You will change and grow at your own rate.**

- ◆ Have your child complete the activity on moral qualities at the end of the reading. Discuss his or her answers.
- ◆ Have your child read silently *Sex: A Gift from God*. Ask: **Why is the gift of sex holy?** (It is a power to create new persons. It is a share in God's power to create.) **How does God protect this gift?** (by the unbreakable bond of marriage)
- ◆ Have your child read silently *A Sign of Total Surrender* on pages 130–131. Say: **With the gift of sex comes strong sexual feelings that affect the body and the emotions. These feelings are part of a normal process, but they need to be controlled.**
- ◆ Ask: **If you really love a person, why would you choose not to pressure him or her into sex before marriage?** (out of respect so as not to use that person for one's own pleasure; to avoid only knowing that person on a physical level)
- ◆ Ask your child to read silently *Who Is Boss?* on page 131. Ask: **What are some of the reasons young people engage in sex today?** (There is pressure from society; they think they are in love; they don't think they will get hurt; they want to be popular or to seem more adult.)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *A Double Safeguard*. Ask: **What is the Sixth Commandment?** (You shall not commit adultery.) **What does adultery mean?** (the act of being sexually unfaithful to one's husband or wife) **What is the Ninth Commandment?** (You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.) **What does this mean?** (God wants us to respect the gift of sex in our thoughts and desires.)
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using *A Moment with Jesus*.

Sharing PAGE 132

- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Perfect Love* on page 132. Ask: **Who must practice chastity?** (all people, whether married or not)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Breaking Through Illusions and Do Not Be Fooled*. Say: **Chastity helps a person grow in all areas of love. People who do not practice chastity will never be able to love on the deepest level. Sex is only one part of love.**
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity *Planning for Real Love*.

Acting PAGES 133–134

- ◆ Read the Chapter 16 Summary on page 133 together, then have your child complete the Review Activities on page 134 independently. When he or she is done, go through his or her work and review any incorrect answers.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 135–136**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 135. Say: **We need to live our lives in ways that honor God. As Catholics, we want God to be the center of our lives.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What are signs of healthy relationships?** (Possible answers: trust; respect; concern for one another; mutual sharing)
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Respecting yourself, developing healthy relationships, and growing in relationship with God will prepare men and women to be loving and committed marriage partners in the future.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 136. Say: **Saint Agnes is often pictured with a lamb sitting at her feet.**
- ✦ 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 are some things married love includes?** (Possible answers: sharing; treasuring another person as he or she is; being faithful; trust; forgiveness; honesty; compassion)
- ✦ Say: **Chastity places us in the right relationship with God and one another.** Discuss ways your child can live a chaste life by dressing modestly, exercising self-control, and being kind.