

RCL Benziger

4

Family Life



STUDENT EDITION

UNIT 1

God's Gift of Family



Family Responsibilities and Rules

God created us to live in communion with him. We are members of the Family of God—the Church. We live in a family, a neighborhood, a town or city and a country. We are discovering more and more that we are also part of a global family.

Our family is the first and most important family God created us to belong to. Members of a family have responsibilities toward one another—children toward parents and parents toward children. Family members have the rightful expectation that they can depend on one another—in good times and in bad times, in times of joy and in times of sadness. Meeting our responsibilities as members of the family in a dependable and consistent manner is an expression of the depth of our love and respect for our family.

Family rules help us show our love and respect for one another. All good family rules flow from and are an expression of God's rules. God's rules are part of who we are. They have been clearly revealed to us by Jesus Christ and taught to us by the Church. All good family rules help family members live together as God created us to do.



Healthy Habits in the Home

Involve your child in making some of your family's rules. Consider the family chores. Be sure your family's list of chores meets the needs of the whole family.

Encourage families to share, pray and grow together

Family Blessings

Take time together for prayer. Ask God to continually bless your family with the patience and determination to live according to his rules.

Taking the Lesson Home

Read and think about the traits of a holy and healthy family. Choose one of these traits and work on it.

A healthy and holy family . . .

1. communicates and listens.
2. affirms and supports.
3. shows and teaches respect for others.
4. develops a sense of trust.
5. laughs and has a sense of play.
6. shares responsibilities.
7. teaches a sense of right and wrong.
8. enjoys rituals and traditions.
9. includes every family member.
10. has faith in God.

**Recall and review
the unit theme
at home**



Making Connections

Family members show one another love and respect by helping each other out, as Ricky does in the story in lesson 1, and by following family rules, as Teresa learns in the story in lesson 2. Spend time as a family sharing responses to these questions:

- How well can our family depend on me?
- How do we show appreciation for what we do for one another?
- What are some important rules our family lives by?
- How does obeying and following those rules help our family be more loving?

Faith on the Fridge

God said to honor your father and mother. In giving honor, you receive love. This is God's plan for families. Parents are to love their children. Children are to love and honor their parents. To better appreciate God's gift of family, parents and children are to grow in the virtue of justice through obedience and self-giving.



Being Needed

LESSON 1

Ricky to the Rescue

Ricky's mother was lying on the sofa with a white cast on her right arm. Two green pillows propped up her arm to help reduce the swelling. The day before, she tripped on a broken porch step, fell and broke a bone in her arm.

"I need your help," Mom told Ricky. "I'll be depending on you for a few weeks now. I'd like for you to cook dinner for us. Jack and Linda will be home in time to help with the cleaning afterwards."

Ricky scratched his head. He was confused. His own mother, "Super Mom," was asking for his help! Ricky saw the look of pain on her face. She really needed him!

"No problem, Mom," said Ricky. "Cooking dinner might be fun!"

"Right now, I have to rest. Everything you need is in the kitchen," Mom assured Ricky. "Call me if you need some help."

As his mother shut her eyes, Ricky went to the kitchen. She had put out all the things with instructions on making a hamburger casserole and rolls. At 5 P.M., Ricky slid the casserole and rolls into the oven. The kitchen was a bit messy, but dinner would be a feast!

Ricky felt proud. He was glad that his mother was willing to depend on him. Ricky slipped outside to play basketball for a few minutes. He sank basket after basket. Then he heard Jack and Linda come up behind him.

"Nice basket!" Linda said. "You're a hot shot!" Jack said.

"Yeah," Ricky said smiling, "out here and in the kitchen, too!"

This lesson will help you to:

- **explore** the importance of being someone your family can depend on.
- **discover** ways to be a responsible member of your family.
- **make** choices to show your family that they can depend on you.



How can you show responsibility to your family?

Stories that match young people's experience



Catholics Believe

God created us in his image and likeness. He created us to live in communion with him and with one another.



**Doctrine is
applied to
everyday life**

I Depend on You

"I need your help." These are words used in every family. Husbands and wives say them to each other. Children say them to their parents, and parents say them to their children. You depend on your family, and your family depends on you.



Think about some of the many ways that you depend on your family.

There are many things you need that you cannot provide for yourself, like food, clothing and a place to live. You need check-ups from doctors in order to stay healthy. You need teachers to help you learn about the world. Most importantly, you need your family to keep you safe and to help you grow in love and faith.

You depend upon others for things that money cannot buy. Your family helps you fulfill these needs. Family members give you love. They give you encouragement when you try to do difficult things. Loving family members also provide guidance. That means that they give you good advice when you are not sure what to do. Sometimes you are faced with difficult decisions. When this happens, members in your family can give you guidance to help you determine what the right choice is.

Our Church family needs each of us as well. We support and pray for one another.

At Mass we need everyone to participate in order to best praise and thank God for the gifts he has given to us.

Your family depends on you. They trust that you will be responsible and that they can depend on you not only at home, but in other places too. You show responsibility and dependability at school, at your friend's home and at church. Being responsible to your family and friends shows that they can depend on you to meet your obligations to them.

When you act this way, you practice the virtue of justice. You honor your parents and demonstrate your love for them by doing what they ask. You show that others can depend on you by giving your time and talents to help someone else. Perhaps someone in your family just needs you to be there with them for support.

Helping and being helped depends on love. When we give and receive love, we become better persons and a stronger family closer to God.



Growing in Virtue

Justice is the virtue that strengthens us to act responsibly and give to others what is due to them—what is their right—or making sure they have what they need.

“Being Dependable”

Complete the chart by naming ways you can show each group how they can depend on you.



Family Members	Classmates	Friends

**Build character
strength through
virtues education**

Catholic Family Album

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was born in the United States in 1774 right before the Revolutionary War. When her husband died, she was left to raise five children on her own. To help raise her children, she became a teacher. She later started the first Catholic school in the United States. After her own children grew up, Elizabeth began a community of religious sisters. She showed her responsibility for her own family and many others too.



Strengthen Catholic identity and discover models of faith

Giving of Self

As you grow, you are learning how to grow in love. You come to see that loving includes both giving and receiving. When you give of your time and talents for the benefit of someone else, you demonstrate self-giving love.

You are growing in love, as well as in height. When you are dependable and responsible, you are growing in love. Answering these questions can help you make a decision to grow in self-giving love.

1. When did I see someone in my family in need?

2. What will I do to show my family that they can depend on me?

When someone is _____, I will _____

When someone is _____, I will _____

When someone is _____, I will _____
