

PEACE in TRUTH

People sometimes mistakenly think that peace means a lack of something—as in the absence of war and other forms of violence in our lives. However, we know that true peace is actively promoting justice, harmony, and right relations among all peoples.

Learning respectful behaviors can help us grow as peaceful people. These behaviors can help us grow as people of the Gospel who work toward building a “culture of life” based upon the truth. Peace is found in the truth that we are to recognize one another as equal in dignity.

You need to listen carefully and see things from the other person’s point of view, not just your own. This does not mean that you agree or “give in.” This means that you are honestly trying to see where the other person is coming from. Respect the other person because together you can seek and find peace by living the Gospel.

ON COMMON GROUND

As we engage in problem-solving, we remind ourselves that violence and hatred are destructive influences. These actions and behaviors create a “culture of death.” Use the following tips to help build a culture of life within your community of friends and neighbors:

- Find common ground in the truth. Usually, disagreements arise because we hold wildly different positions.
- Reconcile with one another in love. If common ground is reached, opposing parties can apologize to each other. They can agree that they may have been too extreme, too closed-minded.
- Celebrate common ground in peace. When reconciliation is achieved, there is cause for celebration. Where once there was only misunderstanding, hatred, or violence, there can now be understanding and a peaceful, respectful approach to resolving differences.

Jesus said, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life” (Matthew 16:26)? Pope John Paul II once taught that solidarity helps us to see one another as equal neighbors who are all invited to God’s banquet of life (*The Social Concern of the Church* 39).

- ▶ Discuss with a classmate on how you can demonstrate solidarity with others unlike you.

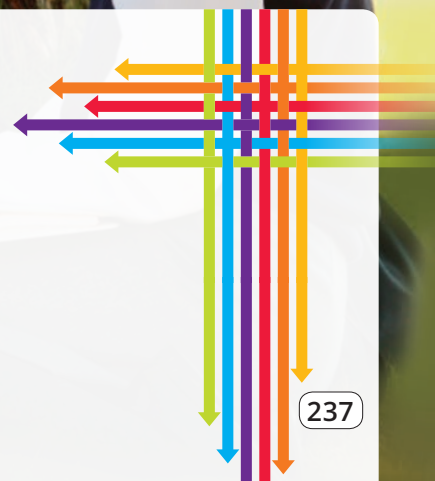


MY FAITH CHOICE

This week I will help find common ground to help build a culture of life by:

PRAY

Lord of life, give me the steadfast faith to stand up for a culture of life. Amen.



▶ I FOLLOW JESUS

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Reinforce

- ▶ Have the young people read pages 235 and 237 silently.
- ▶ Divide the large group into three small groups, and assign each group one of the respectful behaviors: find common ground, reconcile, or celebrate.
- ▶ Instruct each group to develop a pantomime or role-play that illustrates the respectful behavior.
- ▶ Have the groups present their role-plays.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Solidarity of the Human Family. We are all part of a single human family and are responsible for one another. This is true regardless of the national, racial, ethnic, and ideological differences that we may have. Solidarity is an awareness of this interdependence that flows from our common dignity as humans and from Jesus’ command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Tip: Invite the young people to strive to resolve their differences in a way that respects their solidarity with all people.

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Respond

- ▶ Remaining in the same groups, have the young people identify a problem of violence in the world, explain that this is an example of the culture of death.
- ▶ Invite them to use the principles they read to develop a plan that promotes a culture of life.
- ▶ Invite each group to share its plan.

Timeline

If time permits, have the young people research additional events that could be added to the chapter timeline. Invite them to include events reflect a culture of death as well as build a culture of life.

Choose

- ▶ Ask the participants to complete the My Faith Choice section at the bottom of the page.
- ▶ Encourage the young people to put their faith choices into action this week.
- ▶ Invite the youth to pray silently to the Holy Spirit for the grace to carry out their faith decisions.

TEACHING TIP

Dealing with Opposition. Share with the young people that it seems to be part and parcel of life that we grow and develop best when we approach opposition with patience and communication and prayer. Opposition forces us to carefully think through what we believe and why we believe it. This opposition may only be a clash of ideas. Opposition to our beliefs challenges us to live a Christian life among some people who might not share those beliefs and values.