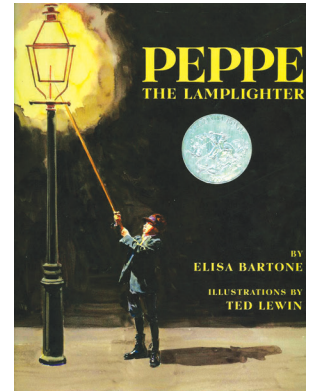


TRY THIS AT HOME!

A THEOLOGY OF THE BODY LESSON FOR THE HOME



1. Read *Peppe the Lamplighter* by Elisa Bartone.
2. Ask your child questions about the story to focus on the theme of work:
 - Why does Peppe work so hard to get a job? How does he end up getting a job?
 - How does he feel about his job? Why?
 - What does Peppe think about when he does his work? What does he want for the people that he loves?
 - Should Peppe have quit his job when his father was disappointed?
 - Why do you think Peppe gets so much enjoyment out of his job? Is he doing this simply for the money or is there something more to his work? Does his work make visible a feeling he has for his family?
 - What happens when Peppe chooses not to light the lamps? Is he happy with that decision? Are others affected by his choice?
3. At the end of the story choose one of the following activities:



Talk to your children about your current job and jobs that you have had in the past. Share stories about lessons you learned, how you helped others and explain how your work is an offering to God and others.

Pray together. Make a special visit to church and light a vigil candle for a specific family intention.

Consider some act of service that you might do as a family. Is there a relative you could visit? A food pantry where you could help? Could you donate toys to those in need? Could siblings help each other with homework or chores?

4. Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit with your child.

HOW DOES THIS STORY TEACH THEOLOGY OF THE BODY?



In Genesis, God gives Adam the command to “till and keep the garden,” before the original sin. This order is important; it is thus revealed that work has always been part of God’s plan for mankind, and is not simply a punishment, though it is the case that as a result of sin, the fact that work is a gift is obscured for us. But it is important to remind ourselves that work and worship go hand in hand, so to speak—that we worship God in doing our work well because it is a form of offering the world back to God, which is what the Father intended from the beginning. Thus, when we look at Genesis closely, we see that from the beginning the Father intends work as a gift!