



## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that, from the beginning of Creation, God made men and women to join together in love. Human beings are social—created for making bonds of love and friendship with one another; they become inseparably one in marriage. This principle underlies the lifelong, faithful commitment the Church celebrates in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

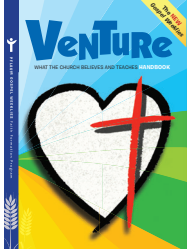
## Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** If you have a Bible, open it to this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 10:2-16) and place it in the center of your learning space. Pray: "Our brother Jesus, just as your words and deeds fill the pages of the Bible, let your actions and example imprint our lives. Like a loyal friend, you are with us. Help us be attentive to you. Amen."
- Cover Activity • We Are All Part of God's Family (page 1)** Catholic social teaching tells us that human beings are social and are made to live and develop in community. Playing games is one of the ways we interact. Read the directions and play the game together.
- Story • Stranger in the House (pages 2-3)** This week, *VenTure* explores the power of love in families with this story of a boy who must give up his room to a grandmother he hardly knows. Read the story aloud together.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** This discussion of family relationships will pave the way for the activity on pages 6–7. **Answers:** 1. *Matt doesn't think he has anything in common with his grandma; they haven't lived close before now. He's probably also a little hurt that she has "taken" his room.* 2. *They both like football.* 3. *Open-ended; talk about any distant relatives you have.* 4. *Open-ended; talk about some of the ways your family keeps in touch; technology such as video conferencing, texting, or social media. Or perhaps you are looking forward to vacationing together or sharing holiday traditions.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus' Ideal Is Lasting Love (page 4)** The Gospel is presented in reader parts each week, so your child has a chance to proclaim Jesus' words. Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading parts with your child.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** **Answers:** 1. *Jesus believes a man and woman should be faithful to each other in marriage. Moses' law was written when people still thought of women as property. A man could send his wife away just as he could sell a cow or a piece of land.* 2. *They remain faithful in their love and care for each other. They build up the human community.* 3. *Jesus thinks children have the right values for his kingdom. They are usually open to others and willing to respond to a teacher.* 4. *They welcome her into their family and share a bedroom with her so that's she's comfortable. They also make sure that she has company, so she's not lonely in her new home.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Love Is Hard Work (page 8)** Have your child read this summary of Sunday's Gospel message—love is Jesus' way of life and every Christian's hardest work.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** **Answers:** 1. *Open-ended; the more we know people, the more we know their flaws. We continue to love and care despite the things we may not like.* 2. *Open-ended; share your favorite family tradition and some of the things you like most about being a part of your family and invite your child to do the same.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 26. Read the first two paragraphs. Your child might wonder why there are two names for this sacrament. Matrimony is the older name. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* titles the section on this sacrament “The Sacrament of Matrimony,” but uses the term *marriage* after that. You may want to share wedding pictures—yours or a friend’s. Remind your child that sacraments are signs instituted by Jesus that bring us grace. (For a definition of *grace*, turn to page 60 in the handbook.)

Read aloud the third paragraph and note that the couple administers this Sacrament to each other. The priest or deacon is present to receive their vows and bless their union.

Pope Francis has spoken often about the importance of the family. Read the last paragraph aloud. Write “domestic church” on a board or sheet of paper. Explain that *domestic* means “at home” and *church* means “an assembly to praise God.” A domestic church is a family who praises God not just by their words but by their loving actions.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture page 5.*

- **Our Catholic Faith • Marriage Reveals God’s Love (page 5)** If you haven’t already, talk about your child’s own experiences of being at a wedding—what your child saw and can remember. Have your child read the feature independently and look up the part of the Creation story that Jesus quotes in the Gospel (Genesis 2:18–24).
- **Catholic Faith Word • Fidelity (page 5)** Read the vocabulary word aloud. If you feel your child is ready, you may find that this is a good time to explain adultery to your child. Failure to remain faithful to a spouse is adultery. You may choose to compare this to someone who doesn’t keep a promise.

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • With Whom Do I Join Together? (pages 6–7)** Read aloud the introduction together. Have your child complete the webs of connections. Conclude by stressing how the bonds of love and friendship weave us into families and communities.
- **Saints • Saint Thomas More (page 8)** This cartoon feature provides your child with a glimpse of Church history. *Venture* introduces a number of saint cartoons this year.
- **Closing Prayer** Invite your child to mention family members to pray for. Lead your child in giving thanks for them. Provide a moment of silence for your child to think of a way to contribute to your family’s peace and happiness this week.



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](https://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday’s Scripture.