



Scripture Background

Jesus tells the Pharisees in Sunday's Gospel that from the beginning God made men and women not to be alone but to join together and form families. Human beings are social and are 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** Share about people who have been mentors for you, and invite your child to do the same. Say a brief prayer of thanks for these people and respond together: "Loving God, hear our prayer." Then invite your child to offer petitions for the needs of the world. After each petition, respond together: "Loving God, hear our prayer."
- Cover Activity • What Am I Like? (page 1)** Have your child choose a response in each box on the cover. Then read the information in the box at the bottom right together. Emphasize that each approach is valid and valuable.
- Article • Family Is Our First Church (page 2)** Share some things you love about your family and invite your child to do the same. Read the article on page 2, taking turns at each paragraph. Save the prayer practices (green box) and the Prayer for Families for your closing prayer.
- Discuss Talk questions 1 and 2 on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; a strength of the family in the photo, bottom left, is coming together with cousins and friends for a spring run. 2. Open-ended; go on date nights, do kind things for each other, show affection. Or, if you are divorced or separated, you might discuss the ways you show respect for your former spouse and other family members.*
- Interview • What Happens to a Family When Parents Divorce? (page 3)** Read the first paragraph to introduce the article. This may be a sensitive subject for your child if your family is going through a divorce. Read through this page together and listen to the feelings your child expresses about it.

Note: Your child may have received misinformation regarding the Church and divorce and annulments. You may choose to explain that an annulment is a declaration by the Catholic Church that, after careful investigation, flaws were discovered in the relationship that prevented it from becoming a sacramental marriage. An annulment does not erase the civil contract, and it does not render the children illegitimate. It merely states that, after thorough investigation, the Church has decided that a sacramental marriage was not valid.

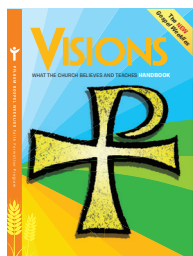
- Return to the Talk questions, 3 and 4.** *Answers: 3. Uncertainty about what will happen, dealing with parents' negative feelings about each other, splitting time between homes; open-ended. 4. Open-ended; listening to them, inviting them over, being there for them.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus' Ideal Is Lasting Love (page 4)** Explain that this Gospel provides an example of how church leaders will test Jesus and his teaching. These "stubborn" leaders want to trip up Jesus in legalities and technicalities. But Jesus remains focused on his message: men and women are created for relationships and lasting love, and children are favored in the Kingdom of God. Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading parts.



- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. God made human beings male and female, not only for the purpose of having children and populating the earth but so that they could form bonds of love and friendship. 2. Moses allowed divorce because of people's stubbornness. Jesus says that Genesis tells us that marriage makes men and women one body which must not be torn apart. 3. Jesus' ideal for men and women is lasting love.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • God Creates Us for Community (page 4)** Read aloud this summary of Sunday's Gospel theme and doctrinal emphasis on marriage and family.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Best: closeness, support, shared experiences, love. Hard: you know each other's faults, we aren't always on our best behavior with those closest to us! Open-ended. 2. Open-ended; your family sets aside this Visions time for your child to grow in faith, you might also share faith traditions and teach about prayer and Scripture in other ways. 3. Open-ended.*



- Open the What the Church Believes and Teaches handbook to page 26.** Have your child read the paragraph that begins at the bottom of the first column. Ask your child to find what action the sacrament makes visible, and identify the roles of the couple, the priest or deacon, the witnesses, and the guests. Read the last paragraph together and invite your child to explain why the Church thinks of the family as a domestic church.

Turn to page 25. Read the first paragraph of section 5, Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Conclude that we can *all* build up the Church.

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

- Our Catholic Faith • Jesus Values Marriage (page 5)** Begin this part of the lesson by looking at the photo and reading aloud the caption. **Ask:** Why does the Church value marriage? Read this feature aloud together and then have your child complete the list at bottom right.
- Catholic Faith Word • Sacrament (page 5)** Invite your child to read aloud the vocabulary word.

Live the Gospel

- Living the Gospel • Who Helps Us Become Who We Want to Be? (pages 6–7)** Read aloud the directions on the left column, page 6. Pause after each box to give your child time to fill in each symbol before moving on to the next.
- Attitudes • When was someone a good friend to you? (page 8)** Ask your child to respond to the Attitudes question and read the other responses to the question on page 8. Share about your own friendships and encourage your child to talk about the importance of friendships and other close relationships.
- Closing Prayer** Turn to page 2 and say the Prayer for Families together.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
 Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.