



Sunday Gospel Background

In the Beatitudes, Jesus gives us examples of how to live the Law of Love. To be poor in spirit, merciful, peacemaking, and even open to persecution makes us people of love. The Beatitudes don't replace the commandments; they fulfill them. Jesus tells us that if we adopt these attitudes, we will be blessed, the same word in Greek for happy. The Beatitudes are like a map that will lead us to real happiness. The saints are people who lived the Beatitudes and have received their reward in Heaven. Living the Beatitudes will help us get to Heaven too.

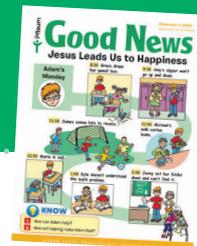
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Mention a few saints you know (include any saints important to your family, such as saints people were named for). For each saint, say, "Saint _____," and lead your child in the response: "Pray for us." Finish the prayer by saying, "Dear saints in heaven, be with us as we learn about Jesus today. Amen."
- Story • Adam's Monday (page 1)** Take turns reading each panel of the story. Discuss the *Know* questions related to the story. Taking one panel at a time, talk about what is happening, and what Adam can do to help. For the second question, look for ways to get your child to expand on any one-word answers by asking questions such as, How would it make Adam happy? How would you feel in this situation?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • God Blesses Us (page 2)** Invite your child to read the part of Jesus. Both of you can speak the part of All. After you've finished, **ask:** Who did Jesus say that God blesses? Then invite your child to name some people who fit the groups God blesses. **Say:** God blesses _____. (Repeat the name of each person your child mentions.)
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** Use the sentences from the Gospel reading to help with answers. For example, you might point to the sentence, "God blesses people who want things to be fair for everyone." Ask your child about a recent experience of being fair to others.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 2) Jesus' Map to Heaven.** Talk about how you use maps to get where you want to go. Read the paragraph and talk about how the Beatitudes show us how to get where we want to go—Heaven.
- Catholic Faith Word • Beatitudes (page 2)** Read this definition aloud. Refer back to the Gospel reading to help make the connection that Jesus taught the Beatitudes in Sunday's Gospel. Living the Beatitudes will help us keep all of God's commandments. **Ask:** Do you remember in last week's Gospel how Jesus criticized the Pharisees? Why did he do that? *They may have looked like they were following God by obeying all God's Laws, but they did not always let God into their hearts.* We have to let God into our hearts if we want to follow the Beatitudes. Letting God into our hearts will affect our thoughts and attitudes—not just our words and actions.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 13. Read the page aloud together. Explain that All Saints' Day (November 1) is a day for celebrating all the saints in Heaven. **Ask:** Who do you know of who might be a saint in Heaven? *Grandparents, relatives, people from the parish or neighborhood who have died.* Repeat the names of the Beatitude people your child mentioned after the Gospel. **Ask:** Can these people become saints? *Yes.* Explain that the Church has a special name for all people who love God—those who are already saints in Heaven, those who have died and are on their way to Heaven, and those still living on earth. This name is Communion of Saints. Show that the word *communion* is similar to “community.”

Turn to page 40. Read aloud the two paragraphs in the second column. Then print the word Saint on a piece of drawing paper and have your child write their name next to it. Invite your child to draw a picture of himself or herself acting in a way that shows love for God. Display your child's picture in your home.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 3.

- **Activity • Saints Are God's Happy Helpers (Good News page 3)** Invite your child to read aloud the title. Look at the names and pictures together. Then read each short biography aloud as your child follows along. Point out that Henriette Delille is on her way to becoming an official saint of the Church. The title Venerable means “deserving honor and respect.” If you have access to saint stories or materials, invite your child to read about other saints.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Playground Lessons (page 4)** Explain that Sunday's Gospel of the Beatitudes is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5–7 of Matthew's Gospel. This game includes many of Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount. Play the game with your child using game markers (paper clips, beads, small blocks or other small items). At each turn, each player simply moves to a yellow space. The challenge is for each player to come up with a different solution to the problem.
- **Closing Prayer** “Jesus, you call us to follow you. We want to be saints in Heaven someday. Help us to love you and one another. Amen.”



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