

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:** "Loving God, we thank you for people who teach about you and show us how to follow you. Help us all to become saints someday. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Meeting the Saints (page 1)** Read aloud the sentence about Francis. Invite your child to share what is happening in the picture. Explain that the angry man is Francis' father. Francis gave all his rich clothes back to his father, so he could live like Jesus—a poor man who cared about everyone. Read aloud the two sentences about Father Damien. Explain that the sickness these people had is called leprosy. People with leprosy had to live apart from everyone else. Father Damien cared for the people and later died of the disease.

Now have your child look at the bottom picture. Explain that the woman in blue is Saint Perpetua. She went to jail because she followed Jesus. Her parents and maid are worried about her. Read aloud the sentences about her.

- Activity • Saints Help One Another (pages 1-2)** Have your child to turn to page 2. Point out how to make the three horizontal cuts. Make sure your child cuts only to the dotted line.

Have your child turn *Promise* over so the cover is faceup. Demonstrate how to fold the first picture row. Read aloud the sentences about Saint Clare. If needed, help your child fold over the second picture row to show Saint Marianne. Read aloud the sentence about her.

Have your child fold over the bottom picture row. Read aloud the sentences about Saint Felicity. When Saints Perpetua and Felicity were martyred (killed because of their faith), their parents took care of the children.

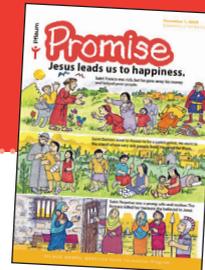
Read and share the stories together. Encourage your child to point out how the saints helped other people and one another.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

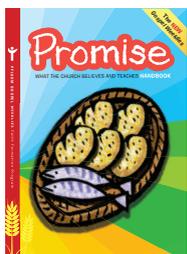
- Sunday Gospel • God Blesses Us** Invite your child to look again at the saints on pages 1-2. **Ask:** What helped them to be happy? *Knowing that God and Jesus love them. The love of other people made them happy too.* **Say:** Listen to what Jesus says in the Gospel about people God blesses with happiness:

Jesus told his followers: "God blesses people who trust him. God blesses people who are sad when someone dies. God blesses people who know that everything they have is a gift from God. God blesses people who want things to be fair for everyone. God blesses people who are kind and forgiving. God

blesses people whose hearts are clean. God blesses people who make peace. God blesses people who are treated badly for doing the right thing. God will bless my followers if people are not kind to them. Heaven will be your reward!"



- **Word of the Week • Beatitudes (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: The **Beatitudes** are Jesus' list of attitudes and actions that will help his followers find real happiness. Explain that God wants all people to be happy. The Beatitudes that Jesus shared in the Gospel are our path to happiness.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 24. If you have one, place a statue or picture of Mary in your learning space, along with some real or artificial flowers. (Or have your child draw flowers.) Read aloud or summarize the first three paragraphs on page 24. Emphasize that the saints in Heaven are happy. Jesus wants us to be happy forever in Heaven someday too. **Ask:** What did Jesus teach will help us get to Heaven? *The Beatitudes*. **Read** aloud the activity directions and give your child time to find the answer: **SAINTS**.

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

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Our Father Booklet (Promise pages 3-4)** Explain that you will be making a prayer booklet of the Our Father together. Have your child make the horizontal cut on the solid black line on page 3. If needed, help with folding the top piece on the dotted line so the words Our Father are on the top. Have your child fold the bottom piece so the foods are inside. Then have your child slip the pages together. Use page numbers to make sure the prayer follows in sequence. Go through the booklet together, discussing the words and pictures. Give your child time to complete the activity on booklet page 7. Emphasize that this is the prayer Jesus taught all of his followers to pray. It is the prayer of God's family—in Heaven and on earth. Encourage your child to practice this prayer every day.
- **Closing Prayer** Read the Eucharist quote together on page 2. Then Pray the Our Father together with gestures. Have your child follow your words and actions:

Our Father... (stretch out and slightly raise arms)

Thy kingdom... (make circle with arms in front)

As it is in heaven... (stretch out arms wide)

Give us this day... (stretch out hands to receive)

Forgive us... (shake hands with each other)

Lead us not... (cross hands on chest)

But deliver us... (fold hands in prayer)

Amen! (lift arms high)



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