

## 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** "Jesus, we are celebrating the feast day of all your saints. We want to be saints, too. We want to be your friends and live with you forever. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Jesus' friends are happy. (page 1)** Explain that the Catholic Church calls people saints who: are not alive, are known for their goodness to others, and loved God with their whole hearts. Invite your child to listen as you tell stories about these saints.

Saint Patrick is the man who is teaching little children. His hat and cross show that he was a bishop. When Patrick was a child, he was a shepherd just like the children he is talking to. When he grew up and became a follower of Jesus, he taught the families in Ireland about Jesus. We celebrate his feast day on March 17.

**Ask:** Do you think teaching people about God and Jesus made Saint Patrick happy? Who do you know who teaches about God?

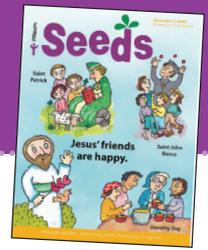
The woman who is handing out bowls of soup to people is Dorothy Day. She lived in New York City and helped poor people who needed a place to stay and food to eat. Dorothy is not an official saint yet. The American bishops are telling Pope Francis all the good things she has done.

**Ask:** Do you think feeding poor people made Dorothy happy? Who do you know who works for poor people?

Do you think a saint can juggle balls? Saint John Bosco did it all the time. He knew that poor boys might think a priest would not like them or want to teach them. Saint John learned to juggle and do magic tricks to help the boys feel comfortable with him. Then he got them to come to the schools he started and learn things that helped them.

**Ask:** Do you think helping poor boys go to school makes Saint John Bosco happy? Who do you know who likes to help children?

- Word of the Week • saint (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. You can also write it on a white board if you have one. Share this definition: A **saint** is a person who lived like Jesus and is now in Heaven.



## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- **Sunday Gospel • Jesus' love is for everyone.** Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us how we can be blessed. This important message is known as the Beatitudes. Another word for beatitude is "happiness."

Jesus was on a mountain teaching his disciples and a big crowd saying:

"Blessed are they who are sad, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are they who are kind and forgive others, for they will be treated with kindness.

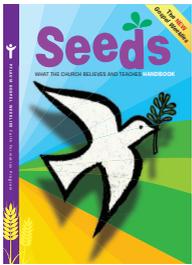
Blessed are they who have clean hearts, for they will see God.

Blessed are they who make peace, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are treated badly for doing right, for they belong to the kingdom of heaven.

God will bless you when they call you names and tell lies about you because of me. Be happy! You will have a big reward in Heaven."

**Ask:** What made the saints happy? *Doing good for others.* What are some ways we can be happy too?



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 8. Read aloud the page and look at the illustrations together. Explain:
  - The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to ask Mary to become the mother of Jesus.
  - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton helped train women to teach in Catholic schools.
  - Saint Francis of Assisi praised God for Creation. He liked animals, birds, flowers, trees, the sun, and the stars.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Seeds, pages 2–3.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Who welcomes me? (Seeds pages 2–3)** Have your child open *Seeds* to pages 2–3. Explain that the two children at the top left are friends who are coming to the park. Have your child trace with a finger the path that the children might take. At each place, stop and **ask:** Who will welcome the children? What will they do together? When your child has finished the activity, **ask:** When have you been welcomed at the playground, at a birthday party, etc.? How did that feel? Invite your child to draw your family into the picture. Where would each member of your family be?
- **Closing Prayer • Jesus' followers pray the Sign of the Cross. (page 4)** Explain that you will be making the Sign of the Cross. Stand or sit next to your child so your left-to-right hand motions can be copied. Say each line aloud as you make the Sign of the Cross and invite your child to repeat the words and copy your motions. Practice a few times. Then look at page 4 together. Give your child crayons and point to the number one. Direct your child to draw a line starting on the number one and going to number two, then number three, etc. Together, make the Sign of the Cross again.



## 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