



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.

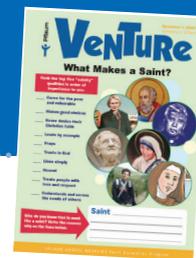
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Pray the Hail Mary together. Pause afterward to reflect on the line “blessed are you among women.” **Ask:** How was Mary blessed? *She was favored by God to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus. She was blessed—even though she watched her son suffer and die. Blessings aren't always positive, like presents. They are promises of future things.*
- Cover Activity • What Makes a Saint? (page 1)** Look at the pictures on the cover together. Explain that some of the people are saints, people recognized by the Church as living exemplary lives. Others are in the process of being considered for sainthood. Top right: Dorothy Day, John the Apostle, Father Rutilio Grande; middle: Saint John Henry Newman, Saint Teresa of Kolkata; bottom: Blessed Carlo Acutis, Saint Clare of Assisi. From the list, ask your child to choose the five most important characteristics of saints. Invite your child to use these five to help complete the writing prompt.
- Story • Blessed Are the Poor (pages 2-3)** Explain that blessings are gifts, but they don't always appear that way. Read the story together, alternating the reading at each paragraph.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** **Answers:** 1. *Many people make it a priority to give back to the community through acts of service. Max's dad wants him to share in this monthly experience—to see people who live in poverty and to know the reward of sharing time with others. He wants to model a service mindset.* 2. *Meeting Mike puts a face on poverty. They are not just “homeless people” to Max anymore. He likes Mike and by knowing his story, Max is concerned about what happens to him.* 3. *Open-ended; there are many ways we can help: donating food, volunteering at shelters, writing to legislators to build awareness, etc. We may help people who are sad by listening, offering advice, directing them to those who can help.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

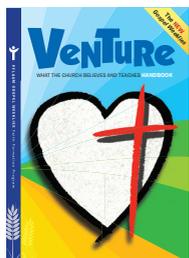
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by reading it aloud together. You might read the Narrator part and take turns reading the Jesus parts. Or, invite any available family members to join the reading. Remind your child that each Jesus part is important and needs to be read carefully. Each is a gift from God.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** You might substitute “home” for classroom. **Answers:** 1. *Open-ended. Encourage your child to think of things that can be done around the house—more kindness, positivity, cooperation, etc.* 2. *Open-ended; find out about ways to help through your parish or local community.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Beatitudes (page 5)** Have your child read aloud the definition.



Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • The Beatitudes Are God's Promises (page 4)

Read aloud this summary of Sunday's Gospel concepts. Those who do not appear to be favored in this life are the very people whom God blesses.

- Discuss the *Think* questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; remind your child that prayer and Scripture are both good ways to find hope. 2. Open-ended; share what I have with others, try to remain positive and see the blessings in hard situations; offer prayers of thanks and praise.*



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 36.** Take turns reading The Beatitudes section aloud. You may choose to substitute the word happy for the word blessed. Beatitude means a state of utmost bliss, that which we may expect to experience in Heaven. Explain that many people find these readings confusing at first—how can poor people and sad people be happy? The Gospel writers Matthew and Luke wanted the beatitudes to confound us and make us question. By now your child may be able to give examples of how it's possible to be happy by being merciful or by hungering and thirsting for righteousness, which is doing God's will.

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

Our Catholic Faith • Why Do Catholics Pray with the Communion of Saints? (page 5)

Take turns reading the text aloud. If you have access to a Bible, have your child find the passage in Revelation. Invite your child to share questions about life and death with you. Listen and explain what you know, but don't worry if you do not have answers. These questions can be difficult. You may wish to contact your parish priest or a Catholic grief counselor for insight and help. Invite your child to add a special saint to the illustration at the bottom of the page. It does not have to be someone who has died. It could even be the person your child noted on the cover.

Live the Gospel

- Living the Gospel • Who Are Called to Be Saints? (pages 6-7)** Read aloud the introductory paragraphs, and then give your child time to work through steps 1–5. Offer help if needed to complete the steps. Pray the prayer of praise called the *Te Deum* (pronounced tay-DAY-oom) together to conclude this activity.
- Activity • We Belong to the Communion of Saints (page 8)** Read the introductory paragraphs. Invite your child to think of a friend or family member who has died. Have your child write the loved one's name in the large box. Then have your child draw four symbols of this person, as noted in the instructions.
- Closing Prayer • We Belong to the Communion of Saints (page 8)** Attend Mass during one of the holy days this week. At Mass on All Saints' Day, we hear the Litany of Saints. In this prayer, a reader or cantor repeats "Saint _____, pray for us." Pray your own litany using names of saints you know and add the name of the person your child has chosen. Conclude by saying together, "All holy men and women, pray for us. 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