

Sunday Gospel Background

Children are sometimes fearful about standing out. They may need to be reminded that the gifts God gives each of us are intended to be used for the good of all. In this Sunday's Gospel, the master entrusts large sums of money to three servants. Two use the money to make more, and one gives into his fear and hides it. Here is an opportunity to explore and affirm your child's gifts and talents, and help your child discover ways to share these gifts with others.

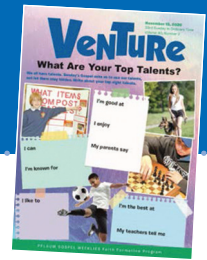
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Share concerns you would like to pray for. After each one, respond together: "Loving God, hear our prayer." Then say the Our Father together.
- Cover Activity • What Are Your Top Talents? (page 1)** Encourage your child to write responses. If your child has no idea where to begin, talk about recent activities and **ask**: how did you feel when you were doing that? Remind your child that even seemingly small talents are important.
- Story • The Girl Who Always Tried (pages 2-3)** Read the narration parts of the story aloud and have your child read the speaking parts.
- Turn to the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; Gina likes to participate, be part of things. She's looking for something at which she will excel and enjoy. 2. Gina has a positive outlook. When she doesn't make the team, she still cheers them on. When she doesn't get a part in the play, she joins the prop crew. She looks for the next opportunity to help and be part of something. 3. Gina seems confident and self-assured. She is a leader; she also faithfully attends Mass, so she will be reliable and familiar with the Order of Mass. 4. Give your child time to think about this question. Revisit your discussion from the cover activity if needed.*

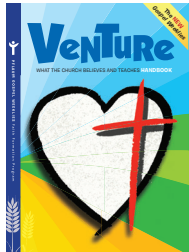
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • The Servant Who Did Not Use a Talent (page 4)** Explain that when this Gospel was written, people would have known a talent as a large sum of money equivalent to what workers might make in their entire lifetime. (A talent-weight is a measure of gold or silver.) Today, we understand talent to mean something we are good at. Both definitions apply to our understanding of this Gospel, which is about the necessity of a personal response to Jesus. The third servant is punished for not making an effort, for living in fear and choosing inaction out of fear of getting it wrong. Proclaim the Gospel together by dividing the parts of Narrator, Jesus, the three servants, and Master between you and your child. Invite other family members to take parts if they are available.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. The master gives talents based on what he knows about each servant; he gives them what he trusts they can handle. 2. The master is a hard man, and the third servant is afraid to take a risk with his money. The master is angry, takes the money back and gives it to the first servant; then he throws the third servant out of his household. 3. In the Parable of the Wedding Feast, the guest who was not wearing proper wedding clothing was cast out of the celebration into the darkness. Those who do not believe risk not being able to share in eternal life with God. 4. She is like the servants who take a risk and double their money. Gina could have stayed quiet, not risked trying out for a team or for the play, but she persisted until she found a place to contribute her talents.*



□ Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • God Gives Everyone Talents (page 4)

Read aloud to further your child's understanding of talents. Then discuss the second set of *Think* questions.



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 51. Together, read the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Ask which of these themes fits today's lesson. Gina in the story wants to be part of something—a softball team, drama group, church community. She represents our need to belong and to contribute. *Call to family, community, and participation.*

Going theme by theme, ask how your child might use God's gifts to support Catholic social teaching. Conclude by talking about people you know who act on Catholic social teaching at your school, parish, or neighborhood.

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Kingdom of God (page 5)** Have your child read aloud the definition at the bottom of page 5. Point out that this Sunday's Gospel is a parable about the Kingdom of God.

- **Our Catholic Faith • How Do We Prepare for Jesus' Return? (page 5)** The Book of Proverbs is a practical handbook compiled by members of the king's household that reflects the conventional wisdom of the time. Explain that people who show "fear of the Lord" show proper respect, awe, and reverence to God. People who fear God are not afraid; rather, they turn away from sin, avoiding anything that might lead to sin.

Have your child read the Proverbs passage and article silently, following the text directions. **Answers:** *Circle:* brings good fortune, fears God; *Box:* reaches out, gives help, fears God; *Underline:* spins thread, helps the poor and needy. Invite your child to complete the right column. Affirm your child's responses.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Do You Have a Talent to Make Things Better? (pages 6-7)** Adjust the activity for home use by briefly reviewing each scenario and choosing one or two to talk about. Ask if your child can remember similar experiences and what happened. Conclude by pointing out that doing nothing in a situation is equivalent to burying your talent, the solution Jesus didn't think much of in this Sunday's Gospel.
- **Saints • Saint Roque González (page 8)** Read about Saint Roque González, whose feast the Church celebrates on November 16.
- **Concluding Prayer** Say: Lord God, I thank you for my amazing child [name]. Thank you for giving [name] some special talents and abilities, especially [name some of your child's talents and abilities]. Help [your child's name] praise you by sharing these talents with others in your name. 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