

Sunday Gospel Background

This Sunday's Gospel can be a little scary. The goats wind up in eternal punishment, reminding us of the reality of Hell. But this Gospel, which builds on last Sunday's Gospel message, also reminds us of the need to be grateful for the gifts we've been given, and how we need to share them with those most in need. While visiting prisoners and hospitals may not be practical or possible, when we offer gifts of food, water, clothing, companionship or friendship, we are following the most important message of Jesus' life—love of neighbor.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, thank you for ____." Finish the sentence and invite your child to do the same. Finish by praying: "Loving God, may we always keep thankful hearts and speak grateful words. Amen."
- Cover Activity • What Do You Do for Others? (page 1)** Our Catholic Liturgical Year culminates with this Sunday's celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The Gospel is about the Works of Mercy. Those to be judged at the end of time realize that whenever they encountered someone who was hungry, thirsty, homeless, and alone, they met Jesus. Have your child work on the questions in the thought bubbles. Offer help if needed to jog your child's memory about these experiences.
- Article • Doing the Works of Mercy (pages 2-3)** Read the first two paragraphs aloud, then have your child finish reading the story silently. Ask your child to choose three activities that are most meaningful to talk about.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; they identified ways they could help as well as how they most enjoyed serving. Emphasize that everyone can help, regardless of age or ability. 2. It's more fun to do the works together, but it's also safer to go in groups and with a trusted adult. 3-4. Use these questions to think about and plan ways your family can safely serve others during the pandemic.*

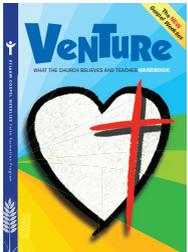
Read aloud the text in the light-blue box on page 3. Remind your child that Advent begins next week. Advent offers everyone opportunities to share with others.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Come! You Have My Father's Blessing (pages 4-5)** Explain that this Gospel reading is not exactly the one you will hear on Sunday. *Venture* has added parts to create a choral reading. Take turns reading the parts of Narrator, Jesus 1-3, and Children 1-12. Then read the Chorus parts together.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 5.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended. They are helping God's people, but they do not have Jesus' face. People who act with a sincere desire to help others don't look for reward. 2. Open-ended; they may have shared extra food or clothing, or shopped and prepared food. 3. Open-ended; teachers, coaches, other adult mentors and helpers may step in when needed. 4. Open-ended. Ideas: donating outgrown or unused clothing; contributing to or leading food drives at your school or parish. 5. Jesus is aware of everyone in his community—those who are in need, those who help others, and those who fail to help, whether they are unaware of others' needs or choose to ignore them. He is a fair and just leader.*



- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Teaches Us How to Treat One Another (page 4)** This section summarizes the message of the Gospel. When we treat others with kindness and mercy, we show our love for God. If you love God, you love his people.
- **Discuss the second set of Think questions on page 4. Answers:** 1. *Open-ended. As followers of Jesus, we have no other choice but to care for each other. Remind your child that Jesus commands us to love one another out of our love for God the Father.* 2. *Brainstorm ideas together. Encourage your child to seek opportunities to show loving kindness this week.*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 50.** Find the list of Corporal Works of Mercy. Explain that these are acts of love for people who need food, shelter, water—things our bodies need to survive and thrive. These are the works we heard in the Sunday Gospel.

Move to the section on the Spiritual Works of Mercy and take turns reading each one aloud. Share examples of how people do spiritual Works of Mercy for each other. This list does not come directly from Jesus, but it has been taught by the Church for many years.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • When did we help you, Lord? (page 5)** Look at the photos and read the captions together to emphasize this Sunday's Gospel and related doctrine.
- **Catholic Faith Word • Parousia (page 5)** Read the definition aloud. Explain that we are nearing the end of the Liturgical Year in the Church; similarly, our Gospel readings discuss Jesus' coming again at the end of time.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • The Works of Mercy Game (pages 6-7)** This activity provides an opportunity to reflect on these practices in a game format. Your child can talk about them, remember them, and, with guidance, practice them. (Before playing the game with your family, make sure everyone is familiar with the Corporal Works of Mercy, as explained in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*.)

Read the directions aloud together. Have your child modify the game board by drawing specific ways to practice a Work of Mercy in the building shapes. Invite your child to look at the two photos on page 6. Read aloud the captions and decide which of the Works of Mercy they fulfill. *The Pope visits the imprisoned and cares for the poor; Ryan gives drink to the thirsty.*

- **Closing Prayer • Jesus Calls Us to Be Servant Leaders (page 8)** Read this feature about the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Note that this Sunday's Scriptures compare Jesus to a shepherd. Ask your child to describe how a shepherd leads. *With confidence and kindness.* This is our model of servant leadership. Then share this prayer service together; be sure to let your child take the lead!



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