

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.

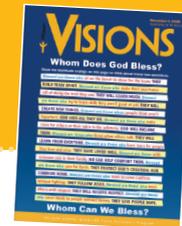
Share Experiences

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

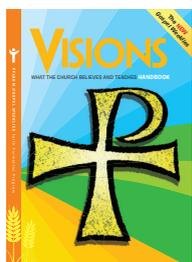
- Pray Together** Spend a moment or two in silence together, picturing someone who sets a positive example through their life. Share the first name of this person aloud and invite your child to do the same. Then pray: "God, help us to make good choices. Let us follow the examples of the saints who have gone before us and the blessed living saints among us, such as ___ (name the people you mentioned). Amen."
- Cover Activity • Whom Does God Bless? Whom Can We Bless? (page 1)** Read these modern beatitudes silently together. Share names of people you know who have demonstrated any of these beatitudes and talk about what they do to live them.
- Story • Room 111 (pages 2-3)** Keeping the questions from the cover activity in mind, read this week's story. Talk about times either of you may have become bogged down in the daily problems of life and became focused on the negative.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3. Answers:** 1. He expected his afternoon to be like the rest of his day—lousy. Mr. Eubanks' cheerful attitude and outlook helped Jayden turn his mood around. 2. Open-ended; he is influenced positively by Miss Suzanne and Mr. Eubanks. He has a negative mindset about his remaining service. 3. Open-ended; emphasize that this story does not discount depression or other mental illnesses that require more than an attitude adjustment. Friends, prayer, talking can all help us through. 4. Open-ended; most people find that service ends up being beneficial for the giver as well as the receiver. In this story, however, it is also a surprise that the intended receiver, Mr. Eubanks, also has something to give.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes (page 4)** In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the Beatitudes, part of the key teachings from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Proclaim the Gospel by reading it aloud together. You might read the part of the Narrator and then take turns reading Jesus 1-8.
- Respond to the Talk questions. Answers:** 1. Open-ended. It depends on the definition of blessed that one uses. Worldly blessings may include popularity and wealth. Being blessed by God means the promise of eternal happiness in Heaven. 2. Jesus includes people who suffer, who are misunderstood, those who stand up for people who are oppressed, peacemakers, and those who are merciful. 3. He promises justice, power, mercy, comfort, and peace. 4. Open-ended; invite your child to look back at the Gospel and think about people who might be included in one of these groups.
- Catholic Faith Word • Beatitudes (page 5)** Ask your child to read aloud this detailed definition to reinforce this Sunday's Gospel message.



- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus' Beatitudes Give Us Hope (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine that reinforces this Sunday's Gospel message. The Beatitudes, at first glance, appear to be a paradox—something that appears to contradict itself. Talk about how a hard thing (like poverty or social rejection) can be a blessing.
- **Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; it can be hopeful simply to know that others have hardships. The knowledge of God's constancy and love also can give us hope. Provide examples of hopeful Scripture, such as "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). 2. Open-ended. We often want blessings now; Jesus tells us that we can look forward to blessings, despite what may be happening in our lives now.*
- **Our Catholic Faith • We Celebrate the Communion of Saints (page 5)** Read the headline together. Remind your child that we profess that we believe in the Communion of Saints in the Creed at Sunday Mass. Then take turns reading the page together. Pause at the blue text and give your child time to write the names of loved ones who have died. Point out the photo, lower left, and read aloud the caption. **Ask:** If we were to have a family altar like this, what *ofrendas* would you like to include?



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 35 and read aloud the Beatitudes again—this time only reading the first words of each one. By now, your child might be able to give examples of how a merciful person is happy, or of people who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Take turns reading page 36 aloud. This section explains the significance of the Beatitudes in Jesus' teaching. It may at first seem like repetition of what your child has already learned, but it's important to apply the Beatitudes to our lives.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Visions, page 6.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Beatitudes Tell Us God Blesses Us All (Visions page 6)** **Ask:** Can you see another word inside of beatitude? *Attitude.* Our attitudes toward the things that happen to us—both good and bad—will determine whether these events will become blessings in our lives or burdens. Give your child time to write some personal "be-attitudes" in the spaces. Refer to the cover for ideas and inspiration if needed.
- **Activity • Saints Live the Beatitudes (page 7)** Your child can work independently or with you to read and match the biographies on the left with the beatitude that best describes each saint on the right. *Answers: Saint Jeanne Jugan of France, A; Saint Francis of Assisi, G; Saint Faustina, E; Saint Joseph, C; Saint Mary Magdalene, B; Saint Toribio Alfonso de Mogrovejo, D; Mary, the Mother of Jesus, F; Saint Catherine of Alexandria, H.*
- **Closing Prayer • We Belong to the Communion of Saints (page 8)** Invite your child to use markers, colored pencils, or crayons to complete the square. If your child is open to the idea and there are additional people you would like to pray for, cut out squares of paper and make additional quilt squares. Attend Mass as a family during one of the holy days this week. On All Saints' Day, we hear the Litany of Saints. Pray your own litany using the names of the person or people your child has chosen for the square. Conclude by saying together, "All you holy men and women, pray for us."



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