

Sunday Gospel Background

Young people are sometimes fearful about standing out. Your child 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 the three servants. Two use the money to make more, and one gives into his fear and hides it. Throughout the week, talk about God's gifts and how your child uses them. Your child may still be exploring what these gifts might be. As the end of the Liturgical Year approaches, we need to instill the sense that gifts are meant to be shared—to help others—until Our Lord comes again.

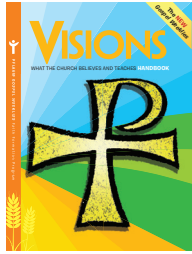
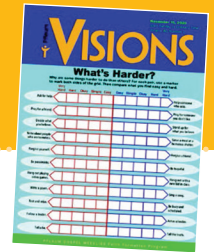
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Mention one of your child's talents and invite your child to reflect on it for a moment. Then **pray**: Loving God, you have given everyone in our family many talents and gifts. Help us celebrate our differences and what we have in common: our love for you. Help us recognize our talents and encourage them in each other. Amen.
- Cover Activity • What's Harder? (page 1)** Go through the chart with your child and share a few of the things that are harder and easier for you, and why. You might talk about why it's often harder for adults to ask for help than it is to give help. **Ask**: What's the hardest thing for you to do on this chart? The easiest?
- Story • A Hard Act to Follow (pages 2–3)** Invite your child to read the story silently. Or read the story aloud together, switching at each paragraph.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Praise for her athletic ability pushes Maddie to do better; she may want to compete with Connor or make her parents proud. 2. Open-ended. 3. Doing well in sports made Maddie feel capable and good in a way that carries over into her classes. 4. The family values academics and doesn't know how important sports are to Maddie. 5. Open-ended.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • The Parable of the Talents (page 4)** Remind your child that developing talents takes practice, hard work, and even courage. Proclaim the Gospel by dividing and reading the various parts between you. Use facial expressions, gestures, tones of voice, and movements and encourage your child to do the same.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. The owner must have thought the servant could handle the responsibility. Instead, the servant is so paralyzed by fear that he takes no risks and doesn't even earn interest on the money at a bank. The owner is frustrated. On the other hand, does it matter how the other servants doubled their money? The parable says the owner reaps what he doesn't plant. Does the owner expect the servants to take the harvests and the land of the poor? The point is that the third servant doesn't try. 2. The owner might have been just as angry and aggressive, but he might have praised the servant for at least trying. 3. Open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Each Person Is of Great Worth (page 4)** Encourage your child to share about someone who uses the gifts of compassion, kindness, understanding, and forgiveness. Then discuss the Talk questions. *Answers: 1. Work gives life meaning and purpose; fairly compensated workers can provide for their needs and the needs of their family. 2. Open-ended.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 51. Explain that the seven themes of Catholic social teaching dictate how we live our lives, use our resources, and treat other people. Read aloud the fifth theme, which addresses the dignity of work. Repeat the rights of workers and mention the story “Minimum Wage, Living Wage, Just Wage” which you read four weeks ago. **Ask:** What do you remember about Father John Ryan’s work to protect workers?

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Work Helps Human Beings Grow, Create, and Thrive (page 5)** Have your child read the feature silently, then choose one or two of the five questions to respond to. Your child can write or say a response. Listen carefully to what your child says here. **Ask:** How do you think God calls you to involve your whole self—body, mind, and spirit—in the work you do?

Live the Gospel

- **Catholic Faith Word • Sacraments at the Service of Communion (page 7)** Begin by calling attention to the highlighted definition to introduce the reading.
- **Living the Gospel • The Bible Describes an Ideal Wife (page 6)** Read aloud the introduction at the beginning of page 6. Take turns reading aloud *An Ideal Wife in Ancient Israel*, which is based on this Sunday’s First Reading. Talk about your responses to the three questions together.
- **Activity • What Is an Ideal Man? An Ideal Woman? (page 7)** Read aloud the directions. Instead of small groups, you can do this together or have your child work independently. Talk through the *Discussion* questions together. Instead of tallying responses for question 3, you might simply compare your responses to your child’s. For question 4, you might instead **ask:** Are you surprised by any of your own responses about abilities you value?
- **World Church • The Church Celebrates the World Day of the Poor (page 8)** Explain that popes regularly dedicate special feast days or even entire years to issues or groups they find especially important. Have your child read this feature silently or take turns reading it aloud together. Then call your child’s attention to the three suggestions at the bottom of the page. **Ask:** How can we, as a family, answer Pope Francis’ call to have “real encounters” with people who are poor?
- **Closing Prayer** Ask your child to reflect on what this familiar phrase means: “Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” **Ask:** What have you learned about what you can and should do on earth, especially as it applies to workers and people who are poor? Then pray the Lord’s Prayer together.



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