



## 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.

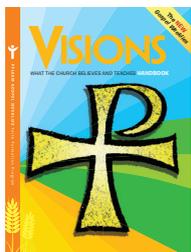
- Pray together** Sit together quietly. Breathe in and out deeply three times, and invite your child to do the same. Spend a minute in silence. Invite your child to visualize what your family's Thanksgiving celebration may look like this week. Think of a person, event, or thing for which you are thankful and ask your child to do the same. Share your responses aloud if you want. Say a brief prayer of thanks. It can be as simple as, "Thank you, God, for these blessings. Amen."
- Article • Lord, When Did I See You? (pages 1-3, 5)** Read the article together, section by section. Start with **Feed the Hungry** (cover, left column). Then move to **Bury the Dead** (also on the cover). Turn to pages 2-3 and 5. Have your child read the remaining examples silently. Ask your child which of the examples stood out the most. **Ask:** What interested you about it? Can you visualize yourself becoming a part of one of these organizations, or starting something of your own? Encourage your child to look more deeply into any of these organizations that are of particular interest.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1-2. Open-ended. 3. This is a question that we can ask of ourselves all our lives. To prompt discussion, share examples from your own life when you might have felt proud to be judged by this standard, as well as a time when you may have fallen short.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches the Works of Mercy (pages 4-5)** Proclaim the Gospel parable by dividing and reading the parts of the Leader, Narrator, and Jesus.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 5.** *Answers: 1. Refer back to the Gospel reading to list the Corporal Works of Mercy. You can also look at the list on page 51 in the What the Church Believes and Teaches handbook. 2. Perhaps they are acting out of such a strong habit of compassion that has become part of their character; they don't realize that they are doing extraordinary acts of service—let alone that they are doing them for Jesus. 3. The least are the most excluded and Jesus includes everyone. 4-5. Open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Values Service to Others (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. When we fail as a society to take care of Creation—by improperly using its resources—we harm the least among us. For example, pollution most often affects people living in developing nations (e.g., it harms crops or causes catastrophic weather disasters). When we care for Creation, we only use what we need and we use it well out of respect for God and our neighbor. 2. Open-ended.*



- **Catholic Faith Word • Mercy (page 5)** Read aloud this week's definition. **Ask:** How can we be active in showing mercy to others this week?



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 51, and read aloud the list of Corporal Works of Mercy. **Ask:** What are human beings' basic needs? *Food, clothing, drink, shelter.* Move to the list of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Read them aloud and discuss what each one means. **Ask:** Which of these works is something you can picture yourself doing? Explain that "counsel the ignorant" does not refer to intelligence. Rather, it's a call to learn about God and share your faith with others.

Next, turn to page 40, and read aloud the section on prayers of thanksgiving. Pause to offer a silent prayer of thanks and invite your child to do the same.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Catholic Social Teaching Helps Us Live the Works of Mercy (page 6)** Read aloud the principles of Catholic social teaching and the suggestions for accompanying activities. Use these suggestions and the short articles on pages 1–3 and 5 to decide on a Work of Mercy your family can do together.

## Live the Gospel

- **World Church • People Are People, Not Things (page 5)** Read this feature to provide some background on Catholic social teaching. Recall Father John Ryan and his support for fair wages for workers; the Church has a long history of supporting the rights of workers and the poor.
- **Living the Gospel • You Can Make the Difference (pages 7-8)** Read aloud the instructions on the top of pages 7 and 8. This game works just as well with two players as it does with small groups, so play the game with your child. Invite your child to be the scorekeeper. After playing the game, talk about what each of you have learned about the Works of Mercy.
- **Closing Prayer** Share a short prayer of thanksgiving, and invite your child to do the same. (You can refer back to page 40 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* if you want.)



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](https://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture