



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is driven into the desert by the Holy Spirit. Jesus encounters the Devil's temptations as well as the comfort of his Father's angels. From this desert experience, Jesus goes out to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God. The forty days of Lent invite us to grow as Christians and show our belief in God's promises. God promises to be with us, protect us, strengthen us, forgive us, love us, and share life in Heaven with us. Look for ways this week to point out how your family trusts and shows your belief in one another.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, help us to use the time of Lent to grow closer to you and one another. Give us hearts that love the poor and help us make sacrifices that will help them. We want to love you and your people better. Amen."
- Article • A Man of Faith and Courage (page 2)** Skip to page 2 and read the title together. Ask if your child can guess who the man in the picture might be and why he is pictured with a lion. The man is Saint Mark, who wrote down the stories about Jesus that have been in our *Good News* lessons for the last five weeks. Remind your child about the little booklet you made about Mark's Gospel two weeks ago. Mark is the first person to write a Gospel. Matthew, Luke, and John wrote their Gospels ten or more years after Mark. Read the page aloud together.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the article.** 1. Mark traveled with Paul and heard his stories about Jesus. He also learned about Jesus from the stories people told at the Sunday gatherings. 2. Mark wrote his friends when they were hiding and trying to keep safe during the war. Mark tells us God raised Jesus to new life and would raise up Jesus' followers too. Conclude by share a story about how Jesus that helps you when you are afraid or worried. Invite your child to do the same.
- Bible Story • God Makes a Covenant with Noah (page 1)** Turn back to the cover of *Good News*. Explain that you're going to read about a man from Old Testament times who also believed that God would take care of him during a hard time. This story is the First Reading for this Sunday's Mass. **Ask:** Do you know what a *covenant* is? If not, refer to the definition on page 3. Read the cover story aloud together.
- Catholic Faith Word • covenant (page 3)** Read aloud the definition of *covenant* on page 3. Explain that a covenant is a special promise between God and people. God will never break his promise to us, but sometimes people break their promise to God.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Trusts in God's Promises (page 3)** Invite your child to look closely at the Gospel pictures. The first shows Jesus alone, surrounded by the richness of Creation. The desert of Judea in the winter is a time of beauty. In the second picture, Jesus has left the desert and gone back to his home country of Galilee. There he is sharing the Good News of God's love.

Go back to the first picture and read aloud the sentences. **Ask:** What does it mean to be tempted? *To have a strong urge to do something we know is wrong.* Trusting the Devil would have been wrong. Jesus puts his trust in God. Jesus believes that even if some things are hard, God our Father wants only good things for his children. Jesus knows that God is faithful to him. Jesus is



faithful to God too. **Ask:** Who cared for Jesus in the desert? *Angels.* **Ask:** Who kept him company? *Animals.* Give your child time to find and circle the four hidden animals.

Refer to a map of Galilee. You can use the lesson from January 24, or search for Galilee on an online map. Read aloud the words in the second picture and **ask:** Why did Jesus go to Galilee? *People lived in villages around the Sea of Galilee. Jesus came to meet people and help them see how much God loves them.*

- Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.** 1. *Prays, remembers God's love, enjoys the beauty of Creation, sacrifices by fasting from sunrise to sundown.* 2. *Refer to second sentence in Connecting Gospel and Doctrine.* **Ask:** How can we show that we believe what Jesus says about God?



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 5. **Invite** your child to give examples from everyday life of trusting or believing someone. Emphasize how important it is to keep our promises so that others will believe us and trust us. **Ask:** Can we trust Jesus' followers—like Saint Mark who wrote a Gospel—who helped pass along the Good News of Jesus to us? *Yes. They believed the Good News about Jesus and wanted to share it.* Read aloud the last paragraph on page 5. **Ask:** Can we trust the Church to teach us about Jesus? *Yes.*

Turn to page 51 and read the definition of *Amen*. Emphasize “I agree” and “I believe.” Next, find the word *creed* on page 52 and read aloud the definition. The Creed we say at Sunday Mass lists the most important things we believe as Catholics.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • Faith in Action Lenten Calendar (page 4)** Read aloud the activity title and introduction on page 4. Show your child where the Lenten practices for this week are (page 1). Ask what word the four letters spell—*GROW*. Explain that the four actions in the letter blocks are ways we can grow. Read them aloud together. Help your child to complete the suggested actions and calendar and keep it somewhere prominent in your home. Your child will be able to add calendar squares from *Good News* each week of Lent.
- Closing Prayer** “Loving God, we believe in you and trust in your promises. Help our faith to grow. Help us to show our faith in our actions. 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