



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches during Sabbath synagogue worship and expels an evil spirit who interrupts him. The people who witness this are amazed at his authority. They comment that he is a far greater teacher than any of their rabbis. In Mark's Gospel, this is the first cure Jesus performs as he begins his public ministry. Jesus has God's power to teach and heal. We say that we believe Jesus is God's Son when we pray the Creed. We show what we believe in our loving words and actions.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, thank you for our family. Help us learn more about your Son, Jesus, who came into our world to love and heal us. Help us to listen to Jesus and be respectful to one another. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Jesus Calls Us to Believe and Love (page 1)** Before beginning the activity, say the word *power* aloud and ask your child to say it again with you. **Ask:** What does *power* mean? **Possible answers:** *control over something or someone, electrical power, physical strength, ability to do something difficult.* Invite your child to look at the photos on the cover of *Good News*. Read the instructions and the words in the Word Bank. Give your child some time to write a word by each photo, telling what kind of power is shown. As you discuss these responses, be open to your child's interpretation of the scene and the power used there.
- Story • The Little Bird (page 2)** Read this true story aloud together. Decide which of you will read the main narrative and the Pablo and Laura parts.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the story.** Refer back to the word bank on page 1 and **ask:** Which word best fits the power Laura and Pablo used? *Care.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Shows His Power (page 3)** Look at the picture at the top of page 3 and invite your child to guess what might be happening. Proclaim the Gospel by reading the different parts: Narrator, Man, Jesus, Woman, and Boy. After the reading, tell your child to find Jesus and the man with the unclean or bad spirit in the picture. (They are in the center. Note that Jesus is not afraid to touch the man.)
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** 1. *The man was upset and out of control. He could have a mental illness or have a bad-unclean-evil spirit.* 2. *Jesus shows the power of love and concern for the man. He tells the bad spirit to leave him. Jesus is not afraid to recognize a bad thing and take steps against it.*
- Catholic Faith Word • miracle (page 3)** Try to keep the focus on *why* Jesus healed—because he was bringing the message of God's great love for us and God's desire for our fullness of life.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read "We Believe in God's Power." Point out that Jesus performs miracles to show God's power and help people believe in him as God's Son.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 6. Read the first paragraph aloud, then pray the Creed together. Be alert to sentences that your child might not understand, and refer to pages 7–14 of the handbook to explain some of these concepts. If you have further questions, you might refer to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which devotes 263 pages to the Apostles' Creed. Talk to your parish DRE to see a copy. You can also view an online version by going to usccb.org and searching *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Feel free to study the prayer with your child. Note that there are three sections—one dedicated to each Person of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Have your child turn to page 15 to complete the activity. **Solution:** *I believe in God the Father, and in Jesus, the Son of God, and in the Holy Spirit.*

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, pages 3–4.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Good Actions Have Power (pages 3–4)** Invite your child to read aloud the seven words at the bottom of page 4 that express how God's love has power and how our loving choices help show God's love. Invite your child to share ways we can act with love by caring, forgiving, loving, making peace, caring, trusting, and sharing.

Read through the directions on page 3 and offer any needed assistance to help your child make the lantern. Note: Make sure your child does not equate God's power with our human power. We cannot perform miracles, but God does call us to allow his love to shine through us. Our belief in God will lead us to good actions.

Place the lantern on your dining table as a reminder to everyone in your family to act with love.

- **Family Corner (page 2)** Try making the prayer your family's morning prayer this week. As you share the Question of the Week, talk about who or what has authority in our lives.
- **Closing Prayer** Invite your child to raise the lantern high as you pray: "Dear God, help us shine our light so that others can see your power, experience your love, and believe in you. 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