



## Sunday Gospel Background

In Jesus' time, lepers had to live away from the rest of the community. According to the law given by Moses, they had to cover their faces and shout "unclean" to warn people who came near. Jesus violates every social norm by touching a leper. Jesus shows, by this action, that no one is outside the love of God. This is the lesson of this Sunday's Gospel. All people are loved by God and deserve our love and respect, even when we don't like them or agree with them.

## Share Experiences

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

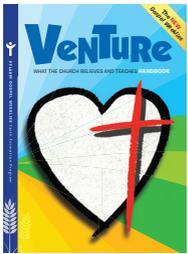
- Pray together** Invite your child to think of someone who needs to be cared for and included. *Possibilities: new immigrants, people with mental illness, homeless people, children with behavior problems, new kids in school, new players on sports teams.* Pray this prayer: Loving God, help us to notice the people on the outside of things, the people who most need our compassion and care. Send your Holy Spirit to fill us with your love. Amen.
- Cover Activity • Jesus Shows God's Love (page 1)** Give your child a few moments to work out the puzzle. *Answers: touch, exorcize, teach, call, pray, travel, heal.* Invite your child to respond to the question at the bottom of the page. Then ask your child to describe what is happening in each of the illustrations. *Clockwise from upper left: raising up Peter's mother-in-law; calming a child; calling followers; healing a sick man; teaching in the synagogue.* The sick man is the leper in this Sunday's Gospel. All the illustrations are part of the second half of the Gospel booklet your child began last week. Conclude that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. Jesus used all his human energy and compassion to show people of his time how much God loved them.
- Story • The Visitors (pages 2-3)** Ask your child to speculate from the title and illustration what this story might be about. Read the story together, switching at each paragraph. Read aloud the "Why Does a Family Become Homeless?" sidebar on page 3. Give your child time to respond to the question.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Her cousins are in her personal space and using her special things. Colleen feels as though she has to do extra work, too. 2. Perhaps she is respecting her sister's privacy, or sparing Colleen the worry of knowing about her aunt's situation. Colleen immediately has empathy for her cousins and wants to share her things with them. Colleen shows compassion. Tell your child that you will hear another example of compassion in this Sunday's Gospel. 3. Open-ended; perhaps you have welcomed a family who needed help due to job loss or illness.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the parts of Narrator 1 and 2, Man, and Jesus.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. His compassion and concern for wholeness and community. 2. He was overjoyed to be healed, and he wanted everyone to feel included as he did; the Good News of Jesus was news he just had to share. 3. People who are homeless, poor, refugees; open-ended. 4. Colleen's family shares their home and their compassion and support with Aunt Grace and her family.*



- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus' Actions Teach Love and Compassion (page 4)** After you read the doctrine section aloud, ask: Who are the "lepers" in our community, those people who are rejected or excluded?
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Through prayer, we can be given the Holy Spirit's gifts of understanding and wisdom; we receive God's grace and a greater capacity for love and compassion. 2. Open-ended.*



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 40.** Share about times you like to pray and what types of prayers you pray. Throughout the season of Lent, read about the kinds of prayer on pages 40–42. There are six weeks in Lent and six kinds of prayer: blessing and adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise, and contrition. Each week during Lent, allow your child to select one form of prayer to read about and pray together as a family.

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

- Catholic Faith Word • Homily (page 5)** Read aloud the definition. Invite your child to share any examples or stories your parish priest shared in his last homily.
- Our Catholic Faith • Holy Communion Makes Us a Holy Community (page 5)** The Sacrament of the Eucharist is referred to as the "source and summit" of our lives as Catholics. Holy Communion nourishes us spiritually; it is a sign that we are part of the community of Jesus' followers. Read aloud this feature together, and allow plenty of time for your child to respond to the questions.

## Live the Gospel

- Activity • Gospel Booklet, Part 2 (pages 7–8)** This Gospel activity completes the booklet that your child began in the previous lesson. Read aloud the text on page 7. Have your child cut out the booklet on page 7, make the three accordion folds, and tape it to the section from last week's lesson.

Ask your child to open to Day 2, Noon, and describe what is happening to you. Read the text aloud and help your child use a Bible to look up and fill in the missing word (*serve*). Continue in the same manner through each day.

- Closing Prayer • We Celebrate Ash Wednesday (page 6)** Celebrate the prayer service together as a family. There are many spoken parts, so adjust for the number of family members who participate.



## 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