

Sunday Gospel Background

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus undergoes temptation. He is driven—not led, but driven—into the desert by the Spirit he just received at his baptism. Jesus encounters the devil's temptations, but also the comfort of his Father's angels. To follow Jesus, we must make Lent a time of growth, a time when we overcome temptation and develop loving habits toward God and one another.

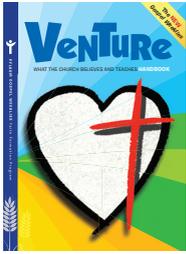
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Loving God, every year, you bring the world back to life in the springtime. Lent is springtime in our hearts. Help us grow in love for you, for all Creation, and for one another. Amen.
- Cover Activity • We Walk with Jesus During Lent (page 1)** Give your child time to complete the crossword. *Answers: Down: 1. Easter, 2. fasting, 3. abstain, 4. Holy, 5. Baptism. Across: 6. Stations, 7. Lent, 8. Genesis, 9. palm, 10. ash.*
- Story • What If I Did? (pages 2-3)** Read the voice balloon conversation on page 2 with your child. **Ask:** What might happen in the story? Give your child a moment to speculate; then read aloud the story, alternating at each paragraph. When you get to the three possible endings on page 3, read them aloud and ask which one your child thinks Colin will choose. Discuss the reasons for your child's choice. Your child can imagine another possible ending if none of the three seems realistic.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Colin wants to buy the new game. The cash is there and no one will see him. 2. He justifies his actions, deciding that it's fair for him to have the money. 3. Open-ended; 4. Share about a time when you experienced temptation, and what you did about it. If your child is uncomfortable talking about this, invite your child to write about it in a journal. Conclude your discussion by asking what might help Colin be more honest in his choices.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Faces a Test (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the parts of the two Narrators and Jesus.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus probably faced tests about how he would use his power and about what God wanted of him. Open-ended. 2. Jesus announces that God's kingdom is here. He continues to ask people to believe his message and to live like members of God's family. 3. Open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Lent Gives Us Time to Grow (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine feature, and brainstorm habits your child might like to change during Lent. Emphasize that Lent is not simply a time of deprivation but a positive time in which we can become closer to God. Give your child the time to discern some Lenten commitments. You will create a reminder of those commitments later in this *Venture* lesson.
- Catholic Faith Word • Covenant (page 4)** Introduce your discussion of covenants by reading the definition aloud. **Ask:** What's another word for covenant? *A promise or commitment.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 6. **Ask** your child: What important covenant have you already made with God? *Most children won't remember this special promise, but your child became part of the new and everlasting covenant with God at baptism. You and your child's sponsors promised, on your child's behalf, that your child would be raised to live as a child of God.*

Read aloud a paragraph at a time. Stop and ask for questions after each. **Note:** *Venture* children are just beginning to ponder big thoughts. Don't worry if your child doesn't respond with great enthusiasm to these paragraphs. You are planting seeds. Some of the words will stick. **Continue** the activity on the forms of prayer you began last week.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • God Makes a Covenant With Noah (page 5)** Briefly recall the story of Noah and the flood from Genesis 7–8. Have your child read the page silently. Discuss the four questions (bottom right). *Answers: The flood waters wash away everything except Noah and others in the ark. The rainbow promises that God will never destroy the earth again. The waters of Baptism wash away sin; they promise a new life of membership in God's family.*

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • A Covenant Makes a New Relationship (pages 6–7)** Read aloud page 6, which describes the purpose and parts of a covenant. Emphasize the story of Noah and the covenant God made with him. Read aloud the introduction to the Class Covenant on page 7 together. Consider your family as a “class” and brainstorm ideas for practical ways your “class” might improve. Jot the ideas down and decide together which covenant terms you will commit yourselves to. Then choose a sign of that covenant. Give your child time to make a personal, private covenant for Lent. Do the same for yourself on a separate sheet of paper. Encourage your child to review this commitment every week during Lent. Give your child time to write the commitment on the My Covenant for Lent strip at the bottom of page 7, and then cut off the strip. (You will use this strip during the Closing Prayer.) Keep the covenant page in your family classroom space during Lent as a reminder of your commitments.
- **Quiz • Review and Reveal (page 8)** Give your child time to answer the quiz questions. The letters from the correct responses will reveal an important message: *G-O-S-P- E-L means G-O-O-D N-E-W-S.*
- **Closing Prayer** Ask your child to hold up the My Covenant for Lent strip. Pray silently for God's help in making these important changes. Then pray aloud: God, we know you are with us when things are easy and when times are hard. Be with us as we work to grow and change during Lent. 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