

Sunday Gospel Background

This Sunday's Gospel shows Jesus healing people throughout Galilee, starting with Simon Peter's mother-in-law. Mark's Gospel shows us a Jesus who is dynamic. He is on the move, going from place to place in order to preach the Gospel message and heal those in need. But Jesus is also centered in prayer. We cannot do the work of God without prayer. Our Father in Heaven and Jesus, our brother, give us the strength, through prayer, to bring healing and peace to others.

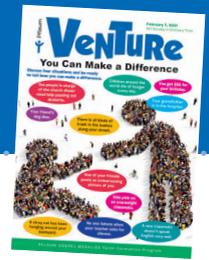
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Share names of people you and your child would like to pray for. Respond to each name: "Loving God, bring him (or her) healing." Finish by thanking God for his love and for the gift of compassion he has given your child.
- Cover Activity • You Can Make a Difference (page 1)** After your child completes the activity, explain that by choosing to make a difference, your child is showing compassion; the ability to feel what another person is feeling and to respond with help and kindness.
- Story • Who Gets to Play? (pages 2-3)** This is a good story to read aloud. Ask questions as necessary while you're reading to keep your child engaged.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** Most of the responses are open-ended, but try to conclude that Gary seems stuck in his meanness. Perhaps the whole group standing up to him will help him reconsider who he wants to be. *Answers: 1-2. Open-ended. Most children who hurt others have been hurt themselves in some way. Ask: Why does being treated poorly compel some kids to become mean and hardened toward others, while children take a similar experience and instead choose to show compassion to those who may be hurt? 3. Tim invites Kai to play broomball. He knows what it's like to be new in town. 4. When one person stands up to a bully, it's easier for others to follow suit. Open-ended. 5. Open-ended; suggest that Rick could have taken Gary aside and told him to knock it off. Humiliating Gary is no better than what he did to Kai.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Heals Many People (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by reading the various parts. **Note:** A detail that goes easily unnoticed in this Gospel is that Simon Peter's mother-in-law becomes one of Jesus' disciples. She responds to Jesus' act of raising her up from a fever by serving him. The Greek word for *serve* is *diakonei*. It is the word Jesus uses of himself when he says he comes to serve, not to be served. Point out that Jesus goes off to pray. We will hear several instances of Jesus going off to pray after he heals or preaches. Ask your child why it's noted so often and why it's important that Jesus goes off to pray.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** Use these questions to help your child realize how much compassion Jesus had for the poor and suffering. *Answers: 1. He wants everyone to be healed. We cannot live our best lives if we are broken (physically, mentally, or spiritually). 2. They all come seeking Jesus' healing or counsel. 3. To heal, love, and make people whole; open-ended.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Disciple (page 5)** Draw attention to this definition, and invite your child to name other people who are Jesus' disciples, both in the Bible and those who witness his message today through their actions.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Acts with Compassion (page 4)** Compassion is not passive; it calls each of us to feel with another person. Read the doctrine that relates to this Sunday's Gospel.

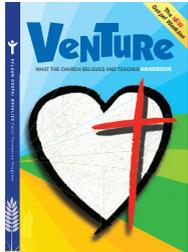


- Discuss the *Think* questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. The sacraments provide healing from sin and relief from worry or anxiety, as well as concern for physical health. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, for example, brings strength, peace and courage to those who are suffering from illness or disease. 2. Open-ended.*

- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 24, and read aloud Section 9 together.** Share any experiences you might have had with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Remind your child that each sacrament helps us remember the loving and healing actions of Jesus and makes his power present to us now.

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

- Our Catholic Faith • The Church Continues Jesus' Healing Work (page 5)** Have your child read this feature about the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and write answers to the three questions. Sit face to face as you celebrate the Healing Prayer Service together.



Live the Gospel

- Activity • Gospel Booklet, Part 1: Jesus Begins His Ministry (pages 7-8)** This Gospel booklet activity provides a look at the first week of Jesus' ministry in the Gospel of Mark. The first few days of Jesus' ministry illuminate what his entire ministry is about, and they function as a microcosm of Mark's entire Gospel.

Have your child cut out the booklet on page 7. Following the diagram on page 8, show your child how to fold the first part of the booklet. Explain that you will complete the booklet in next week's lesson.

For now, open the booklet to Day 1 and help your child use a Bible to fill in the blanks (*Simon, Andrew, James, and John*). Point out how Jesus initiates (calls followers), and hearers respond (*the fishermen follow*). Ask your child to open the booklet to Day 2, Sabbath Morning, and read aloud the text bubble. Again, you can use a Bible to answer the question (*the holy One of God*). Once again, Jesus initiates (*teaching with authority*) and others respond (*the unclean spirit departs*). Emphasize that your child will see this pattern repeat during the first days of Jesus' ministry.

Save the booklet for use again at the next session.
- Saints • Saint Josephine Bakhita (page 6)** Give your child time to read about the patron of Sudan.
- Closing Prayer** Think of the people you prayed for in your opening prayer. **Pray:** Loving God, be close to _____ in their time of need. We ask that you extend your healing love to them and give them your peace. 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