



Sunday Gospel Background

Jesus does not expel the merchants because they are selling things. There was need to buy the animals to sacrifice. Jesus expelled the merchants because they had forgotten the purpose of the Temple—that is, to worship God. Jesus reminds us that, as important as our churches are as places of prayer, we ourselves are the real temple. We must always use our bodies, minds, and souls to give praise to God. The forty days of Lent are an excellent opportunity to cleanse our temples—ourselves—of anything that does not come from God.

Share Experiences

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

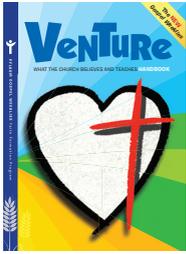
- Pray together** Loving God, you give us so many good people who help us learn about you. Thank you for all of them. Thank you for giving our family this time together to learn about you. Amen.
- Play • God and the Hebrews Make a Covenant (pages 1-3)** Divide up the parts of this play between you and your child. This is Sunday's First Reading. Feel free to act out the italicized stage directions. They make this play fun to perform as a family.

You can even create props. Make an ark of the covenant out of an empty box and broom handles, the tablets out of a manila folder with rounded cuts at the top, and the signs for the Stagehand.

- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. God asks Moses to tell the Hebrews to keep the covenant God makes with them and to deliver the Ten Commandments to the people. The Israelites agree to the covenant. 2. To show respect for the covenant and to allow them to carry it with them wherever they go. 3. Open-ended.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Cleanses the Temple (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by reading the various parts. If your child enjoyed the Old Testament play, consider dramatizing the buying and selling that is going on when the Gospel begins.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. The buying and selling of lambs and doves for sacrifice claimed too much attention in the Temple area; the purpose of the Temple seemed to be more of a circus than a place of prayer. 2. Jesus chases the merchants out of the Temple. 3. Wherever we meet God, there is the Temple. Jesus is truly God and truly human in one Person; in him, the human and divine meet. Jesus, therefore, is the Temple.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • We Live Close to God (page 4)** Have your child read this summary of Sunday's Gospel concept. This is a good check-in point to see how everyone in your family is doing with their Lenten commitments. Remind everyone that the goal of all of our promises is to grow closer to God.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. If your child is having trouble thinking of a person, ask: Who do you know who prays and attends Mass regularly? Who volunteers at church or at school? 2. Open-ended.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 57. **Explain** that praying the Stations of the Cross is a regular part of Lent in the Church, especially during Holy week. Following Jesus' journey from Pontius Pilate's headquarters to the Cross originally took place only in Jerusalem. Later, people would travel to the Holy Land to walk this journey. Now, most churches show this journey with statues or pictures. **Read** the descriptions of each station. You may choose to have your child make a response, such as "Jesus, we follow you on your way of the Cross."

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • We Follow the Ten Commandments (page 5)** Remind your child about the work you did together on the Ten Commandments last week. **Ask:** Why do we study the commandments during Lent? *When we follow the commandments, we choose to turn from sin and grow closer to God.* Take turns reading aloud the text, and give your child time to complete the activity with the photo and respond to the two questions.

Live the Gospel

- **Catholic Faith Word • Mortal Sin (page 6)** Though still serious and important, most sins are venial, which means they are a failure to love. They do not permanently damage one's relationship with God. Conversely, mortal sin is extremely serious and deliberate. Help your child understand the difference before you begin the Living the Gospel feature about the Fifth Commandment. Breaking this commitment—"You shall not kill"—is a mortal sin.
- **Living the Gospel • You Shall Not Kill (pages 6-7)** Read aloud the introduction to the activity on page 6. Have your child think of common situations in which each of the three expressions in the balloons are said. Provide time for drawing or writing. Read through the opening text on page 7 and the four steps to making anger helpful, not hurtful. Read the directions for the choosing activity. Give your child time to make these choices. Partner with your child to apply the four steps to these choices. If you want, you can have recent newspapers and magazines available for your child to find headlines and list them on page 7.
- **Saints • Saints Perpetua and Felicity (page 8)** Give your child time to read this feature. Discuss the things you choose to stand up for as a family.
- **With My Family and Friends (page 8)** Say the Holy Spirit prayer and then make a plan to clean out a closet or cabinet this week. If possible, donate or share items with those who need them.
- **Closing Prayer** Return to page 57 in the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook. Remind your child that the suffering Jesus endured was necessary for our salvation. Invite your child to share a prayer of thanksgiving to God.



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