



## Sunday Gospel Background

In Jesus' time, lepers had to live apart from 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. He shows, by this action, that no one is outside the love of God. This is the lesson in 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. Today's outsiders might be the homeless, the disabled, the poor, the sick, and those we might deem beyond loving. The Gospel assures us they are not.

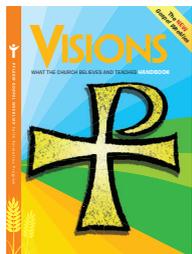
## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together with the cover activity • Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday (page 1)** Read aloud the introduction and directions on the cover. Encourage your child to think about a Lent commitment to write in the heart shape. Celebrate the prayer service together by sharing the Leader and Reader parts.
- Story • RU OK? (pages 2-3)** Ask what the title and photos suggest will happen in the story. Then take turns reading the story aloud together.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Her friends support Tessa until they learn she is moving to the ninth-grade team. Then they are mean and reject Tessa. Sadie and Keiko were jealous of Tessa's move to the ninth-grade team. 2. Tessa making the team and the text messages that followed changed their relationship. 3. Open-ended; your child might encourage friends when they get a low grade or lose a game, or congratulate them when they try or succeed. 4. Tessa can give her friends time. She didn't brag. Maybe they will come around. If they don't, Tessa can try talking with them face-to-face and doing another activity together. She could offer to practice softball with them. Perhaps she will have to make new friends.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy (page 4)** Make sure that your child understands the severity of leprosy and how lepers were separated physically and socially from the community. Proclaim the Gospel by reading the various parts.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. The leper begs. Jesus feels compassion for the man. 2. He is overjoyed that he is no longer an outsider and has his life and family back. 3. Open-ended. Help your child be specific about identifying prejudice against certain people. 4. Open-ended. Plan ways to welcome new kids.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Compassion (page 4)** Read the definition aloud to summarize both the story and the Gospel themes. Explain that a lack of compassion is what often causes people to tease, bully, hurt, and exclude others.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Reconciliation Is Mission and Sacrament (page 6)** In both this lesson and last week's, you and your child have explored issues that often require reconciliation and reaching out in acceptance. Read aloud this feature about how the Church continues Jesus' reconciling ministry.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; your child does not need to share answers aloud, but you can encourage your child to seek forgiveness. 2. Reconciliation brings us back to a right relationship with God; Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving," celebrates this relationship and our community in Christ.*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 12.** Read aloud paragraph three, which describes the church as the Body of Christ (as it does in this week's *Visions* lesson, page 5). Emphasize that the many become one in Christ. We are the hands and feet of Christ in the world. We are a Holy Communion, a people who work at loving God and neighbor. We show that oneness is possible in the world.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Holy Communion Calls Us to Become a Holy Community (page 5)** Researchers tell us that Catholics' favorite parts of Mass are the Our Father, the Sign of Peace, and Holy Communion. All three of these parts of the Mass link us with one another and with Jesus. Read aloud this feature together and give your child time to write responses to the questions.

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • What Does "Do Not Lie" Really Mean? (pages 6-8)** Read the opening text aloud. Ask your child to think about what it means to lie. Is boasting, bragging, or flattery lying? Have your child cut out the cards on page 7. To adjust the activity for home use, distribute the cards between you, your child, and any other family members who wish to play. Follow the directions on pages 6-8, disregarding the references to small groups. Simply play together as a family.

Conclude the activity by asking: Is lying ever OK or is honesty always best? How has the game affected what you think lying is?

- **With My Family and Friends (page 6)** Point out the ideas for prayers, thoughts, and actions and encourage your child to try them out.
- **Closing Prayer** Share your Lenten commitments with each other. After each, repeat aloud together: Lord, be with us. Finish with the Sign of the Cross.



## 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