

## 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.

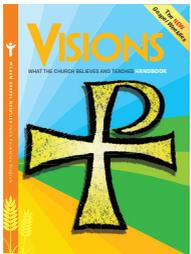
- Pray together** Loving God, every year you bring the world back to life in the springtime. Lent is springtime in our hearts. Help us grow in love for you, for all Creation, and for one another. Amen.
- Cover Activity • How Will You Live Lent? (page 1)** Read the text at upper left. Invite your child to look over the many ideas in the cross and choose some favorites. Many people associate Lent with giving up things or activities (candy, caffeine, social media). Ask which activities your child might try doing during Lent.
- Story • Shards of Clay (pages 2-3)** Invite your child to recall the U.S. bishops' statements regarding racism from the January 24 lesson. Racism, the bishops wrote, is a sin. By extension, prejudice or violence based on ethnicity or religion also is not to be tolerated. With that background in place, have your child look at the two illustrations and the title. **Ask:** What do you think has happened here? Take turns reading the story.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; crimes like this are usually motivated by fear, ignorance, or hatred (which often has its roots in fear). 2. Open-ended; encourage your child to imagine both feelings and actions. 3. They fear retribution from the older boys who they think may have committed this crime. Luke likes the Zakaria family; they are his neighbors, and he finds that he can't just walk away. 4. He shows the Zakaria family that he will stand by them and help them, despite the actions of others. Luke offers help and kindness. 5. Open-ended; discuss the reasons why someone stands up against injustice and why we might avoid the situation and remain silent. Ask: What role does one's conscience play in situations like this?*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Faces a Test in the Desert (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by alternating the reading between you and your child.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert. Solitude gives him time to reflect on his mission and listen to God. Open-ended; perhaps Satan tempts him not to begin preaching or mocks his message. 2. Jesus preaches, heals, forgives sins, and frees people from evil. His mission is to bring God's kingdom among poor and sick people who think God wants them to suffer. 3. Open-ended; culture values money and status and often leaves poor people behind, which tests whether we will continue Jesus' mission to them.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Lent (page 4)** Have your child read the definition aloud. Explain that loving and forgiving are ways we renew our baptismal commitment.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Lent Calls Us to Grow (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel.



- **Discuss the *Talk* question questions on page 4.** Try not to rush through these questions. You might even save them for later to discuss with other family members. **Answers:** 1. *Open-ended; be with supportive friends and family who help you stay on track. Being around people who have destructive habits.* 2. *Open-ended; prayer and quiet time; screen time and negative social media.* 3. *Open-ended.*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 35.** Read aloud the New Law section, which reviews the Beatitudes and Jesus' law of love, his most basic teachings. **Ask:** How does making a Lenten commitment show love—for God, for others, and for ourselves?

Turn to the *Living the Gospel* activity, (*Visions*, page 6). In the middle of page 6, the "How Do People Recognize a Christian?" activity references three sections in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* that will help your child respond to this question. These include the Ten Commandments, page 49; Works of Mercy, page 51; and Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, page 51. Invite your child to choose one of the three topics above and write some ideas about how a Christian acts in response.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • God Makes a Rainbow Promise to Noah (page 5)** Have your child silently read this feature and respond to the statements and questions. Talk about your child's responses about the symbolism of the rainbow. Read aloud Sunday's First Reading, Genesis 9:8–15, which recounts how God establishes a covenant with Noah and his descendants.

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Can Your Class Be Convicted of Being Christian? (pages 6–7)** Read the introduction on page 6. Although the activity refers to a classroom, you can easily complete it together as a family, substituting "family" for class." As you work on the "How Do People Recognize a Christian?" section, note that items 1–5 come from the Creed. Loving actions provide the best testimony that you are Christians. Help your child recall people who have seen your family's love in action and could testify on your family's behalf. Concrete actions such as the Sign of the Cross or celebrating Eucharist on Sunday also give evidence that you are Christians. If you are the "judge" for this activity, hear and weigh the evidence for your family as a group, rather than as individuals.
- **Activity • About the cover: How Will You Live Lent?** Read aloud page 8 together. Visit the website for each of the organizations and consider ways you might support one of them as a family.
- **Closing Prayer** Turn back to page 7. Ask your child to offer a prayer of petition for one of the witnesses you listed. **Pray:** Loving God, thank you for \_\_\_\_\_. He/she shows me how to live as a Christian. To finish, **pray:** Loving God, thank you for blessing our lives with people who draw us closer to you. Amen.



## 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