

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. Even though we cannot physically heal others, we can bring healing to situations. We can imitate Jesus' love and compassion.

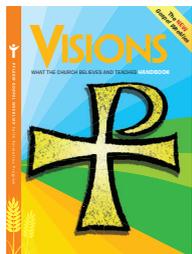
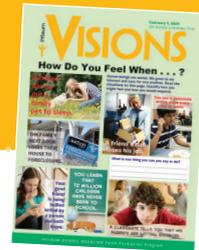
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Have your child turn to page 56 in the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook and pray the Prayer of Saint Francis aloud together. Explain that this Sunday's Gospel is all about healing. There are many types of healing, including spiritual and physical, and you will be learning about both in this week's *Visions* lesson.
- Cover Activity • How Do You Feel When . . . ? (page 1)** Explain that in Sunday's Gospel, Jesus interacts with sick people in the town where he lives. Explain that, like Jesus, we are social. We can only thrive as individuals by helping care for one another. Read aloud the seven situations. Share your feelings about them and invite your child to do the same. Brainstorm with your child one thing you can say or do in each.
- Story • Who Wins? (pages 2-3)** Take turns reading the story aloud together, paragraph by paragraph. Then read all three endings. Discuss whether option A, B, or C seems most realistic.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Nick brings a mean spirit to the game. Caleb can't resist paying back, a negative spirit. 2. The ref kicks Caleb off the ice because he trips Nick with his stick. 3. Your child might feel the Saints won, or that that no one really won because of poor sportsmanship. 4. To his mom: I'm sorry. To his teammates: Thanks, but I wish I hadn't tripped Nick. To his coach: I'm sorry. I'll try to get a handle on my anger. 5. Open-ended; maybe Caleb can speak to Nick and apologize for his part in their feud.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Raises Up, Heals, and Frees People (page 4)** Read the various parts of the Gospel drama together. Invite other family members to participate if possible.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus lifts her up. She begins to serve him. 2. People suffer many illnesses and oppressions. Jesus heals them and shows God wants their wholeness. 3. To bring God's kingdom into the midst of the people.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Calls Us to Heal (page 7)** Have your child read the feature that summarizes this Sunday's Gospel concept. Ask your child to think of a time this week where there was healing instead of division, and what part your child played. Examples might include choosing not to forward a mean text, forgiving a friend instead of holding onto hurt or anger.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; in addition to physical healers, you might also include priests and religious sisters, teachers, and counselors. 2. Together, brainstorm situations that need healing.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 41. **Identify** the three different ways of praying. Talk about any of these that you would like to make part of your daily prayer—vocal prayer, meditation, or contemplation—and invite your child to do the same. Then **read** aloud the Pray Always section on page 42. This section stresses how all our loving and learning activities are prayer.

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Disciple (page 5)** Read the definition aloud. Explain that you're going to learn more about the first woman who answered Jesus' call to discipleship.
- **Our Catholic Faith • Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law Serves Jesus (page 5)** Invite your child to read this feature silently. Give your child an index card or other card stock cut to 2" x 3". Have your child answer the second question on the bottom of page 5 by designing a business card that describes how your child or family serves the community in some way.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • How Do We Resolve Conflict? (pages 6-7)** Adjust this activity for home use by doing it together with your child. Use any kind of game piece you have on hand—even erasers or sticky tabs can work. Read the introduction and directions aloud. Discuss which of the six options on the chart will work for each scenario.
- **With My Family and Friends (page 7)** As always, try to fit this simple prayer, action, and thought question into your week. For example, you can remind your child to say the prayer frequently—it is short enough to be said any time.
- **Closing Prayer • Prayer Starters for Every Day (page 8)** Choose one of the prayer forms to end your session. Encourage your child to try a different kind of prayer each day this week. Explain that the best prayers are those that help us communicate with God. Emphasize that these prayers can happen when we're outside, sitting quietly by ourselves, or practically any time in our daily lives.



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