

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shows that he has authority over evil. He heals the man with an unclean spirit in the synagogue at Capernaum through his own power. Jesus brings a new teaching of love and does it with authority. He is a teacher with power, but he uses it to help others and to show God's love. Jesus makes the man whole and calms him, showing him that God loves him. Jesus' authority, passed on to us, is to be used to make a just world, not to lord it over others.

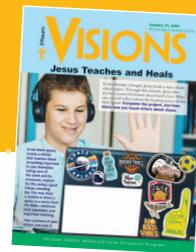
Share Experiences

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

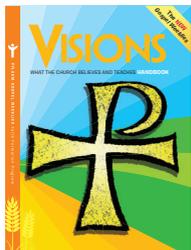
- Pray together** Sit comfortably together with your child. Lead a meditation by saying something like this: Close your eyes, breathe in and breathe out slowly—once, twice, three times. Remember what you have seen this week; outside or around the house. What have you seen that is beautiful and free of any cost? Picture it now. *(Pause.)* Open your eyes. Thank you, God, for things and people of beauty, such as: *(Share from your meditation).* Amen.
- Cover Activity • Jesus Heals and Teaches (page 1)** In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit. By healing the man in front of everyone in the synagogue, Jesus also teaches a lesson about who is important to God—the poor, the sick, the outsider. Have your child reflect on the sticker examples and create a personal sticker.
- Article • The Women Who Stopped the Buses (pages 2–3)** Explain that while the story of Rosa Parks may be familiar to us, many history books leave out the story of the group of women who made the boycott happen. Read together about the strong women of the Women's Political Council.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Black people by law sat in the back of the bus and gave up their seats and stood if white people needed seats. By the time of the boycott, some resented the humiliation and abuse and refused to comply with the law. 2. They decided on the right moment to boycott, print and distribute flyers, and mobilize members. They waited to start the boycott until they had the unanimous support of Black bus riders. The members of the WPC showed solidarity and strength, the spirit of the boycott. 3. Black people were united in their goal to end discrimination on the buses. 4. Almost all of the themes apply.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches With Authority (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading. Invite other family members to take reading parts if possible.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus teaches on his own authority, not by citing precedents and traditions. 2. The man may have an addiction or mental illness or flaunt the Commandments. 3. Jesus threatens selfishness, greed, status seeking, violence, and indifference to the poor. 4. Jesus frees the man so he possesses himself again.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Continues His Healing Work (page 4)** Read aloud this week's doctrine based on the Sunday Gospel. We are called to welcome everyone, even those people who may embarrass us or make us feel uncomfortable.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers:* Discuss these questions together. Or, invite your child to write responses in a personal journal. Encourage your child to think of outsiders at school and those you may see in the news. Remind your child that even the smallest gesture (offering a kind smile, for example) can change how an "outsider" might feel.



- **Catholic Faith Word • Sacraments of Healing (page 5)** Point out the definition at the lower-right corner of page 5. Read it aloud to reinforce the Gospel message.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 24. **Read** aloud the introduction on the Sacraments of Healing. Invite your child to choose one of the two sacraments to read about. Then have your child prepare a short presentation about the reading. (It can be a simple oral presentation. Or, if your child is so inclined, it can be a poster or PowerPoint type of presentation.) Have your child cover the following:

Reconciliation:

- What are the four actions of the sacrament?
- How do Christians prepare for the sacrament?
- What are the effects?
- What are mortal and venial sins?
- Why does a priest give a penance?

Anointing of the Sick

- Who may receive this sacrament?
- Who administers the sacrament?
- What are the effects?

Finish by asking your child how the sacraments continue the work of Jesus.

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Galilee: Jesus' Home Territory (page 5)** Read this feature aloud together. Point out the location of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. Have your child find the Roman towns on the map, marked with a soldier's helmet. If needed, help your child look up the verses that trace Jesus' travels in the "Where Is Jesus?" sidebar. **Answers:** Capernaum, Galilee, Capernaum, land of the Gerasenes, Bethsaida, Gennesaret, Bethsaida, Caesarea Philippi.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • What's the Spirit of Advertising? (pages 6-7)** Read aloud the activity together. Your child may not see any of the ads as negative, but they overpromise and encourage teens to think of themselves as older, more sexy, and more sophisticated than they are. Social media blurs the lines between commercial messages and unbiased information, so young people may not even realize that they are, indeed, looking at an ad. Talk about the questions and products as a family. Invite everyone to share about current ads and products they've bought.
- **Catholic Leader • Misericordia, Heart of Mercy (page 8)** Look at the photos and captions together before reading the story. Then ask how this ministry continues Jesus' ministry. *It reaches out to people who need help because of their disabilities.*
- **Closing Prayer** For the petitions below, say the following response together: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." *From valuing only what money can buy... From standing by when others get teased... From following popular kids who put others down... From making fun of those with little money...* Finish by praying the Lord's Prayer together.



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