



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.

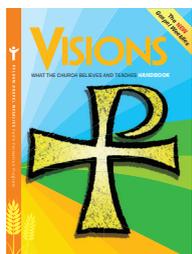
- Pray together** Take some time for this breathing prayer. Sit together comfortably. Together, close your eyes and concentrate on your breathing—breathing in space for God and exhaling worry. Say a brief prayer such as, *Loving God, clear our minds and hearts of anything that prevents us from being close to you. Amen.*
- Cover Activity • How Do We Live the Ten Commandments? (page 1)** Read aloud the title and directions, upper left. Help with the activity as needed. You can also refer to pages 32–34 in the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook. *Answers: 1. H; 2. G; 3. A; 4. J; 5. E; 6. C; 7. D; 8. I; 9. F; 10. B.*
- Story • Dividing the Property (pages 2-3)** Have your child speculate about what the photo and title suggest the story is about. Then read the story aloud together.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Splitting up Sherlock and Holmes makes the reality of the divorce hit Tyler. His anger turns to tears and upset. Tyler feels that Sherlock and Holmes should stay together, even if his parents live in separate houses. 2. Tyler's parents think he is okay with the divorce, because of his "smiling silence." Tyler's anger leads to his parents talking more with him. 3. Continue to talk about changes in their family and Tyler's feelings. He may be OK with the divorce sometimes, upset at other times. Spend time with Tyler. Show Tyler love and respect by including him in discussions that affect him.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Cleanses the Temple (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel together by taking the parts of Narrator, Sheep Seller, Money Changer, Merchant, Second Merchant, and Jesus.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Lambs and doves were used for sacrifice; however, the business of buying and selling them obscures the purpose of the Temple—prayer and praise of God. 2. Jesus is extremely angry that the money changers and merchants show little respect for his Father's house. 3. Open-ended. 4. The Gospel refers to Psalm 69:10, in which the psalmist declares a passionate commitment to God. Jesus wants the Temple kept sacred for prayer. He shows his total commitment to God through his actions and words in the courtyard. 5. Jesus is talking about his own body, his death and Resurrection. 6. We Christians are!*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus' Power Is Love (page 4)** Ask your child if it feels strange to see Jesus become angry. Sometimes we may forget that Jesus was a human being and had real emotions. Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel.



- **Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; this is an important discussion to have. We see numerous examples every day of Tweets, posts, and emails sent in haste—and in anger. It's impossible to pull back angry words on social media, but we can learn from these mistakes. We can also resist forwarding posts in anger. 2. Open-ended; showing kindness at school, volunteering at church or in the community.*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 32.** Briefly review the Ten Commandments on pages 32–34. **Ask** your child to consider if anything is missing and what an Eleventh commandment might be. There is no right or wrong answer to this. Turn to page 38 and have your child take the “Name That Commandment” quiz. Or, form two teams—you and your child—and ask the questions as a Commandment trivia challenge! **Commandment Answers: 1. Second; 2. Fifth; 3. Tenth; 4. Eighth; 5. Third; 6. Ninth; 7. Seventh; 8. Sixth; 9. First; 10. Fourth.**

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Ten Commandments (page 5)** Read this summary of Israel’s moral law to introduce the *Our Catholic Faith* feature.
- **Our Catholic Faith • The Ten Commandments Make the Israelites God’s People (page 5)** Explain that both the covenant of the Ten Commandments and the Temple are signs of God’s loving presence with Israel; Jesus is the new temple and new sign of God’s loving presence with us and in us. Have your child read this feature aloud and respond to the two questions.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • How Do We Handle Feeling Angry? (pages 6–7)** The activities on these pages can help your child explore ways to deal with anger. Read the first section on page 6 together. Discuss and question as you go. Have your child complete the checklist and questions in the green box (right column).
Then read the two stories on page 7 and answer the questions. Encourage your child to be creative and realistic with solutions.
- **Attitudes • Which of the Ten Commandments is the most challenging one to keep? (page 8)** Invite your child to respond to the *Attitudes* question and compare answers with peers’ responses on the page.
- **Closing Prayer** Take time for another meditation. Close your eyes, and invite your child to do the same. Ask your child to focus on a problem or concern.

After twenty seconds of silence, **pray aloud:** Wise and loving God, you know all that worries and angers us. Help us remember you are always with us. *Now focus on what makes you grateful and invite your child to do the same. (Pause for twenty seconds).* Creator God, you hear our gratitude. We have life from you and we give you thanks. Amen.



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