



Sunday Gospel Background

Sunday's Gospel comes from the long talk Jesus shared with his Apostles at the Last Supper. He gives them a great command: "Love one another as I have loved you." Loving actions connect us to one another. They help us create communities of friends and neighbors who care about one another. We become members of the community of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation. With the grace of these sacraments, we grow closer to Jesus and become more like him. Look for opportunities to talk with your child this week about times when it is hard to be loving or obedient. Be sure to offer affirmation and praise when your child obeys and shows love toward others.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, thank you for all the ways we are connected to others by love. Help us grow closer to Jesus and become more loving toward others. Amen."
- Story • Who Can Play? (page 3-4)** Open *Good News* so that the front and back cover are faceup. Read the instructions together in the middle of page 4 and have your child make the cuts on the page. Once the cutout is ready, have your child place it on a workspace with the house and basketball hoop picture showing. Tell this story, stopping to give folding directions where marked.

Ben is very excited! It is his birthday. The only present he really wants is a basketball. When his mom brings out the present at his birthday dinner, the box is just the right size for a basketball. Ben rips it open. (Fold A) It is a basketball! Ben gives his mom and dad a hug and runs out to the hoop his dad has set up by the driveway. (Fold B) Ben dribbles and shoots, grabs the rebound, then dribbles and shoots again. His friends Michael and Charlie hear the ball bouncing and come out of their house. (Fold C) "Watch me!" Ben shouts to them. He dribbles, shoots, and rebounds over and over. "Can we play too?" Michael asks. But Ben is having so much fun that he doesn't even hear

Michael. "This is no fun," Michael says to Charlie.

Just then, Ben's brother, Luke, comes out to the driveway. When Ben dribbles toward the net, Luke steals the ball. (Fold D) He tries a layup and gets his own rebound. He shoots again, gets the ball back, dribbles to the other side of the driveway and nails a three-pointer. He gets the ball back again. "Hey!" Ben says. "Let me shoot." Luke stops in the middle of his dribble. "I have an idea," he says to Ben. Luke points to Michael and Charlie. "Get your friends over here. I will teach you some good plays." (Turn the picture over.) They play until it is too dark to see the net. It is Ben's best birthday ever.

Ask: What made this a great birthday for Ben? When have you had fun sharing with others? Use this discussion to lead into the page 2 activity.

- Activity • How Do I Show Love? (page 2)** Children need to recognize that love is something we do every day. Invite your child to complete this activity and share with you. Talk about which sentences were easier to complete and which were more difficult.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Love One Another (page 1)** Proclaim the Gospel by taking turns reading aloud the parts.



Ask: What words do you remember hearing? *Possible answers: love, friends, joy, commandment, slaves.* Proclaim the Gospel again and invite your child to listen for more words or even sentences.

- Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.** 1. *Keep his commandments.* 2. *Love one another as he loves us.* Conclude that Jesus made sure we know his one law—love. If we keep that law, we will keep all the other commandments too.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 2)** Read “We Grow Together” aloud.
- Catholic Faith Word • Sacraments of Initiation (page 2)** Read the definition of *Sacraments of Initiation*. Print the names of the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist—in three columns on a white board or sheet of paper. **Ask:** What do you know about each of these sacraments? Jot down your child’s answers under the appropriate sacrament. Don’t worry if your child’s answers are incomplete. This is simply a way to see what your child still might need to know.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 21. **Ask:** Which is the first sacrament we receive? *Baptism*. Read about the Sacrament of Baptism. Explain that Baptism is the first of the Sacraments of Initiation. Initiation is the way a person becomes a member of a group. Initiation is the beginning of a person’s membership in a group.

Explain that the second Sacrament of Initiation is Confirmation. Read about Confirmation. Then have your child to turn to page 26 and give your child time to complete the activity. Then go over the *answers: Baptism = water; Confirmation = fire that represents the Holy Spirit; Eucharist = chalice and host.*

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 3

Live the Gospel

- Activity • My Mission to Love (page 3)** **Ask:** Who tells us to love? *Jesus.* **Ask:** Who helps us to love? *The Holy Spirit.* Read aloud the activity title and the line below it on page 3. Point out the word bank and explain that it contains ways that we can share God’s love. Have your child find the words in the word search, then write a sentence using at least three of the words.
- Closing Prayer** Read together the Prayer of Mission at the top of page 4. End your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.



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