



## Sunday Gospel Background

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Risen Jesus appears to his friends and designates them as his witnesses. They have Good News to tell: love is stronger than death; joy and triumph can come out of suffering; life can come from death; and we can live forever with Jesus. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus explains the Old Testament prophecies to Cleopas and his companion. They are slow to understand that Jesus, the Messiah, had to suffer and die so that he could rise again and save the human race. As the disciples finally recognized Jesus when he broke the bread, we need to recognize him in the Eucharist.

## Share Experiences

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

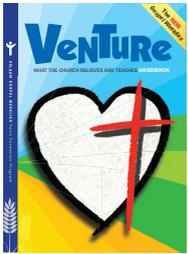
- Pray together** Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reveals himself to his disciples. He will explain the Scriptures to them so that they can spread the Good News. In this spirit, invite your child to share a piece of good news from this week and then express some form of gratitude to God. You might have your child simply say: "Loving God, thank you. Amen."
- Play/Drama • The Disciples Recognize the Risen Jesus (pages 1-3)** Although the play is designed for a classroom of several students, you can easily adjust it for home use and a few readers. If there are two of you, simply alternate the parts between you. If other family members are available, assign them parts as well. Cut out one heart for each person participating. (If you don't have red construction paper, any type of paper will do.) The cloth-covered table is optional.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. They recognize that the Stranger is actually Jesus, risen and alive. He still has human qualities, such as hunger; he asks for food and the disciples give him baked fish, which he eats in front of them. 2. If you have a Bible, have your child look up and read Luke 24:30 (Emmaus), 9:16 (multiplication of the loaves), and 22:19 (Last Supper); Luke used the same wording to link Jesus to feeding and sharing himself in a meal of broken bread. 3. Open-ended. The image of Jesus sharing a meal, along with teaching the meaning of the Scriptures, can help us connect to the Body and Blood of Jesus that we share at Mass.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Appears to His Disciples (page 4)** Explain that this Gospel begins right at the point the play/drama ends. If you have already acted out the play together, you may wish to read this silently together as a Gospel meditation.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus is not a ghost; he has flesh and bones; he can be heard and touched; he can eat and drink, but he is glorified and can appear and disappear. He wants them to understand he is still with them. The image of Jesus sharing a meal, along with teaching the meaning of the Scriptures, can help us connect to the Body and Blood of Jesus that we share at Mass. 2. He helps them understand that the Scriptures have told how the Messiah would have to suffer. They will be his witnesses and preach the message of turning toward God.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • We Share in Jesus' Mission (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel. It bridges your discussion of Jesus preparing his disciples to be his witnesses to a discussion of how missionaries continue to spread the Good News even today.



- **Discuss the *Think* questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; your child might share about Jesus' mercy and compassion and how he includes outsiders. 2. Open-ended; this is not meant to discount the value of prayer, but to encourage your child to think of other ways we can impact our world. Your child might raise money to support Christian missionaries, or write them letters of support and appreciation. (See maryknoll.org.)*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 12.** Read the paragraph that summarizes the mission of the Church as the telling of Jesus' Good News. *Church* in this context does not mean the institutional Roman Catholic Church headquartered in Rome. It means the whole assembly of believers, who show by their words and actions what the love of Jesus is like. Read about the four Marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, apostolic. Invite your child to choose two of them. You can take the other two. Then silently reread the paragraphs on the Marks of the Church and take turns explaining the meaning of each Mark in your own words.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Our Eucharistic Prayers Give Thanks to God (page 5)** Have your child read this feature aloud. If you have a Bible, invite your child to complete the first blue box by looking up the passage. If you do not have a copy of your parish worship aid, you can still help your child complete the second blue box by saying aloud the first few words of the doxology and inviting your child to join you. **Say:** Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Live the Gospel

- **Catholic Faith Word • Missionary (page 6)** Read the definition to introduce the *Living the Gospel* activity.
- **Living the Gospel • Where Have Missionaries Brought Jesus' Good News? (pages 6-7)** Give your child time to read the short biographies of missionaries who have served around the world. See crossword puzzle answers below. Read aloud the question on page 6, lower left, and talk about the person(s) who brought Jesus' message to people of your own national or ethnic background.

*Crossword puzzle answers: ACROSS: 2. Patrick; 4. Apostle; 7. Mary; 8. Isaac; 12. Donovan; 13. James; 14. Ricci; 15. Solano; 16. Francis Xavier; 17. Peter; DOWN: 1. Masai; 2. Peter Claver; 3. Cabrini; 5. teach; 6. Paul; 9. Good News; 10. Junipero; 11. Boniface*

- **Closing Prayer/Activity • What's the Good News About Jesus? (page 8)** By this time in your *Venture* year, your child will have plenty of Good News to tell about Jesus. **Ask:** How would you spread the Good News using social media? Invite your child to write or draw ideas on page 8. Then celebrate the prayer service, top left, as a family.



## 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.