



Sunday Gospel Background

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that he has come to redeem, not judge. Lent is a time for all of us to come to terms with the darkness, the sinfulness, in our lives. This isn't meant to produce guilt but rather, gratitude for Jesus' redemption. Many people choose the darkness of sin. As families, we can show others how to choose the light by our words and deeds of love.

Editor's Note: This Sunday is Laetare Sunday. *Laetare* refers to rejoicing. At Mass, we'll see the liturgical color rose, a sign of our joy. Christians rejoice in the salvation gained for us by Christ's suffering, Death, and Resurrection.

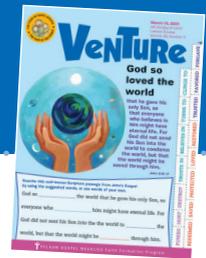
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Begin by **praying**: "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth." **Ask:** Do you know what prayer this is? *The Nicene Creed, which we pray at Sunday Mass.* **Ask:** Do you remember the last time we said this prayer together? Where were we? Discuss this Mass experience—what was going on in your family's life, what you prayed for. Then say a short prayer of thanks for all those with whom you share your faith.
- Cover Activity • God so loved the world . . . (page 1)** Read the Scripture passage aloud together and talk about what it means for you and your child. The text makes it clear that God loves us and wants us with the Father, Son, and Spirit forever. As Pope Francis tells us, God wants to save the world, not punish it. After your discussion, read the instructions in the box. Have your child cut out the words on the right and experiment with placing them in the blank spaces. **Note:** The colored lines in the text box match the colored words along the right side. They do not have to match the Scripture passage exactly. Encourage your child to read the sentences aloud, testing out which words best express your child's experience of God.
- Story • Living a Lie (pages 2-3)** This is a true story, written by the sixth-grader who is its central character. Read it aloud together.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** **Answers:** 1. The author lied because he had to cover up the theft of the cards. 2. The author worried that Rico would notice the cards were missing; he was irritable at home, told more lies, felt guilty, didn't enjoy having the full set, got entangled in all the lies. 3. He returns the cards; he doesn't confess to stealing, but he does not lie anymore. (If you're comfortable, you may wish to share an experience when lying got you into trouble and how you felt about it.) 4. He did not like the feeling of living a life of deceit. (Be sure to point out that lying and deceit foster disunity. Stress how important it is to build trust and to work for unity with one another.) He also may be absolved of his sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

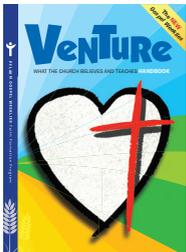
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is the Light (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by reading it aloud together. Explain that some people, like Nicodemus, struggled with whether to believe in Jesus. Nicodemus has doubt, but he asks questions and remains open.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** **Answers:** 1. Anyone who had been bitten by a serpent would look at the bronze snake and be healed. Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, but his Death gives us life, just as the snake healed. 2. A light shows us the way



through darkness, guides us, gives us direction. 3. Open-ended; people who act according to the light of their consciences; people who give hope to others by their words, actions; people who create ways that others can follow Jesus too.

- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Truth and Love Shine in Jesus (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel.
- **Discuss the Think questions on page 4. Answers:** 1. Open-ended. We may see glimpses in people who live as Jesus taught. 2. Open-ended. By staying close to people who model Christ-like behavior, and through regular, faithful prayer and Mass attendance.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 30. Explain that conscience is based on moral law—a shared understanding of right and wrong. Read aloud the four paragraphs in Section 1 on Moral Law. Note the following words in the text and explain if needed.
 - **Moral Law** Human beings' common understandings of right and wrong. The Ten Commandments are one expression of these understandings.
 - **Sacred Scripture** The Old and New Testaments give us stories of God's revelations to people over many centuries.
 - **Sacred Tradition** This is another term for the teaching of the Catholic Church.
 - **Free Will** We are free to choose between right and wrong.
 - **Original Sin** Adam and Eve chose to disobey God in the Garden of Eden. As children of Adam and Eve, we are like them and find it difficult to always choose the good. Baptism forgives Original Sin and gives us sanctifying grace.

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Catechumenate (page 4)** Read the definition aloud to help your child become familiar with the presence of catechumens in your parish during Lent.
- **Our Catholic Faith • How Do We Learn About Faith? (page 5)** Use this feature to provide insight into how our proclamation of the Creed at Sunday Mass celebrates the gift of faith that we have received from many people in our lives.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • You Shall Not Bear False Witness (page 6)** Read aloud the introduction to the activity at the top of page 6. If a review of the Eighth Commandment is needed, see page 35 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*.
- **Game • Truth Can Be Tricky (pages 6–8)** Read the instructions for the game on page 6 and have your child cut out the game cards on pages 7–8. The game works best with at least three players, so if possible, invite other family members to join the play, or work with your parish to have your child play remotely with others in your parish program.
- **Closing Prayer** Turn to page 53 in the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook. Pray The Apostle's Creed aloud 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.