



Sunday Gospel Background

Sunday's Gospel comes from the long talk that Jesus shares with his Apostles at the Last Supper, as he prepares them for life after he is gone. He tells them, "As the Father loves me, so I have loved you." He then goes on to give them a great command: "Love one another as I have loved you." Jesus anticipates his death and gives his followers an example to follow when he says, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jesus calls his followers friends, and he chooses us as friends too. As Jesus' friends, we are called to go forth and bear fruit in the world, fruit that will last.

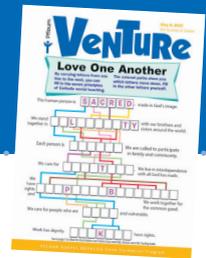
Share Experiences

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

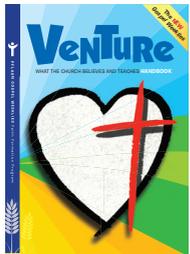
- Pray together** Explain that May is "Mary's Month" in the Church. Mary showed great love throughout her life and is our model of willing service to God. Pray the Hail Mary together in honor of the Blessed Virgin, Jesus' mother.
- Cover Activity • Love One Another (page 1)** The statements are from the U.S. bishops' document, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching, Challenges and Directions* (1999). **Answers:** solidarity, social, Creation, responsibilities, poor, workers
- Article • Mary, Our Mother, Our Neighbor (pages 2–3)** Mary may be viewed by some as a one-dimensional character, dressed in blue and white robes, holding Jesus, who is being a perfect baby. It is hard to imagine her as a real woman who worked hard, got dirty and tired, enjoyed her neighbors, and took delight in her home and family. This article aims to help your child more closely identify with Mary. Read it aloud together.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** The "Mary in the Bible Timeline" activity on pages 7–8 can help your child understand the events of Mary's life more clearly.
- Catholic Faith Word • Rosary (page 3)** Read the short sidebar about the Rosary on page 3. Then read aloud the definition. Pray a decade of the Rosary, or set aside some time to pray it as a family later. (The order of prayers and the mysteries are noted on page 54 in the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook.)

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Love One Another (page 4)** Talk about the extensive work your child did during Lent to learn and apply the Ten Commandments. Explain that Jesus has a new commandment; however, it does not replace the commandments that God gave to Moses. Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading of the three Jesus parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** **Answers:** 1. Jesus' commandment is to love one another. Jesus knows he will be killed. He wants his friends to know he loves them as his Father loves him. 2. He entrusts them with his joy and with his mission to bear fruit. Anything they ask for the Father will give them because they are Jesus' friends and ask in his name. 3. Jesus himself laid down his life for his friends. Examples of people who make sacrifices to benefit the lives of others include parents, health workers, soldiers, people who run charities, priests, sisters, teachers, and others who work for the Church. 4. We follow Jesus freely and love one another freely. We choose to accept Jesus as a friend.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Just One Commandment (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus' commandment is simple and straightforward, but it can be hard to follow. Remind your child that love in this case does not mean hugs and kisses; rather, it's a choice to act in obedient, kind, selfless ways.



- Discuss the **Think questions on page 4**. **Answers:** 1. Open-ended; brainstorm ideas together. 2. Explain that this exercise is a little like an Examination of Conscience. We can always make a better effort to act in more loving ways, but God always offers his forgiveness when we fall short.



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 17 to find some of the feast days celebrating Mary. Add any Marian feast days your family or parish community celebrates. For instance, Mary is honored as Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is July 16. Point out the Hail Mary on page 52, and pray it together if you did not pray a decade of the Rosary earlier in the lesson. Encourage your child to pray to this prayer often.
Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture page 5.

- **Our Catholic Faith • Summer Prayer for the Spirit (page 5)** This prayer service uses a lighted candle, a bowl of holy water, and some small pieces of paper. If you don't have holy water, skip the Leader 8 section and simply make the Sign of the Cross on your child's forehead, asking the Holy Spirit to give your child strength to serve others in Jesus' name this summer. Provide slips of paper for you and your child (and any other family members present) to write on. Encourage your child to think of a way to put the Gospel values you've learned this past year into action during summer vacation. Take turns reading the Leader and Reader parts of the prayer service.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Mary in the Bible Timeline (pages 7-8)** This activity pulls together many of Mary's appearances in the four Gospels. Have your child cut out the ten squares on page 7 and follow the directions to learn about Mary in the Bible.
- **Saints • Saint Mother Théodore Guérin (page 6)** Mother Théodore is a recent American saint. Your child can learn much more about her at the Sisters of Providence website (spsmw.org). The sisters also have several biographies of Mother Theodore written for young people.
- **Closing Prayer** Search the Internet to play your favorite hymn to Mary. Together, pray the *Memorare* (page 55 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*).



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.