

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.

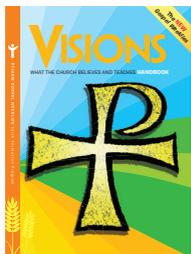
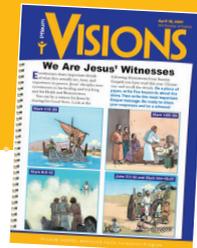
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Turn to page 53 of the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook and pray the Apostles' Creed aloud together. Invite your child to reflect silently with you on what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church.
- Cover Activity • We Are Jesus' Witnesses (page 1)** Your child will need a sheet of paper to work independently on the activity. Encourage your child to recall as many details as possible about the Gospel story before looking it up in the Bible.
- Article • Paul Spreads the Good News of Jesus (pages 2-3)** This first-person account invites us to travel along with St. Paul as he spreads the Good News. Take turns reading the text balloons. Pause together at each city noted in the text and find it on the map on page 2, so that you can trace Paul's journeys.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Paul changes his name from Saul; he stops persecuting Christians; he becomes a disciple of Christ. 2. Paul travels the Middle East, sharing Jesus' Good News with Jews and Gentiles alike. Paul teaches all that Jesus taught—love, forgiveness, peace—and proclaims Jesus' Resurrection from the Death to new life.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Appears to His Disciples (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel together by reading aloud the parts of Narrators 1 and 2 and Jesus.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. To experience Jesus with them is beyond the disciples' wildest imagination, so Jesus' presence scares them; they think they see a ghost. 2. Jesus is not a ghost; he has flesh and bones; he can eat and drink. 3. Jesus wants them to recall that the Scriptures say the Messiah had to suffer and that he promised to be with them. 4. Open-ended; we are part of Jesus' community of friends when we gather as a community at the Eucharist (Mass).*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Awakens Our Faith (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel. Lent has prepared us for Easter, and Easter now calls all believers to witness the Good News.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; talk with your child about how this year's Lenten commitments made you both more aware of problems and needs in our world. 2. Open-ended; help your child brainstorm ideas.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Deposit of Faith (page 5)** Read aloud the definition to reinforce the connection to Church doctrine.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 13. Read together about the Marks of the Church. Read aloud the two final paragraphs regarding the duties of bishops, priests, deacons, and lay people. Talk about what it means to be a layperson in the Catholic Church.

Turn to page 23 and read aloud this catechism feature on the Eucharist. Invite your child to ask questions about the Eucharist. Answer as you are able. If your child asks questions you are unable to answer, feel free bringing these questions to your parish faith formation leader, pastor, or deacon.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Jesus Reveals God’s Love (page 5)** Have your child read this feature, which explores how we gather, remember Jesus, and eat together as he taught in order to become what we celebrate—the Body of Christ, the community of his disciples. Then have your child fill in the column marked with hearts. *Answers might include: giving his life on the Cross, forgiving, healing, teaching, sharing meals, showing hospitality, including, feeding.* Then have your child fill out the column marked with stars. Affirm your child’s responses.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • At Mass, We Participate in the Work of God (pages 6–7)** Read aloud the introduction to the activity (page 6, left column), which explains the Jewish *berakah* (pronounced bear-a-kah) as the origin of the Eucharistic Prayer we pray at Mass. Point out the three parts of the activity on pages 6–7: We Remember, We Celebrate, We Pray for God’s People—that indicate the past, present, and future parts of the Eucharistic Prayer.
 - Invite your child to read the priest portion of the *We Remember* section aloud. Brainstorm responses to the questions on page 6.
 - Take turns reading aloud the priest part of *We Celebrate*. Discuss the question at the bottom and have your child jot down any thoughts on the lines.
 - Read the priest part of *We Pray for God’s People*. Have your child fill in prayers and loved ones’ names where indicated. Remind your child to pray for these needs often.
 - Finish by having your child complete the question at the bottom right of page 7.
- **Catholic Leaders • Vivienne Harr: Helping to Build Africa’s Great Green Wall (page 8)** Vivienne Harr’s contribution to helping others is impressive, but emphasize that she did not set out to start global initiatives. She simply saw something wrong and could not ignore it; she found a way she could contribute if even in a small way.
- **Closing Prayer** Invite your child to choose one of the Mass prayers on pages 6–7 (or a part of a prayer) and have your child read the prayer aloud.



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.