

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.

Note: During May, we especially remember and pray to Mary, the Mother of God and the mother of the Church. To honor Mary is to affirm our belief in the Incarnation. Jesus was not just God pretending to be human. Jesus was born of God and of Mary, a fully divine and fully human being. Mary and Jesus are as truly mother and child as any of us. This is the great love of God for us.

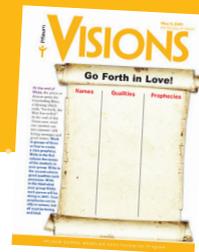
Share Experiences

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

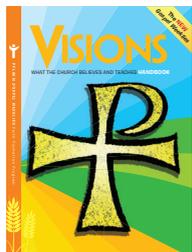
- Pray together** Think back on the school year together and take turns sharing moments you remember most. Then pray the Lord's Prayer together.
- Cover Activity • Go Forth in Love! (page 1)** Turn this class prophecy activity into a "family prophecy." In the first column, work together with your child to write the names of family members, followed by their good qualities in the second column, and your child's prophecies for them in the third column. Reiterate the directions that the prophecy doesn't have to be serious but must be kind and reflect each family member's gifts.
- Story • What Friends Do (pages 2–3)** Early teens begin the life task of making, keeping, and breaking friendships; growth is often painful. Invite your child to read the story silently and share reactions with you.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended. Examples or welcoming don't need to be limited to the lunch table. 2. Open-ended. The question broadens the first. 3. Generate a list of qualities. 4. Open-ended. Stress that love is a verb that is revealed in actions—sharing, talking, hanging out, doing sports together.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Love One Another (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the three Jesus parts between you.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Keep Jesus' commandments and his Father's. 2. The first three commandments challenge us to love and worship God alone, to respect God's name, and keep the Sabbath holy. The other seven command us to respect each other's lives, spouses, property, and good names. 3. We honor God by loving each other "as" freely and selflessly as this love has been given to us. 4. Open-ended. It's a privilege, special and personal, to be called a friend by Jesus. 5. Both girls show their love for each other; Caitlin includes Amelia, who thanks Caitlin. 6. God initiates the gifts each of us has and chooses to love us. 7. Open-ended; the Fruits of the Spirit are listed on page 50 in the What the Church Believes and Teaches handbook.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Love One Another (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel. Emphasize that Jesus' command to "love" is not a romantic emotion; rather, it's a selfless act.



- **Discuss the *Talk* questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended. 2. Open-ended; possible responses include being selfless, loyal, and kind. 3. Open-ended; mention some situations or people—friends, family, attending sports practice—that might prompt your child to think of opportunities to act in love.*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 40 and read aloud the paragraph in Section 2 (The Holy Spirit and Prayer).** Explain that the Holy Spirit may be the hardest of the three Divine Persons to understand and describe. It can be helpful to think of Holy Spirit as we think of love in this Gospel—active, moving, and present in our lives.

Turn to the Nicene Creed on page 6. By now, your child will be familiar with the beliefs proclaimed in the creed. Still, it's important to emphasize that our creed states that we believe in a Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Have your child find all the references to the Holy Spirit in the words of the Nicene Creed.

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Holy Spirit (page 5)** Read aloud the description to underscore the doctrine and to introduce the *Our Catholic Faith* feature. Encourage your child to pay special attention to the words “and the Holy Spirit” when making the Sign of the Cross.
- **Our Catholic Faith • The Holy Spirit Guides Us (page 5)** The opening paragraph and four questions focus on schools and parishes. You and your child can discuss responses based on your own experiences. After you've read the article together, call attention to the fire illustration. Ask what other symbols the Bible uses for the Holy Spirit. *Wind and a dove.* Emphasize that the Holy Spirit is always with us, not just when we are doing good.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • How Does the Holy Spirit Act in Us? (pages 6-7)** Read page 6 aloud together, including the directions at the top right. Your child can write responses to the dilemmas, or you can talk them through together. Have your child answer the questions at the bottom of page 6.
- **Closing Prayer • We Commit Our Holy Gifts (page 8)** This prayer service calls for a bowl of holy water and a Bible. If you don't have holy water, simply bless yourselves without it. Choose who will be the Leader and Reader. You, your child and any other available family member(s) can read the parts of Chorus 1 and Chorus 2 together. Read the directions (on page 7) for the Spirit Commitment Card aloud. Instead of returning the completed card to you, have your child hold on to it. After the prayer service, invite your child to post the card somewhere in your home (taped on a mirror or refrigerator for instance). Or take a picture of it to keep on your child's phone as a reminder.



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.