



## Sunday Gospel Background

The Pharisee asks Jesus to sift through the 613 laws of the Law of Moses and identify the most important one. Jesus answers with the Great Commandment: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. When we keep the Great Commandment, we also keep all the other commandments. Jesus shows this in a powerful way by his life, Death, and Resurrection; and he challenges us to be people of love as well.

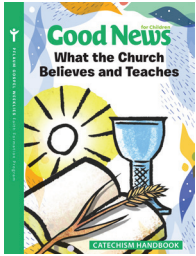
## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** “Jesus, thank you for coming to live in our world. You had friends to play with just like us. Teach us how to be good friends to one another and to our brothers and sisters. We want to be like you. Amen.”
- Story • Swimming Lessons (page 1)** This is a story about sibling support. It tells of the instinct a child has to help lessen her sister’s fear of putting her face in the water. Your child might be able to identify with Emma or Kate. Read the story aloud. You might have your child take the part of Emma or Kate. Or you might read the first paragraph and alternate reading paragraphs between you and your child.
- Use these Know questions to review the story:**
  1. How did Kate help Emma?
  2. Why did Kate help Emma?
  3. What will Emma do next time?
  4. When did a sibling or friend help you?

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus’ Great Rule (page 4)** Introduce the Gospel by explaining that Jesus tells people what the greatest rule of all is. Proclaim the Gospel by reading aloud the part of the Listener. Have your child read the part of Jesus.
- Discuss the Know questions on page 4.** Help your child state Jesus’ Great Commandment. Try having your child use three fingers (one each for God, neighbor, and self) to remember it. **Ask:** How else does the number three relate to God? *Three Persons in One God, Trinity.*
- Catholic Faith Words • commandment, Beatitudes (page 4)** Read aloud the definitions. Help your child understand that the Great Commandment sums up the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes help us follow Jesus’ way.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • (page 4)** Read together “Loving Like the Saints.”



□ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 44 and find “The Beatitudes.” Take turns reading aloud the Beatitudes, and explain the following after each one:

- The “poor in spirit” know happiness doesn’t come from things and all we have comes from God.
- People who “mourn” are sad, but they find comfort and joy in believing their loved one will be in Heaven with God.
- The “meek” know that all their talents and abilities are gifts from God. They don’t brag. They use their talents to do good.
- Those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness” want things to be fair. They speak up and work for justice.
- The “merciful” are kind and don’t judge others. They are willing to forgive.
- The “pure in heart” aren’t selfish. They try to see others the way God sees them.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.

## Live the Gospel

□ **Activity • Our Class Has Rules (page 4)** Adjust for home use by having your child decide which of these rules is most important at home. Print that rule on a piece of paper or poster board and have everyone sign it.

Return to the second paragraph under “Jesus’ Great Rule” on page 4. **Ask:** What are some of the rules you follow each day? Discuss how these rules—including your family rules—connect to Jesus’ great rule of caring for God, one another, and self.

□ **Activity • Keeping Jesus’ Law of Love (pages 2–3)** To play this game, you will need **two coins**, and a **game marker** (paper clips, beads, small plastic blocks, etc.) for each player, including you. Go over the rules together and play the game with your child.

Afterwards, discuss ways the game showed how to keep Jesus’ Law of Love: *Obeyed parents and teachers, helped siblings, included outsiders, shared with the poor, used talents, praised and thanked God.* **Ask:** What are some of the unloving actions in the game? *Stealing, teasing, cheating, acting selfishly, making trouble, disobeying.*

Summarize by noting how these loving and unloving actions relate to the Ten Commandments. Jesus’ Great Commandment and Law of Love include all the other commandments. That is why we say that love is Jesus’ greatest rule.

□ **Closing Prayer** Read aloud the Eucharist quote on page 4. Ask if your child has any special intentions or people to mention in prayer. Respond, “Lord, hear our prayer” to each intention. Finish by praying: “Loving God, we know that you hear our prayers. Help us to always follow your rule of love. Amen.”



## 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