

Sunday Gospel Background

The Pharisees' question in Sunday's Gospel 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. In his life, Death, and Resurrection, Jesus shows us in action our own value as human beings and the importance of treating others with the respect and love they deserve.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Explain that November 1 is All Saints' Day, when we celebrate all the saints in Heaven. Pray: "Loving God, we thank you for people who teach about you and show us how to follow you. Help us to become saints someday. Amen."
- Cover Activity (page 1)** Ask: What is a saint? *A holy person who loved and served God on earth and now enjoys a lifetime of happiness with God in Heaven.* Explain that the Church names some people saints, but all people in Heaven are saints.

Invite your child to look at the pictures as you read aloud the captions. Explain that the angry man in the top picture is Francis' father. Francis gave all his rich clothes back to his father, so he could live like Jesus—a poor man who cared about everyone.

In the middle picture, note that the sickness people had is called leprosy. People with leprosy had to live apart from everyone else. Father Damien cared for the people and later died of the disease. In the bottom picture, the woman in blue is Saint Perpetua. She is in jail because she follows Jesus. Her parents and maid are worried about her.

- Activity • Saints show us how to love. (pages 1-2)** Turn to page 2. Help your child make cuts on the dashed lines of the pictures. (Cut only on the dashed lines.) Turn *Promise* over so the cover is faceup. Show how to fold the pictures over so they match up with the cover pictures. Read aloud the sentences about Saint Clare, Saint Marianne, and Saint Felicity. When Saints Perpetua and Felicity were martyred (killed because of their faith), their children were adopted by other Christian families. Invite your child to share these saint stories with other family members. Encourage your child to point out how the saints helped others.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus teaches us to love. (pages 1-2)** Look back at the saints on pages 1-2. Ask: What helped them to be happy? Explain that following God's laws (commandments) can help make us happy. Share the Gospel:

A man asked Jesus, "Which of God's laws is the most important one?"

Jesus answered: "The greatest and first commandment

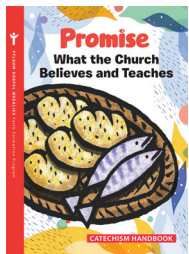
is this: Love God with all your heart and soul and mind. The second is like it: Love your neighbor the same way you love yourself."

Ask: What does Jesus say is the most important rule? *Love God and love other people.*

Invite your child to offer suggestions for ways your family can show love for God and one another today.



- **Word of the Week • Beatitudes (page 4)** Help your child find Beatitudes on page 4. Print it in large letters on a sheet of paper. Share this definition: *The **Beatitudes** are Jesus' list of attitudes and actions that will help his followers find real happiness.* Explain that God wants all people to be happy.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 24. If you have one, place a statue or picture of Mary in your learning space, along with some real or artificial flowers. (Or have your child draw flowers.) Read aloud or summarize the first three paragraphs on page 24. Emphasize that the saints in Heaven are happy. Jesus wants us to be happy forever in Heaven someday too. Ask: What did Jesus teach will help us get to Heaven? *The Beatitudes*. Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to find the answer: *SAINTS*.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, pages 2-3.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • What does Jesus want us to do? (pages 2-3)** Have your child turn to pages 2–3 in *Promise*. Read the title aloud together. Find Jesus at the top of page 2 and read the conversation he has with the children. Find the start square on the game board. Play the game with your child. When you land on a picture square, have your child tell you what is happening in the picture. When you have finished playing the game, **ask**: What did the game teach us about Jesus' Law of Love?
- **Family Corner (page 4)** Say the prayer together throughout the week. Brainstorm ways your child can take the suggested action.
- **Closing Prayer** Read the Eucharist quote on page 4. Then name someone you're thankful for. Invite your child to do the same. (Take turns naming as many people as you want.) **Pray**: "Thank you God, for making all these good people and putting them in our lives. Help us love them just as you love us. Amen."



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