

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. 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.

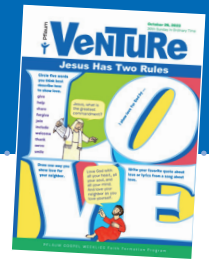
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Remind your child that this week the Church celebrates All Saints' Day. Share names of saints you both know. Explain that we also have living saints; people among us who are not officially saints, but live as though they are. We also honor people on the path to sainthood, like Servant of God Mary Virginia Merrick. Lead your child in prayer: "We pray for all the people we know who live as saints in our world. Loving God, thank you for these living examples of faith. We strive to live as they do, living your law of love. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Jesus Has Two Rules (page 1)** Invite your child to identify the person at the top left as a teacher of the Law of Moses who is challenging Jesus to choose the most important law. Read Jesus' response aloud together. Then read the directions in each of the four letters and give your child time to work on the activity.
- Article • How to Love 42 Million Neighbors (pages 2-3)** Regular access to good, nutritious food is important for people to live and learn. Read aloud the first paragraph. Share with your child that there are 336 million Americans and 42 million of them are hungry; this means that more than one out of eight people in the United States is hungry. Take turns reading aloud the rest of the article about Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, pausing briefly for questions or comments as you go.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. She decided to become a lawyer, so she could help other kids who faced the same issues as her adopted siblings. 2. Open-ended; when we are educated about an issue like poverty, we learn how we can help. We show our love and care for others when we take time to learn about challenges others face. 3. Open-ended; planning weekly meals is one way to eliminate waste when shopping for groceries. 4. Encourage and affirm sharing. Remind your child that small efforts can have a big impact.*

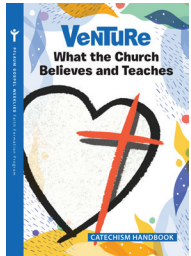
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Catholic Faith Word • Law of Love (page 4)** Introduce this Sunday's Gospel message by reading the definition of *Law of Love*. Call to mind last week's lesson about being citizens and Catholics. Both groups have laws we must follow.
- Sunday Gospel • What Are the Greatest Commandments? (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by taking the parts of Narrator, Pharisee, and Jesus 1 and 2 between you. Invite any available family members to join you and take a part.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Loving God with all one's heart, soul, and mind and loving one's neighbor as oneself. Jesus takes these two commandments out of Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 and interlocks them, saying that one cannot be thought of without the other. 2. Our neighbors include family, strangers, friends, all people of the world. 3. Open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Calls Us to Love (page 4)** Jesus gives the Pharisees a simple challenge in response to their tricky question—love God and love your neighbor. He also calls out the people who



make great shows of piety but may not show love to others. Read aloud the doctrine together. Provide paper or a notebook if your child is comfortable journaling any responses to the questions.

- Discuss the *Think* questions on page 4. *Answers: 1-2. Open ended. Accept and affirm your child's responses.*



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 30. Review the four ways we can form a right conscience. Then read pages 36-37 together. **Ask:** What is hard about keeping these two commandments? Work together to memorize the two Great Commandments.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Prayer of the Faithful (page 5)** Once your child has read this page, brainstorm a list of people and things to pray for. Invite your child to write petition prayers in the spaces. If your child is comfortable with the idea, share the petitions with your family at meals this week. Respond to the petitions together: Lord, hear our prayer.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Put Yourself in My Shoes (pages 6-7)** Your child likely is familiar with the talk show format. This activity requires active listening and trying to imagine what the person's life is like. Adjust this activity for home use by sharing the host and guest roles between you and your child, or invite other family members to participate. If your child plays the role of the host, you can help prepare by reading the three interview questions in the yellow box in the right column on page 6. A guest can select any character on page 7. Take your time with these interviews. Listen for responses and attitudes that might be discussed further.
- **Saints • Servant of God Mary Virginia Merrick (page 8)** Read aloud this feature together. Discuss the reasons your child thinks "Miss Mary" is being considered for sainthood. Despite a debilitating injury that left her mostly paralyzed, she found ways to help others, and inspired her friends to contribute as well. Emphasize that Mary Virginia Merrick is an example of how God calls each person to reveal his love through generous acts of service.
- **Closing Prayer** Attend Mass as a family on one of the holy days this week—All Saints' Day on Wednesday, November 1, and All Souls' Day on Thursday, November 2. Explain that at Mass on All Saints' Day, we pray the Litany of Saints, in which a reader or cantor repeats "Saint _____, pray for us." Pray your own litany using the names of the people you mentioned in your opening prayer. Conclude by saying together, "All holy men and women, pray for 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