



## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus acknowledges the Pharisees' place in the Jewish community but criticizes them for not practicing the love and humility they preach. Jesus calls us to keep our word, to practice what we preach. He speaks against impressing people and seeking status, and speaks for taking him as a model. The greatest is the one who serves, Jesus says, not the one who looks best or takes the first place.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Explain that this Sunday's Gospel Reading turns our understanding of power upside down. The greatest person is the one who humbly serves others. Together, silently reflect on times you served others this week and when you could have offered help but didn't. Close by praying: "Lord, help us to be good leaders, to serve others, and to share your love. Amen."
- Cover Activity • What Makes a Leader Worth Following? (page 1)** Look at the photos together. Starting bottom left: Jesus Christ, Son of God and our Savior; Sean Callahan, president and CEO, Catholic Relief Services; Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement; Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States; Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Nobel Prize Winner and founder of the Missionaries of Charity; Katherine Johnson, NASA mathematician; Blessed Stanley Rother, priest, missionary, and martyr; Jim Gaffigan, comedian and actor; and Katie Ledecky, world-record swimmer and Olympian. Go through the example together to help your child understand the task. Explain that there is no one correct answer for each one. Have your child complete the activity independently. Then review the responses together.
- Story • Red Rover, Red Rover (pages 2–3)** Read aloud the story together. Your child will probably have experience with both good and bad leaders.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Help your child recognize how Leah misuses her power as a leader to form a clique and to harass other kids. 2. Help your child find examples of insiders and outsiders by going through each named character. For example, ask "Is Lucy an insider or an outsider? How do you know?" 3. Encourage your child to articulate and appreciate the courage of Lucy and the storyteller who decide not to allow Hanna to fall. Open-ended.*

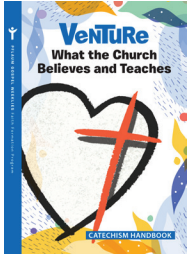
## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • The One Who Serves Is Greatest (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by reading it aloud together. You might read the Narrator part and take turns reading the Jesus speaking parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Those who teach the Law of Moses but don't practice what they preach; Pharisees who wear special accessories that show they are holy. They want to sit in places of honor at banquets and in synagogues and to have titles of respect. 2. Make clear that your child is not being asked to accuse anyone or name names, but rather to think about times when we are all guilty of these actions. 3. One who serves the rest. Jesus might tell Leah to help all the girls have a good time instead of teasing weak kids like Hanna; open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Calls Us to Love (page 4)** Read aloud this summary of Sunday's Gospel concepts. It builds on last week's message—that is, love is an action.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus shows patience, even when the Pharisees challenge him over and over; invite your child to share other examples. 2. Talk about ways you have observed your child serving around the house: through assigned chores, helping someone without being asked, etc.*



**Our Catholic Faith • Christians Share What They Have (page 5)**

The collection at Mass has always been a way for Christians to share what they have with others. Have your child read this feature and complete the checklist.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 25 and read aloud about the Sacrament of Holy Orders. **Ask:** What are the actions that tell us the way a bishop serves the Church—teaches, leads worship, guides a diocese? **Ask:** What is a diocese? What is the name of our diocese? What is the name of our bishop(s)?

Then turn to page 26. Ask your child to find the key words in the first paragraph related to matrimony—covenant, agreement, sharing life and love, union. Explain that Jesus made matrimony a sacrament to gift the husband and wife with grace to love each other. **Ask:** What makes our family special, especially as a Catholic family?

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture, page 6.*

## Live the Gospel

- Living the Gospel • Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments (pages 6-7)** Give your child a moment to look at the pages. Read aloud the headline and bold type at the top of page 6. Continue with the copy at left and the words below the photo. Have your child complete the items in the circle. Then have your child read aloud the bold text and main copy on page 7. The sign of this Sacrament is the laying on of hands when the bishop gives the priests the power to build up the Church by preaching and the sacraments. Help your child list ways your local priests and deacons serve your parish and the larger community to complete the items in the circle.
- Catholic Faith Word • Salvation (page 7)** Read aloud the definition. Ask your child to explain how priests, deacons and married people can work to save others. *Priests can offer absolution for sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which returns people to a right relationship with God. Deacons can inspire people return to God and believe. Married couples raise children to be close to God. Healthy families can be a good example of Christian love to others, which could inspire conversion.*
- KidTalk • What famous person do you admire for his/her service to others? (page 8)** Read the question and responses together. Ask who your child would add to the list and why.
- Closing Prayer • Prayer for Vocations** This week is National Vocation Awareness Week, when we renew our prayers and support for those considering vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. Pray as a family this week for your pastor or deacon, or a religious sister you know. Then turn to page 55 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* and pray the Morning Offering. This prayer joins us in support of the work done by bishops around the world, including Pope Francis, who is also the Bishop of Rome.



## 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