



Sunday Gospel Background

The Pharisees in Sunday's Gospel want to trap Jesus into taking sides on the question of paying Roman taxes. They believe that accepting Roman rule in their country means they are not loyal to God and God's rules. Jesus' answer, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's," calls them—and us—to obey both civil and religious laws and to examine our allegiances when the two conflict.

Share Experiences

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

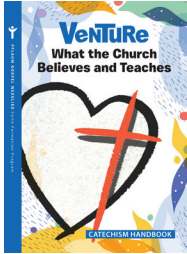
- Pray together** Begin by voicing a concern that you would like to pray for and invite your child to do the same. **Pray:** "We bring all of our concerns to you, our Loving Father, trusting completely in your love and care. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Word Search (page 1)** This Sunday's Gospel has a saying of Jesus that we often hear out of context: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." Your child will probably recognize most of the sayings in the clues. (Find the solution at the end of this lesson guide.)
- Cover Story • The Project (pages 1–3)** Read the first column of the story. Discuss whether Chris and Maeve (pronounced *Mave* to rhyme with *gave*) should copy the material. If your child thinks copying any part of the report is wrong, read ending F on page 3. This is the most honest solution, but your child will probably be interested in what happens if Chris and Maeve make other choices. Read the other endings as well.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Taking credit for another person's work is dishonest. 2. Open-ended. Encourage your child to explore the options and the what-ifs. 3. Making the right choice and risking a grade may be painful in the short-term; however, living with guilt or waiting to be found out is often worse. If they make the choice to cheat and are not caught, it could make it easier to cheat again. This could lead to a very poor and destructive habit as they grow older.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Give to Caesar and to God (page 4)** Point out the Roman coin pictured, and read aloud the Gospel Background section. Proclaim the Gospel together by sharing the reading parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. They thought Jesus might say it was not necessary to pay taxes, which would get him in trouble with the Romans and Herod's supporters. If Jesus said taxes were good, the Pharisees could accuse him of agreeing that the Romans should be in charge. 2. Jesus knew the Pharisee intended to pay the tax because he had a Roman coin. Jesus' answer satisfies both obligations—to God and to the government—and asks people to make judgments using this principle. 3. Open-ended. Respect for God's Creation, the environment, and all people; time spent in prayer, thanks, and praise; keeping the commandments. 4. Encourage and affirm your child's responses. Remind your child that time spent in prayer or in service are ways we show gratitude to God.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • We Have Duties to God and to One Another (page 4)** Read this feature together. Your child is likely aware that discussing politics and religion can spark intense responses. Discuss ideas for how people might be able to discuss these subjects respectfully, by listening, showing respect for opinions, and so on.



- Discuss the **Think questions on page 4**. **Answers:** 1. Children can be good citizens by being good students, volunteers, and members of clubs or teams. 2. Invite your child to compare this law to the Ten Commandments. Are there any similarities?



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 32. Recall the lesson about conscience from two weeks ago. (See page 30 if a reminder is needed). Emphasize that, by following the commandments, we learn what is right and wrong and we form a right conscience. Review each commandment by asking what the commandment tells us is right. Pay attention to the Third Commandment. If your family is unable to attend Sunday Mass due to family issues, brainstorm ways you can follow this Commandment by taking a special time on Sunday to thank God for being alive.

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Pharisees (Venture page 5)** Introduce the *Our Catholic Faith* feature by reading the definition aloud. Many people have a negative association with this week's word, but your child might be surprised to learn some scholars think that Jesus was a Pharisee—or, at the very least, had a lot in common with these teachers.
- **Our Catholic Faith • Who Are the Pharisees? (page 5)** This brief article can help put the Pharisees in context. They are not evil people. They are teachers like Jesus. Read the article aloud and work with your child on the questions. **Answers:** Gamaliel is respected, brave, and intelligent. At first, Nicodemus is frightened, hesitant, and confused; he is also inquisitive. The Apostle Paul calls the Pharisees "the strictest part of our religion."

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • How Do We Keep the First Three Commandments? (pages 6–7)** Read the paragraphs at the top of page 6 aloud. Together, share what you remember about the Exodus story. Read aloud the First Commandment and have your child read the paragraphs describing what that commandment asks us to do. Together, compose a prayer that honors God and write it on the lines. Then have your child write the next prayer and respond with any questions. Follow this pattern on page 7 and respond to each of the questions together, or have your child write responses and share them later.
- **GodTalk • Got Questions? (page 8)** Read the questions and answers aloud together. GodTalk questions come from children all over the United States and Canada and represent typical middle-grade concerns.
- **Closing Prayer** Revisit the concerns you voiced in the gathering prayer. Ask your child if, after reading, there are additional concerns your family can pray for. Conclude by saying, "Dear Lord, we know that you hear all of our prayers. Amen."

Word Search Solution (Page 1)

U	N	L	W	D	C	J	A
Q	L	O	Z	A	R	G	F
N	K	U	L	V	F	I	P
O	Z	A	E	R	B	O	
S	W	E	N	S	O	N	M
E	V	R	T	Z	W	P	I
P	Q	R	E	G	N	A	A
X	S	T	Z	E	L	Y	W



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