



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist points out Jesus to two of his own disciples. After these men meet Jesus, they tell others about him. This Gospel includes Jesus' invitation: "Come, and you will see" (1:39)—a message for his first followers and for us today. It prompts us to think about what discipleship means in our own lives. Look for opportunities this week to share with your child what it means for you to be a disciple of Jesus, and invite your child to do the same.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** "Loving God, people call to us every day, asking us to help them, play with them, and listen to them. You call us, too. Help us to listen to you always. Amen."
- ☐ **Cover Activity • Who Calls Me? (page 1)** Invite your child to read the cover title, printed vertically. Have your child fill in the blanks in the sentences. **Answers:** *teacher, God, coach, parents, priest, friend.* **Ask:** What are some examples of how these people call you? Has anyone called you today? As you move through the lesson, stop occasionally and **ask:** Who is being called? Who is calling? What are they being called to do?
- ☐ **Activity • Follow the Leader** Play a game of Follow the Leader, or Simon Says.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Activity • We Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word (pages 2–3)** This week, *Good News* provides an overview of the Liturgy of the Word. You and your child will proclaim the Gospel as the culmination of this activity.

Write *Liturgy of the Word* and *Liturgy of the Eucharist* on a board or sheet of paper. Help your child understand what parts of the Mass each of these represents. The Liturgy of the Word begins with the First Reading and ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the Preparation of the Gifts and ends with the Communion Rite.

- ☐ **Old Testament Reading • Samuel Answers a Call (page 2)** Share the reading parts between you and your child: God, Samuel, Storyteller, and Eli. **Ask:** Why didn't Samuel realize it was God who was calling him? *Perhaps Samuel wasn't expecting God to call him; maybe he was too sleepy; maybe it took an old wise man to help him see God's will for him.* **Ask:** When have you been called by God? This will be more difficult to answer. God's call need not have been in words. It could be by seeing beauty in nature and realizing God made all this. It could be a friend asking for help. God is deep in our hearts, calling us all the time to be our best selves, to be loving and forgiving. Invite your child to draw a picture if it helps to express this.
- ☐ **Responsorial Psalm (page 3):** Explain that the psalms are taken from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament. Point out that the Responsorial Psalm is often sung at Mass by a cantor, and the people sing the refrain. Read aloud the response and have your child repeat it. Disregard "right" and "left." Instead, simply take turns reading the psalm part and say the response together. When finished, explain that on Sundays, we also hear a Second Reading, usually from the Acts of the Apostles or one of the letters to the early Christian communities.
- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Come and See (page 3)** If you have a Bible, help your child find the Sunday Gospel (John 1:35–42). Explain that the all the Mass readings come from the Bible. Take turns proclaiming each sentence of the Gospel from *Good News*.



- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** *Possible answers:* 1. Andrew and his friend follow Jesus because they trust John the Baptist. They have probably heard Jesus teaching and want to learn more from him. They have probably heard John the Baptist say that he is the one God has promised to send to save his people. 2. After the two friends spend a day with Jesus, Andrew wants to tell his brother about Jesus. As we know, they both become Jesus' followers. **Ask:** Why do people want to be Jesus' followers?
- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • disciple (page 2)** Read the definition of *disciple* together. Help your child understand that by following Jesus and sharing his teaching with others, we are his disciples. **Ask:** What are the names of some of Jesus' first disciples? *Andrew and Simon Peter.* Explain that *Peter* means "rock." Jesus gives Simon this name because he will need to have strong faith for the work Jesus will ask him to do. **Ask:** Who are some of Jesus' disciples today?
- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)** Read together "We Hear God's Call at Mass." Help your child recognize that attending Sunday Mass is important for us as Jesus' disciples.



- ☐ **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 22.** **Ask:** What is an activity that we do together as a family? Explain that liturgy is like that in some ways. The Church is the family of God. When the people of the Church come together to praise and thank God, we are celebrating what we call *liturgy*. Explain that readings from the Bible are an important part of every Church liturgy. Our most important liturgy is Sunday Mass. Direct your child's attention to the heading on page 22: "The Liturgy of the Word." **Invite** your child to think of a reading from the Bible or something from a recent Homily at Mass. **Ask:** What did you think of? Why did you remember it? Point out that God speaks to us through the words of the Bible and the priest or deacon's words in the Homily. Even though the books of the Bible were written a long time ago, they are God's messages for us today.

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

Live the Gospel

- ☐ **Activity • "Jesus, come and see!" (page 4)** Tell your child you're going to play a game about what Jesus might see if he came to a school. Follow the directions to play the game with your child. **Ask:** What would you want Jesus to see if he came to our house?
- ☐ **Closing Prayer** Share something or someone you wish to pray for, and invite your child to do the same. Respond to each by saying together, "Lord, hear our prayer." Pray the Lord's Prayer to finish.



Parent Resources

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Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus calls four fishermen to leave their boats and follow him. By responding to this call, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John become Jesus' first followers. Jesus tells them that he will teach them to fish for people—catching them with the bait of the message of God's love.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** "Loving Jesus, we want to follow you. Bless our family. Help us to be good news to one another. Amen."
- ☐ **Cover Activity • Jesus Calls Us (page 1)** Invite your child to look at the picture on the cover of *Good News*. **Ask:** What do we mean by *good news*? *Something that is going to make people happy.* Read the directions about finding people who are being good news. *Some answers:* girl encourages child to walk, children play football and jump rope, scouts pick up litter (implies a scoutmaster who helps them organize their project), library with free books to read (paid for by people of town who pay taxes), boy watching birds cares about the environment. Remind your child of last week's lesson about how God calls us. Conclude that people in this neighborhood are listening to God's call to live together in peace and harmony.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus Calls Followers (page 2)** Invite your child to describe some of the pictures on pages 2–3 to you. *A map with a lake, river, cities, hills, two sets of human figures.* Explain that the map shows the places where Jesus grew up and worked as an adult. Look at page 2 together and read the parts of Narrator and Jesus to proclaim the Gospel.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** Discuss how you would respond if you were one of these people—would you have been able to leave everything to follow Jesus? Why or why not? **Ask:** How do Jesus' followers "catch people" for him today? Who are some people in our parish who do this? *Priest, deacon, teachers, religious sisters and brothers, catechists, other parents, friends, volunteers, etc.*
- ☐ **Map Study • Galilee Is Jesus' Neighborhood (pages 2–3)** After reading the text on page 2 aloud, give your child some time to complete the coloring.
- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read together "Jesus Calls Us to Love." Share about some of the people who have shared the Good News of God's love with you and invite your child to do the same. Point out that these people are living their vocations as Jesus' disciples. **Ask:** Who can you share the Good News of God's love with?
- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • vocation (page 4)** Review the meaning of the word *vocation* with your child. Emphasize that every Christian's first vocation is to love.



- ☐ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 32 and find the section titled "The Good News." Take turns reading aloud the bulleted items. **Ask:** How would you tell people in a few sentences what the Good News is? *God loves us. God wants us to spend forever in Heaven with him. Jesus died for our sins and opened the gates of Heaven.* **Ask:** If Christians have such Good News, how should we be—happy or sad? Kind or mean?



Invite your child to each choose one of the statements about the Good News on page 32 and draw a picture of it. Display your child's drawing in your home.

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

Live the Gospel

- ☐ **Activity • We Can Be Missionaries (page 4)** Ask: Do you know what a missionary is? *Missionaries are priests, deacons, religious women and men, and laypeople who spread Jesus' message of God's love around the world.* Your family might have heard a missionary speak at church. Point out that the four men in the Gospel followed Jesus right away and stayed with him until his Ascension into Heaven. Ask: What do you think Jesus' followers did after his Ascension? Listen to your child's speculation. Your child may remember Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit gave the disciples strength to tell about Jesus to everyone in Jerusalem. We know from Saint Paul's letters that some of them sailed all around the Mediterranean Sea and that many people became believers in Jesus because they heard their stories about him.

If needed, help your child with the backpack activity by brainstorming things your child would need. *Possible answers: picture book of the Gospels; Bible; puppets of Bible characters, especially Jesus; paper and crayons; crucifix.*

You might also explain that Maryknoll is a missionary organization. Their missionaries go to the most dangerous countries in the world and to places where people are most in need. The Maryknoll Classroom Program "Discover Your Neighbor" is an interactive education program that promotes mission engagement by Catholic youth. Learn more at discoveryourneighbor.org.

- ☐ **Family Corner (page 2)** Say the prayer together, or a form of it, as a morning prayer this week. Share the Question of the Week as a conversation starter.
- ☐ **Closing Prayer** "Thank you for loving us, Jesus, and for choosing us to be your followers. Help us to listen to you and follow you always. Amen."



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Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches during Sabbath synagogue worship and expels an evil spirit who interrupts him. The people who witness this are amazed at his authority. They comment that he is a far greater teacher than any of their rabbis. In Mark's Gospel, this is the first cure Jesus performs as he begins his public ministry. Jesus has God's power to teach and heal. We say that we believe Jesus is God's Son when we pray the Creed. We show what we believe in our loving words and actions.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** "Loving God, thank you for our family. Help us learn more about your Son, Jesus, who came into our world to love and heal us. Help us to listen to Jesus and be respectful to one another. Amen."
- ☐ **Cover Activity • Jesus Calls Us to Believe and Love (page 1)** Before beginning the activity, say the word *power* aloud and ask your child to say it again with you. **Ask:** What does *power* mean? **Possible answers:** *control over something or someone, electrical power, physical strength, ability to do something difficult.* Invite your child to look at the photos on the cover of *Good News*. Read the instructions and the words in the Word Bank. Give your child some time to write a word by each photo, telling what kind of power is shown. As you discuss these responses, be open to your child's interpretation of the scene and the power used there.
- ☐ **Story • The Little Bird (page 2)** Read this true story aloud together. Decide which of you will read the main narrative and the Pablo and Laura parts.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the story.** Refer back to the word bank on page 1 and **ask:** Which word best fits the power Laura and Pablo used? *Care.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus Shows His Power (page 3)** Look at the picture at the top of page 3 and invite your child to guess what might be happening. Proclaim the Gospel by reading the different parts: Narrator, Man, Jesus, Woman, and Boy. After the reading, tell your child to find Jesus and the man with the unclean or bad spirit in the picture. (They are in the center. Note that Jesus is not afraid to touch the man.)
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** 1. *The man was upset and out of control. He could have a mental illness or have a bad-unclean-evil spirit.* 2. *Jesus shows the power of love and concern for the man. He tells the bad spirit to leave him. Jesus is not afraid to recognize a bad thing and take steps against it.*
- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • miracle (page 3)** Try to keep the focus on *why* Jesus healed—because he was bringing the message of God's great love for us and God's desire for our fullness of life.
- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read "We Believe in God's Power." Point out that Jesus performs miracles to show God's power and help people believe in him as God's Son.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 6. Read the first paragraph aloud, then pray the Creed together. Be alert to sentences that your child might not understand, and refer to pages 7–14 of the handbook to explain some of these concepts. If you have further questions, you might refer to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which devotes 263 pages to the Apostles' Creed. Talk to your parish DRE to see a copy. You can also view an online version by going to uscgb.org and searching *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Feel free to study the prayer with your child. Note that there are three sections—one dedicated to each Person of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Have your child turn to page 15 to complete the activity. **Solution:** *I believe in God the Father, and in Jesus, the Son of God, and in the Holy Spirit.*

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, pages 3–4.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Good Actions Have Power (pages 3–4)** Invite your child to read aloud the seven words at the bottom of page 4 that express how God's love has power and how our loving choices help show God's love. Invite your child to share ways we can act with love by caring, forgiving, loving, making peace, caring, trusting, and sharing.

Read through the directions on page 3 and offer any needed assistance to help your child make the lantern. Note: Make sure your child does not equate God's power with our human power. We cannot perform miracles, but God does call us to allow his love to shine through us. Our belief in God will lead us to good actions.

Place the lantern on your dining table as a reminder to everyone in your family to act with love.

- **Family Corner (page 2)** Try making the prayer your family's morning prayer this week. As you share the Question of the Week, talk about who or what has authority in our lives.
- **Closing Prayer** Invite your child to raise the lantern high as you pray: "Dear God, help us shine our light so that others can see your power, experience your love, and believe in you. Amen."



Parent Resources

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Scripture Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus brings happiness and healing to Peter's mother-in-law and to the many sick people who crowd around her door. Jesus heals many people in Capernaum and then moves on to teach and heal in other towns. *Good News* connects the Gospel reading to the sacraments this week. Jesus gave the Church seven sacraments. They are celebrations of Jesus' love. They give us grace, which is the gift of God's life and love. The sacraments use signs we can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. These signs make Jesus' loving, healing, and forgiveness real in our lives today.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** Invite your child to share the name of someone who is sick and **pray**: "Loving God, you are our healer and hope in times of suffering. We ask for your healing touch and comfort for (Name)." Lead your child in responding: "Be with him (her), Jesus." Finish with the Sign of the Cross.
- ☐ **Cover Activity • Sacraments Scramble (page 1)** Read the heading aloud with your child: Sacraments Celebrate God's Love. Invite your child to look at the pictures of stained glass windows. Explain that these windows contain symbols of the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church. Have your child complete the word scramble to name the sacraments and complete the missing word at the bottom of the page. **Answer:** *Grace*. When your child has finished, explain that grace is the gift of God's life and love. The sacraments bring us closer to God. Share your own personal experiences with the sacraments and invite your child to do the same.
- ☐ **Saint Story • A Holy Man of Peru (page 2)** A well-known African and Hispanic American is Saint Martin de Porres. Invite your child to study the pictures to predict what the story is about and what Martin was like. You can read the story aloud or have your child read it silently.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the story.** Stress that the Church calls Martin a saint because he loved and served others as Jesus did.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus Heals (page 3)** Note that one of the things that made Saint Martin de Porres special is his care for people who were sick. Explain that in today's Gospel, Jesus shows his care for a sick woman. Proclaim the Gospel together by taking turns reading the parts.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** 1. *They want to be healed or have Jesus heal someone.* 2. *Jesus came for everyone, so he needed to move on to other towns to share God's love with them.* Remind your child that last week, you learned that healing miracles are signs of the power of God.
- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)** Read "Signs of God's Grace." **Ask:** What is grace? *The gift of God's life and love.*
- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • sacraments (page 3)** Read aloud the definition on page 3. Invite your child to try to name all seven of the sacraments. Write them down as your child says them.



□ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 21. Have your child read aloud the second paragraph under “The Sacraments.” Review with your child what Jesus does for us in each of the Sacraments:

- Baptism—gives us new life in him, cleanses us of Original Sin, makes us children of God and members of the Church
- Confirmation—strengthens the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us, strengthens us to share the Good News with others
- Eucharist—comes to us in his Body and Blood
- Penance and Reconciliation—forgives our sins
- Anointing of the Sick—brings us healing (spiritual and sometimes physical)
- Matrimony—unites us with a spouse so that together our love is a sign of God's love to the world
- Holy Orders—gives a priest, deacon, or bishop the grace and authority to serve the Church

Invite your child to draw a picture of a sacrament your family has celebrated or one that your child has witnessed or learned about. Then print the words *We Celebrate the Love of Jesus* across the top of the drawing and display it in your home.

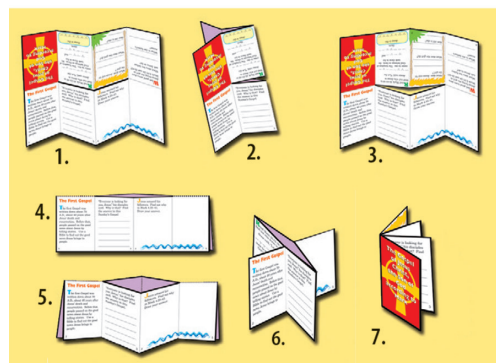
Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.

Live the Gospel

□ **Activity • Gospel of Mark Booklet (page 4)** Every sacrament comes from the life and teachings of Jesus. For the past three Sundays, we have heard readings from Chapter 1 of Mark's Gospel, readings in which Jesus calls followers, teaches, and heals in one town of Galilee after another. He often leaves people wondering, “Who is this?” The Gospel booklet will help your child answer that question. Have your child separate pages 1–2 of *Good News* from pages 3–4. Then follow the steps in the diagram to construct the booklet.

If you have a Bible, help your child find the Bible passages in the booklet activities. **Answers for page 7:** *children, arms, blessed, Messiah.*

□ **Closing Prayer** “Loving God, we ask you to bless friends, family members, neighbors, and members of our parish who are sick or suffering. Please help them to trust that you are with them and that you will always love them. Amen.”



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Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is moved with compassion for a leper; an outcast of society. The leper, whose faith in Jesus brings him to ask for healing, is so moved by this sign of God's love that he tells the Good News everywhere he goes. Jesus shows that God's love is for all people. We are called to do the same. During Lent, the Church asks us to pray, sacrifice, and help. You can begin by participating in the Mass in whatever way your family is able on Ash Wednesday. Keep talking about ways your family can pray, make sacrifices, and reach out to others.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** If you have a heart decoration or valentine, hold it in your hand while saying a short prayer of thanks to God for someone you love. Allow your child to hold the heart/valentine and do the same. Finish with the Sign of the Cross.
- ☐ **Cover Activity • We Show Love by Reaching Out (page 1)** Look at the picture on the cover together and ask: What do you think is happening here? *People are making loving gestures towards one another and sharing gifts.* Read the title together. Start at top left and take turns describing the person and what he or she is giving to the next person. Invite your child to color the hearts next to those people who are reaching out to someone. Talk about how your family might answer the question about how to reach out.
- ☐ **Saint Story • Father Damien Reached Out to Lepers (page 2)** Point out Father Damien in the pictures. Explain that Molokai is in Hawaii. Search for it together on a world map. Read the story aloud together by switching at each paragraph.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the story.** Help your child think beyond physical needs when answering the second question.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus Reaches Out and Heals (page 3)** Before reading the Gospel story together, invite your child to listen for who gave Father Damien the idea about caring for lepers.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** 2. *Help your child see that by healing the man, Jesus reconnected him to his family and community. Jesus' healings also included forgiveness of sins.* **Ask:** How was Father Damien like Jesus? Invite your child to tell of other people who reach(ed) out to people. *Saint Teresa of Kolkata (Calcutta), people who work or volunteer in homeless shelters and soup kitchens, missionaries who go to other lands, people who teach at Catholic schools and parishes.*
- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read "Jesus Includes Everyone." Explain that lepers and those troubled by bad or unclean spirits were outcasts in Jesus' time. Jesus models for us that we are to love *all* people.
- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • Lent (page 3)** Read aloud the definition of *Lent* together. Explain that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (2/17). **Ask:** What else do you know about Lent?



□ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 18. Have your child find the paragraph about Lent and read it silently. **Ask:**

- What does Lent prepare us for? *The celebration of Jesus' Resurrection to new life at Easter.*
- What do we do during Lent? *Pray. Make sacrifices. Help others. Become more like Jesus in our thoughts and our actions. Ask God and others to forgive us.*
- What day does Lent begin? *Ash Wednesday.*
- What are the last three days of Lent called? *The Triduum (TRID-doo-um), which means "the three days."*
- What is the big feast at the end of Lent? *Easter!*

Have your child turn to page 57 (inside back cover) and look at the pie-chart illustration. Find the word *Lent* in one of the arrows and read aloud about Lent and the Triduum. Invite your child to color the Lent and Triduum sections. Then go to page 25 and help your child fill out the chart for Ash Wednesday and Easter.

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

Live the Gospel

□ **Activity • How Can You Reach Out? (page 4)** Discuss the three stories. Explain that you will need to put yourselves in the other person's shoes and search your experiences to decide who can help, and how. Use your discussion to get your child thinking about situations around the house, at school, or in your extended family or neighborhood. Let your child take leadership in defining problems, deciding on ways to help, and then making a concrete plan to carry out.

□ **Activity • My Lenten Commitment** Here are a few points you can use to discuss Lent.

- At Ash Wednesday Mass, we receive ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads, a sign that we want to become better followers of Jesus during the forty days of Lent.
- Many people make a special commitment to give up something like candy, TV, or video games. They may commit to doing something that helps others, like putting money in CRS Rice Bowl.
- It is always a good Lenten practice to try to become more like Jesus—getting along with siblings, being respectful to parents, cooperating at school.

Explain that during Lent, adults and school-age children who are preparing to be baptized at Easter are in their final stage of preparation. Lent is a good time for those already baptized to think about how well we are following Jesus. Take some time together to think of how you will keep Lent. *Good News* provides activities to help you keep Lent, but it is a good idea to help your child start thinking ahead.

□ **Closing Prayer • We Pray as Lent Begins (page 3)** Pray the prayer together by alternating the reading. Invite other family members to participate if available.



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Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is driven into the desert by the Holy Spirit. Jesus encounters the Devil's temptations as well as the comfort of his Father's angels. From this desert experience, Jesus goes out to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God. The forty days of Lent invite us to grow as Christians and show our belief in God's promises. God promises to be with us, protect us, strengthen us, forgive us, love us, and share life in Heaven with us. Look for ways this week to point out how your family trusts and shows your belief in one another.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** "Loving God, help us to use the time of Lent to grow closer to you and one another. Give us hearts that love the poor and help us make sacrifices that will help them. We want to love you and your people better. Amen."
- ☐ **Article • A Man of Faith and Courage (page 2)** Skip to page 2 and read the title together. Ask if your child can guess who the man in the picture might be and why he is pictured with a lion. The man is Saint Mark, who wrote down the stories about Jesus that have been in our *Good News* lessons for the last five weeks. Remind your child about the little booklet you made about Mark's Gospel two weeks ago. Mark is the first person to write a Gospel. Matthew, Luke, and John wrote their Gospels ten or more years after Mark. Read the page aloud together.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the article.** 1. Mark traveled with Paul and heard his stories about Jesus. He also learned about Jesus from the stories people told at the Sunday gatherings. 2. Mark wrote his friends when they were hiding and trying to keep safe during the war. Mark tells us God raised Jesus to new life and would raise up Jesus' followers too. Conclude by share a story about how Jesus that helps you when you are afraid or worried. Invite your child to do the same.
- ☐ **Bible Story • God Makes a Covenant with Noah (page 1)** Turn back to the cover of *Good News*. Explain that you're going to read about a man from Old Testament times who also believed that God would take care of him during a hard time. This story is the First Reading for this Sunday's Mass. **Ask:** Do you know what a *covenant* is? If not, refer to the definition on page 3. Read the cover story aloud together.
- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • covenant (page 3)** Read aloud the definition of *covenant* on page 3. Explain that a covenant is a special promise between God and people. God will never break his promise to us, but sometimes people break their promise to God.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus Trusts in God's Promises (page 3)** Invite your child to look closely at the Gospel pictures. The first shows Jesus alone, surrounded by the richness of Creation. The desert of Judea in the winter is a time of beauty. In the second picture, Jesus has left the desert and gone back to his home country of Galilee. There he is sharing the Good News of God's love.

Go back to the first picture and read aloud the sentences. **Ask:** What does it mean to be tempted? *To have a strong urge to do something we know is wrong.* Trusting the Devil would have been wrong. Jesus puts his trust in God. Jesus believes that even if some things are hard, God our Father wants only good things for his children. Jesus knows that God is faithful to him. Jesus is



faithful to God too. **Ask:** Who cared for Jesus in the desert? *Angels.* **Ask:** Who kept him company? *Animals.* Give your child time to find and circle the four hidden animals.

Refer to a map of Galilee. You can use the lesson from January 24, or search for Galilee on an online map. Read aloud the words in the second picture and **ask:** Why did Jesus go to Galilee? *People lived in villages around the Sea of Galilee. Jesus came to meet people and help them see how much God loves them.*

- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** 1. *Prays, remembers God's love, enjoys the beauty of Creation, sacrifices by fasting from sunrise to sundown.* 2. *Refer to second sentence in Connecting Gospel and Doctrine.* **Ask:** How can we show that we believe what Jesus says about God?



- ☐ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 5. **Invite** your child to give examples from everyday life of trusting or believing someone. Emphasize how important it is to keep our promises so that others will believe us and trust us. **Ask:** Can we trust Jesus' followers—like Saint Mark who wrote a Gospel—who helped pass along the Good News of Jesus to us? *Yes. They believed the Good News about Jesus and wanted to share it.* Read aloud the last paragraph on page 5. **Ask:** Can we trust the Church to teach us about Jesus? *Yes.*

Turn to page 51 and read the definition of *Amen*. Emphasize "I agree" and "I believe." Next, find the word *creed* on page 52 and read aloud the definition. The Creed we say at Sunday Mass lists the most important things we believe as Catholics.

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

Live the Gospel

- ☐ **Activity • Faith in Action Lenten Calendar (page 4)** Read aloud the activity title and introduction on page 4. Show your child where the Lenten practices for this week are (page 1). Ask what word the four letters spell—*GROW*. Explain that the four actions in the letter blocks are ways we can grow. Read them aloud together. Help your child to complete the suggested actions and calendar and keep it somewhere prominent in your home. Your child will be able to add calendar squares from *Good News* each week of Lent.
- ☐ **Closing Prayer** "Loving God, we believe in you and trust in your promises. Help our faith to grow. Help us to show our faith in our actions. Amen."



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Scripture Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Peter, James, and John witness Jesus' Transfiguration. Jesus shows us that after his suffering and Death on the Cross, he will be resurrected. The Gospel of the Transfiguration gives us an idea of what Jesus will look like in Heaven. This helps these three Apostles believe that Jesus is God's Son. Their faith in Jesus grows stronger. The Transfiguration gives us a peek at our future too. If we do God's will and follow Jesus, God promises that we will go to Heaven. When Jesus comes again, our bodies will shine with God's glory in Heaven.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** (If you have a Bible, open it to Matthew 6:9–13, the Lord's Prayer.) Explain that the Bible contains four Gospels. We learned about Saint Mark last week. He and three other men listened to the stories about Jesus and wrote them down so we could know the stories too. Two of the men, Matthew and Luke, wrote down a prayer Jesus taught to people. **Ask:** Can you guess what the prayer is? Invite your child to look at the Bible passage if you are using it, and notice that it is the Lord's Prayer (Our Father). **Pray** the Lord's Prayer together.
- ☐ **Cover Activity • We Are God's Children (page 1)** This Sunday's Gospel is a story of a way God revealed Jesus' identity to three of his followers. Although they have been with him for many months, watching him heal and listening to him teach, they have not grasped his identity as God's own Son. We are all on a lifelong quest to know Jesus and take on his spirit and mission. The images on the cover review Jesus' life and can help you and your child see how much you have learned about Jesus. Go through the questions in the four boxes together.
 - Jesus Is Human Like Us: *Mary and Joseph; Bethlehem; Nazareth*
 - Jesus Is the Son of God: *God saves; the Magi; Resurrection*
 - Jesus Is a Healer: *Peter's; leprosy*
 - Jesus Is a Teacher: *love God and neighbor; feed the person; visit/care for the person; Lord's Prayer (Our Father)*
- ☐ **Article • Big Changes! (page 2)** When Jesus was transfigured, the change in his appearance frightened his disciples. Change is hard for many of us. God is good to us by giving us many changes in the natural world to get us used to its inevitability and its beauty. Read the butterfly article aloud together, pausing to find the photos described in the text.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the article.** Use the questions to review the article and to help your child see where growth and change might be happening now.

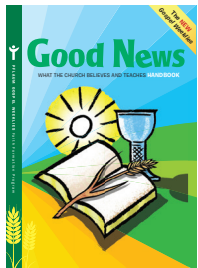
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is God's Son (page 3)** Identify Jesus, Moses and Elijah, and Peter, James, and John in the picture. **Ask:** What feelings do the disciples' faces show? *Surprise, fear, confusion*. Proclaim the Gospel together by alternating the reading.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* question related to the Gospel.** Draw out your child's response by **asking:** What do Jesus' dazzling clothes show about who he is? *Jesus is very special. He becomes full of light when he prays to God. This is an image of how Jesus might*



appear in Heaven after his Resurrection. **Ask:** What does Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah show? *That Jesus is even greater than these two important people from the Old Testament.* **Ask:** What does the voice tell about who Jesus is? *Jesus is the Son of God.*

- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • Transfiguration (page 4)** Read aloud the definition. Explain that this happened as the time for Jesus' Death was getting closer. It helped his followers grow stronger in faith for the hard times ahead.
- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)** Read "Jesus Calls Us to Glory." Help your child see the connection between Jesus' Transfiguration and his promise of Heaven to those who listen to and follow him.



- ☐ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 14 and have your child find the first two blue boxes. Explain that these are lines from the Apostles' Creed that tell what we believe will happen to us after we die. Have your child read read aloud the words in the blue boxes.

Emphasize that God wants to share Heaven with all of us. **Ask:** What do you think Heaven will be like? **Ask:** What did Jesus' Transfiguration tell us about Heaven? *Our bodies will shine with God's glory in Heaven.* Invite your child to imagine and draw a picture of what Heaven will look like.

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

Live the Gospel

- ☐ **Activity • We Pray to Our Father (page 4)** Read the activity title on page 4 aloud together. **Ask:** What did the voice from the cloud say in the Gospel? *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.* **Ask:** Whose voice was that? *God the Father's.* **Ask:** When did you become a member of God's family? *Baptism.* Explain that God is Jesus' Father and our Father too. Take turns reading the four paragraphs on the left side of page 4.

Emphasize the importance of the Lord's Prayer since it is the prayer that Jesus taught us. Encourage your child to pray it every day. You might explain that it takes about twenty seconds to pray—the same amount of time it should take to wash our hands. Make it a point to pray it every time you wash your hands and remind your child to do the same.

- ☐ **Activity • Lenten Calendar (page 1)** Point out the calendar squares that will spell the word *LOVE*. Remind your child to do each loving activity before gluing or taping its letter square on the calendar from the previous issue (February 21).
- ☐ **Closing Prayer** "God our Father, thank you for creating us and making us members of your family. Jesus, thank you for sharing God's love with us and teaching us to live as your followers. Holy Spirit, help us to make loving choices so that we will enjoy Heaven someday. Amen."



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Sunday Gospel Background

When Jesus finds people buying and selling in the courtyards of the Temple, he chases them out, saying that the Temple is the house of God, not a marketplace. Jesus is showing us here that God calls us to live holy lives. We can hear God's call when we pray. We answer God's call by making loving choices, asking for forgiveness when we make unloving choices, and forgiving others. Following the Ten Commandments and Jesus' teachings helps us to become holy.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** "Loving God, we thank you for inviting us to be followers of Jesus. Help our words and actions show others how good it is to be friends and followers of Jesus. Amen."
- ☐ **Cover Activity • Jesus Calls Us to Be Holy (page 1)** Read aloud the instructions for this activity about how Jesus' followers act. Give an example of a sentence of your own. **Hidden words:** *forgive, help, care, pray, share.*
- ☐ **Story • We're the Tigers! (page 2)** Ask: What do you think this story might be about? Who are the Tigers? How will you know who they are? Read the story aloud together.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the story.** 2. Note that the most important thing is how a team plays together and how it treats the other team. Invite your child to find all the ways the Tigers show what kind of a team they are.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • God's Temple Is Holy (page 3)** Invite your child to find Jesus in the picture. Explain the role of the Temple in Jesus' time. Every male Jew tried to come to the Temple for the major feast days of the year. The Temple was the one place in all of Israel where the priests offered sacrifices to God. Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading between you. Invite other family members to read if available.
- ☐ **Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** After the first question, Ask: What is God's house for Christians? *Church.* 2. *His Resurrection.* Explain that when Jesus talks about his body as God's temple, he doesn't mean the building. The Jewish people thought the Temple was where God lived on earth, but Jesus is really where God lives on earth.
- ☐ **Activity • Gospel Creative Drama** Invite your child to use facial expressions and body language to show how Jesus felt at different times in the Gospel story:
 - When he saw people visiting the market booths
 - When he told the sellers to get out
 - When they talked back to Jesus and he answered them
 - When his friends didn't understand what he meant

Now invite your child to show how the buyers and sellers in the Temple felt at each of these points. Ask: How did Jesus' followers feel?



- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine** Read "We Answer God's Call" (page 4). Help your child make the connection between a holy place (the Temple or church) and a holy life. Both should include prayer. **Ask:** How will people know that we're on Jesus' team?
- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • holy (page 4)** Read aloud the definition of *holy*. Explain that God calls every one of us to be holy. And God offers us lots of helps so that we can live holy lives and join him in Heaven someday.



- ☐ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 36. Before reading, **ask:** How do you keep a friend and make your friendship grow? These same things can help us to be good friends with Jesus. Talking to Jesus everyday helps us grow closer to Jesus. Read aloud the last three sentences in the second paragraph under "What Is Prayer?"

Ask: When is your favorite time to pray? Read aloud the two lines under "When Should We Pray?" Then **ask:** Where is your favorite place to pray? Read aloud the first line under "Where Should We Pray?" **Ask:** Is there a right or wrong way to pray? *No.* The important thing is that we pray!

Invite your child to write a prayer to God. Help as needed. Affirm your child's prayer.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 3.

Live the Gospel

- ☐ **Activity • The Ten Commandments Guide Us (page 3)** The First Reading this Sunday is about the Ten Commandments. For help with the activity, your child can refer to page 31 in the Catechism handbook. **Answers:** 1-C; 2-F; 3-A; 4-J; 5-B; 6-D; 7-G; 8-E; 9-I; 10-H.
- ☐ **Activity • We Can Be Holy (page 4)** When Jesus talked about the temple he would rebuild in three days, he was talking about his own body, which would be raised again by God in the Resurrection. Jesus is God's temple. We are also God's temple, the body of Jesus on earth.

The activity on page 4 can provide ideas for how your family can show you are followers of Jesus. Rather than dividing into teams, brainstorm ideas together. Think of actions, prayers, and sacraments. Write down the ideas on separate pieces of paper and put them in a bag or envelope. Take turns choosing a piece of paper and acting out what it says while the other guesses. Use the rhyme on page 4 to guide you.

- ☐ **Activity • Lenten Calendar (page 1)** Point out the calendar squares for this week. Invite your child to guess the word: *PRAY*. Remind your child to do each prayer activity before gluing or taping its letter square on the calendar.
- ☐ **Closing Prayer** Spell out the letters of your child's name and **say:** "Let's thank God for people and things that begin with each letter." Conclude by **praying:** "We thank you, God, for everything—including (your child's name). Amen."



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