

Sunday Gospel Background

In John's Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry at a wedding feast. Jesus shows us he has come to transform our lives by turning the sadness and embarrassment of running out of wine at a wedding into the joy and gladness of finding the best wine still left. Jesus' action gathers people together in joy.

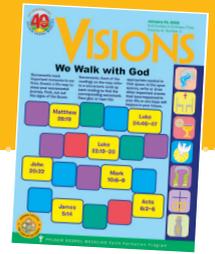
Share Experiences

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

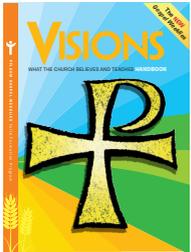
- Pray together** Look up Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10. Take turns reading each pair of verses and respond together after each: "Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations."
- Cover Activity • We Walk with God (page 1)** Look at the cover together. Read the directions and be prepared to clarify the symbols: *Water: Baptism; chairs: Reconciliation; bread and wine: Eucharist; dove: Confirmation; stole: Holy Orders; rings: Marriage; oil: Anointing of the Sick.* Have your child look up the Scripture citations, select the corresponding sacrament, and cut and paste the symbols onto the life map. **Answers:** *Matthew 28:19: Baptism; Luke 24:46-47: Reconciliation and Penance; Luke 22:19-20: Eucharist; John 20:22: Confirmation; Mark 10:6-9: Matrimony; Acts 6:2-6: Holy Orders; James 5:14: Anointing of the Sick.* Then have your child fill in important life events, past, present, and future. Examples might include the first day of kindergarten and/or middle school, making a team or special club, graduating from college, or having children.
- Story • A Wedding in the Family (pages 2-3)** Invite your child to read the story silently, or you might choose to read it aloud together.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** **Answers:** *1. May be nervous, excited, embarrassed, etc. Affirm your child's answer. 2. James and Henry are brothers; it's a chance to be closer, despite their age difference; Henry wants him to be part of his important day; James' parents want the family to celebrate together; open-ended. 3. His dad tells him it's a good way to support Henry and Sarah; open-ended. 4. Support for the new couple; celebrate an important, happy occasion; open-ended.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Blesses a Wedding Feast at Cana (page 4)** Share the reading parts to proclaim the Gospel together.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** **Answers:** *1. The embarrassment of running out of refreshments for guests at a wedding. 2. He changed water into wine, a sign that he is the new wine, the Messiah whom people have been waiting for. Jesus' actions show his concern for people's feelings, his regard for the value of celebration, his generosity. 3. Jesus himself is the best wine, who comes among us to reveal God's love and who begins the Messiah's banquet for all people.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Community (page 5)** Have your child read aloud the definition and name any communities to which your child and family belong.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Gathers Us in Joy (page 4)** Read this feature as a summary of Sunday's Gospel concept. Jesus is the New Law, but he is not legalistic. His law is one of love.



- Discuss the two *Talk* questions on page 4. **Answers:** 1. Open-ended; ushers greet people at the door of the Church; priests talk with parishioners and visitors after Mass; there may be doughnuts and coffee after Masses. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation—welcome new Catholics into the faith community. 2. Open-ended; you invite them to do things together, include them in your social network (e.g., group chats, texting).



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 25. Read the introductory paragraph on Sacraments at the Service of Communion. The primary significance of the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony is that the people who receive them will help others gain their salvation. Ask your child how deacons, priests, bishops, and married people might help others reach salvation.

Take turns reading aloud the section on the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Help your child understand the significance of each role—deacon, priest, and bishop. Emphasize that this sacrament leaves an indelible mark on the man who receives it. This means that his soul is forever changed. Ask your child to name the requirements for those who wish to receive the sacrament.

Turn to page 26 and take turns reading the section on Matrimony. Ask your child the purposes of Matrimony. *To perfect their love for each other, to strengthen their unity, to make them holy, and to prepare them for eternal life.*

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Jesus Is the Best Wine (page 5)** Read the paragraphs together, including the sign in the middle of the page. Have your child look up at least two of the signs in the Bible. You can look up two yourself. Complete the sentences in the right column together. **Answer:** 2,400 glasses of wine!

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Sacraments Make Our Faith Visible (pages 6-7)** Invite your child to choose one of the sacrament groups: initiation, healing, or service. Work with your child as necessary to respond to and discuss the question. Then have your child respond to the question on page 7. You might ask: How do the sacraments prepare us to live more fully as Catholics? How can we move from the one-day celebration to making the sacraments something we live every day?
- **Closing Prayer and Activity** Read aloud the Second Reading for this Sunday, 1 Corinthians 12:4–11. Share something about your child's talents. This service emphasizes that we all have valuable contributions to make to the People of God. Take turns reading aloud the parts. Looking at second column, encourage your child to think of people who exhibit the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



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.