



Sunday Gospel Background

Jesus fulfills the words of the prophet Isaiah. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says that his words—as a hometown boy—will not be well-received by the hometown crowd. And he's right. Jesus' neighbors reject his message; they are sure he is only the carpenter Joseph's son. But Jesus persists in his message that God favors those least expected to receive help. God sent relief to widows suffering from the drought and healing to Naaman, a Syrian, from leprosy.

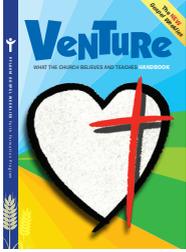
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Share the name of a leader you would like to thank God for, and invite your child to do the same. The leader can be living or dead, famous or local. After you share about each person, respond together, "Thank you, loving God, for giving us good leaders."
- Cover Activity • Do We Risk Helping Others? (page 1)** Have your child work independently on the situations and tally up the score. Share with your child that risk is a personal choice; having a high risk score isn't a matter of "winning." Discuss what may influence various people's comfort with risk.
- Story • Not Alone Now (pages 2–3)** Take turns reading the story aloud, pausing briefly for questions or comments.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Jared was used to his homeroom where he did not stand out as different. 2. They invited Jared to have lunch with them; they stood up for him at recess. 3. Open-ended; examples could include being a loyal friend, not spreading gossip or rumors, not joining in on something you know is wrong, speaking up in favor/ against something.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • People Reject Jesus as a Prophet (page 4)** Divide up the reading parts and read them aloud to proclaim the Gospel together.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus said he was the one sent from God to bring the Good News and announce a year of favor from the Lord. This means he is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah. 2. Joseph's son. They don't believe he's anything more than a carpenter's son. 3. Israelites reject Elijah and Elisha; two non-Israelites—a widow from Sidon and Naaman from Syria—accept them. Prophets challenge us and ask us to take risks, to think of others, not only ourselves.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • We Believe or Reject Jesus (page 4)** Read aloud the summary of this Sunday's Gospel concept about what it means to claim to be a Christian.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; they may be very afraid, but they trust in Jesus, despite the danger. 2. Open-ended; we show it in the way we treat others and through our actions; we may show it in outward ways such as wearing a cross or crucifix or attending Mass. 3. Open-ended; perhaps they risk doing the right thing instead of the popular thing.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 48. Explain that the word *liturgy* comes from a Greek word that means “the work of the people.” Liturgy is when we all offer the sacrifice of the Eucharist together. *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” We offer thanksgiving to God for the life of Jesus and for life that he gives to us in Baptism and Eucharist and through the other sacraments. Invite your child to imagine you are at Mass together as you briefly review the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion Rite, and Concluding Rites. Point out that the Dismissal isn’t just a goodbye—it’s our reminder to continue the work of Jesus in the world.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture page 8.

- **Catholic Faith Word • Liturgy (page 8)** Have your child read aloud this week’s definition to summarize and conclude your discussion of the Liturgy.
- **Our Catholic Faith • Who Believes What Prophets Say? (page 5)** In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus compares his own rejection to that of two Old Testament prophets. Have your child read this feature and look up the Bible references to find out what happened to the prophets Elijah, Elisha, and Jeremiah. Choose one of the stories mentioned at the lower-right corner of the page for your child to look up and read.

Live the Gospel

- **Saints • Saint Maximilian Kolbe (page 6)** Give your child time to read this comic. **Ask:** How was Saint Maximilian Kolbe like a prophet? *He published writings that some people did not agree with and was imprisoned for it. He delivered the Word of God despite the risk.*
- **Living the Gospel • Play the Accept and Reject Game (pages 7–8)** Many children experience situations similar to the dilemmas on these game cards. By playing this card game, your child will recognize that it’s possible to respond to tough situations with either an accepting or rejecting action. Acting like a prophet means rejecting the easy answers and accepting the challenge to take risks.

Read the introduction on page 7. You can adjust the directions on pages 7–8 for home use by talking through the “accept” and “reject” solutions together. When you’ve finished, point out the Scripture printed on the reverse side of the cards. Invite your child to assemble and tape the cards in order to reveal a well-known portion (1 Corinthians 13:4–7) of this Sunday’s Second Reading: *Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

- **Closing Prayer** Share the name of a person or group in the news who has suffered rejection or persecution and invite your child to do the same. **Pray:** For *(name of person or group)*, we pray to our God. **Respond:** All are welcome in God’s family.



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.