

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says he fulfills the words of the prophet Isaiah; he is the one chosen to bring Good News to the poor, sight to the blind, and freedom to captives. When we reach out to people in need, we follow Jesus and continue his work of showing people God's love for them. We began reading from Luke's Gospel in Advent. We continue throughout the year until next Advent. Each Gospel writer has his own perspective on Jesus and his work of teaching and healing. Luke is especially aware of Jesus' interactions with the poor, outsiders, and women.

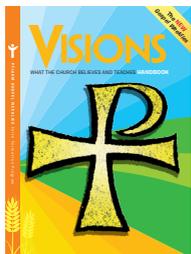
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Read this Sunday's Responsorial Psalm from the Bible (Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15), pausing after each verse. Invite your child to respond: "Your words, Lord, are spirit and life."
- Cover Activity • Jesus Shares the Good News (page 1)** Look at the images on the postage stamps together. For each of the story examples, run through the checklist at lower left, and identify which of the criteria each one meets.
- Article • A Gospel Writer Called Luke (pages 2-3)** Take turns reading aloud sections of the article.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Luke has decided to write down all he learned about Jesus so that the friends of God can better trust what they have been taught about Jesus. 2. Open-ended. Your child might choose the shepherds at Jesus' birth; stories of Jesus speaking with women; the rich man and Lazarus; the good Samaritan; the Prodigal Son; Zacchaeus, the tax collector; or the good thief. 3. Luke shows Jesus as someone who rejoices in conversions and change. Jesus heals, forgives, and believes in second chances in Luke's Gospel.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Announces Who He Is (page 4)** Divide up the reading parts and read them aloud to proclaim the Gospel together.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Theophilus. Luke may be referring to an actual person who lived in Alexandria, a Roman official, or an honorary title that includes all people of goodwill. 2. At Mass, a lector and priest read from the Lectionary and proclaim God's Word, much in the same way Jesus did in the synagogue. 3. Jesus will bring Good News to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed, and a year of favor from God. A year of favor, or Jubilee Year, occurred every fifty years in Old Testament times, when debts were forgiven and everyone could start over with a clean slate. 4. At this point, people are praising Jesus. Confused, excited; open-ended.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Synagogue (page 4)** Read the definition aloud. Jesus announced his mission in his hometown synagogue.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • We Are God's Favorites (page 4)** Read this feature as a summary of Sunday's Gospel.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; emphasize that God shows his favor by being with us in all situations and times in our lives—good and bad. 2. Open-ended.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 7. Remind your child that Sunday's First Reading takes place in history; the Exile lasts from 586-540 B.C. People begin to return and rebuild Jerusalem and its Temple after that, continuing into the 400s B.C. Review that the priests write down their holy history during the Exile. The priest Ezra reads from these scriptures.

Review what you've learned about why Luke decides to write a Gospel. He investigates what eyewitnesses remember about Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection. He uses Mark's Gospel and adds more stories about Jesus and his teachings from oral traditions developed as early Christians prayed and broke bread together.

Then read aloud God's Revelation to People on page 7. **Ask:** why do we refer to our history and Scriptures as Revelation? *Because God takes the initiative and communicates in the events of history, showing us love and faithfulness.*

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • We Remember Stories to Create Our Future (page 5)** Invite your child to respond to the lead-off questions; then read aloud the text. The two questions can help connect the Old Testament events with events in your child's life.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Luke Live! (pages 6-7)** Look at the directions on pages 6–7. Instead of creating a talk-show panel, you might create a one-on-one interview. Your child can interview you or vice versa.
- **Catholic Leaders • John Tirado, Seminarian Letter Project (page 8)** When some people see a need in their community, they do something about it! John Tirado saw the numbers of priests dwindling and asked himself what he could do. The result was the Seminarian Letter Project. Read aloud this feature together.
- **Closing Prayer** Turn to the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on page 53 in the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook. Pray this prayer to end your learning session.



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.