

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, the Holy Spirit comes to rest upon Jesus after he is baptized by John the Baptist. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus is ready to begin his mission—to serve others and make them whole. Jesus comes among us to gather a new community that includes the excluded, to raise up the poor and oppressed, and to welcome sinners and outcasts.

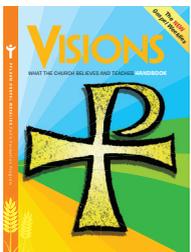
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Pray the Lord's Prayer together.
- Cover Activity • John Baptizes Jesus (page 1)** Look at the cover together. The four photos depict the same event— John's baptism of Jesus. Talk about what is the same and different about each piece of art. *All six picture John, Jesus, water, and the act of baptizing. There is a dove present in some of the images.*
- Article • Preparing Amir (pages 2-3)** Invite your child to use the photos and title to speculate what the article is about. Read the article aloud together, alternating at each paragraph.
- Discuss Talk questions related to the article.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended. 2. Amir's grandmother encourages and supports Amir and serves as his sponsor. His mother journeys with him. Ms. Christy teaches Amir the necessary teachings and makes his process a lesson for the entire class. Amir's class learns with him and supports his decision. 3. Open-ended.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

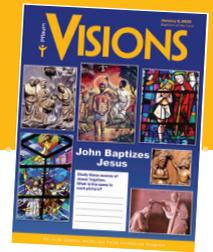
- Sunday Gospel • The Holy Spirit Rests in Jesus (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the parts of Narrators 1 and 2, John, and Voice.
- Discuss the Talk questions.** *Answers: 1. John prepares people for Jesus' coming; he tells them that Jesus will baptize in the Holy Spirit and in fire; John baptizes Jesus. 2. Jesus wanted to show the people that he, too, was making the choice to be baptized. 3. The dove symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit. 4. God speaks from Heaven and says Jesus' example is good and pleasing to God.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Is God's Son, Filled with the Holy Spirit (page 4)** Read aloud this feature as a summary of this week's Gospel concept.
- Discuss the Talk questions.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; share mementos from your child's Baptism if you have them. 2. Help your child find the Baptism date; attending Mass is a special way to commemorate our Baptism days.*



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 22. Read aloud the introductory paragraph at the top of page 22. Emphasize that these sacraments welcome people into the Christian family, strengthen and support their faith, and draw them closer to God.

Take turns reading aloud each section: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. After you read each section, help your child identify the purpose, meaning, and signs that are particular to each sacrament.

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



- Our Catholic Faith • Confirmation Seals Us with the Holy Spirit (page 5)** Explain that baptismal vows are answered for us as children. Confirmation is the opportunity for us to respond ourselves. Read the page aloud together.

Live the Gospel

- Living the Gospel • I Belong! (pages 7-8)** Read aloud the directions on page 8. The game can work with two players as easily as with four. When you're finished, review the experience by asking questions like these:
 - Which set of cards was easiest to collect? Why?
 - Which set of cards was hardest to collect? Why?
 - Look at the cards you collected. Who helped you belong in those ways?
 - Do you help others feel like they belong? How?
 - Were you surprised by something you learned about yourself? What was it?
 - How important is it to belong to a variety of groups?
- Puzzle • Baptism Crossword (page 5)** Follow directions on top of the page. *The answer to puzzle is Sign of the Cross.* **Hint:** Start with the longest word and build from there.
- Closing Prayer (page 5)** Renew your baptismal vows together. They can be found on page 5. You read the four questions and have your child respond, "I do." Then, before praying the Lord's Prayer together, ask your child to really focus when making the Sign of the Cross. This is a constant reminder of our belief in the Holy Trinity.



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.