



Sunday Gospel Background

The Beatitudes in Luke’s Gospel confront us and confound us with hard-to-believe statements: Happy are the poor, the sorrowing, the hungry, and the persecuted. In the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches clearly that the poor, the sorrowing, the hungry, and the persecuted have a place in God’s kingdom. Jesus’ teaching asks us to reassess our notions of success. Sharing what we have; comforting people who are sad; and laughing with, not at, people—these are the signs of success in God’s eyes.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Explain that in this lesson you will be talking about the Beatitudes. Ask what this word sounds like (*attitudes*). The Beatitudes are a series of blessings that don’t seem much like blessings at first—being poor, sad, rejected, insulted. But with the proper attitude—with hope, gratitude, and faith in God—each of these becomes a cause for happiness. Pray for something that is a need and something for which you are grateful. Invite your child to do the same. After each prayer, respond together: Lord, hear our prayer.
- Cover Activity • What’s a Fair Share? (page 1)** This activity will introduce your child to the subject of fairness, a topic Luke raises often in his Gospel account. It is based on “Ten Chairs of Inequality: A Classroom Simulation on the Distribution of Wealth” developed by United for a Fair Economy. To adjust for a home or small class, we suggest using a set of ten objects, such as index cards or pieces of candy. Set up a row of ten objects. Explain that each object stands for 10 percent of the world’s wealth. This includes the things we own and the money to purchase opportunities, like an education. Divide the objects in half between the two of you. Share that while there is a lot of wealth in the world, there are areas that don’t have access to the basics people need to survive. Other areas have abundant wealth, as well as access to healthcare and education. Explain that you represent the world’s two wealthiest continents. The wealthy require more space and resources. Invite your child to guess how much of the world’s resources you (representing two continents) represent. *Eighty percent*. Take three of the objects that are in front of your child so that you now have eight and your child has two. **Ask:** How does it feel to have this wealth taken away from you? How about when you look at what I have? Is the distribution fair? Who decides what’s fair?
- Article • Start Everything with Kindness (pages 2–3)** Read the article together, switching at the bold sentences.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; you may wish to return to this question once you have read the Sunday Gospel on page 4. Jesus turns our usual way of thinking upside down in the Beatitudes. How is leading with kindness perhaps different than the way some people act? Why is a kind act so extraordinary? 2. Elijah’s family was very sad; the kindness coin project was a way for Elijah’s legacy of kindness to live on. It could give his family hope in the midst of their grief. 3. Open-ended; noting kind actions can encourage people to do more of the same. 4. Open-ended; give your child time to think about this.*

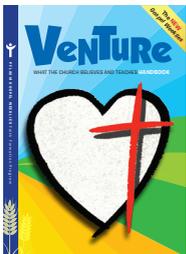
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus says these people are happy because they trust that God will bless them with what they need and reward them in Heaven. 2. Jesus says it is terrible for these people because they have already had*



their happiness; people in our world today see being rich and well-fed as something to be desired and as a sign of success; open-ended.

- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • The Beatitudes Are God’s Hope-Filled Promises (page 4)** Some children are confused by the message of the Beatitudes. Assure your child that many adults have a hard time understanding how people who are poor and rejected can feel happy and blessed. Read the doctrine to help understand the Beatitudes.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: Both of these questions are meant to prompt conversation and discussion. Share experiences of your own challenging times or an example of when you have helped someone else.*



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 36. Read aloud the first two paragraphs to explain the New Law. Explain that the Beatitudes are also included in the Gospel of Matthew (5:3–10) in a message called the Sermon on the Mount. In Luke’s Gospel, the Beatitudes are included in the Sermon on the Plain.

Read the last three paragraphs that continue on page 37 aloud. They offer a good explanation of how people who are meek, poor, and hungry have reason to be happy.

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

- Catholic Faith Word • Sermon on the Plain (page 5)** Read aloud this week’s definition to summarize your discussion of the Beatitudes.
- Our Catholic Faith • Who Are the Poor in the Bible? (page 5)** Explain that the “B.C.” (before Christ) dates in this timeline move from larger to smaller as they approach the birth of Jesus. “A.D.” stands for *Anno Domini*, which means “the year of the Lord.” These numbers grow larger as they move forward in time from Jesus’ birth. Take turns reading this feature aloud. Help identify the illustration that goes with each date: *manna and quail; a farmer planting seeds; the crown of King David; the destroyed Temple; bricks for rebuilding; and a wealthy landowner and a poor man*. Have your child complete the short writing exercise.

Live the Gospel

- Living the Gospel • The Promised Land (pages 6–7)** Play the game to help your child understand why Jesus makes such a point of including the poor in his kingdom.
- Closing Prayer • We Hear the Cries of the Poor (page 8)** Read aloud the opening paragraphs and the sections in red type. Have your child write out each “cry.” Instead of dividing into groups, work together to write the action responses. Then say the prayer together.



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.