

Sunday Gospel Background

Jesus asks us to be like God when he calls us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who insult us. These teachings come from a part of Luke’s Gospel known as the Sermon on the Plain (6:17–49), which parallels Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). To love one’s enemies asks more of us than the Golden Rule, “Do to others what you would have them do to you.” To love an enemy calls us to be compassionate as God is compassionate, to love with unconditional mercy.

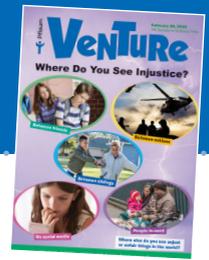
Share Experiences

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

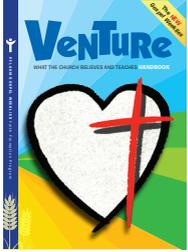
- Pray together** Explain that this week’s lesson is about Jesus’ message to love our enemies. This can be easier said than done, especially when we face injustice and unfairness. Invite your child to offer a prayer for someone facing injustice, whether it’s someone in the news or someone your child knows personally. After your child’s petition, respond together: Lord, help us seek justice for all.
- Cover Activity • Where Do You See Injustice? (page 1)** Talk about the question: Where else do you see unjust or unfair things in the world? Your child may see injustices in the world at large or in your own lives. Both are valid.
- Article • Fannie Lou Hamer: A Little Light That Shone! (pages 2–3)** Fannie Lou Hamer was a contemporary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., though twelve years older. Take turns reading her story aloud together.
- Discuss the Think questions, page 3.** *Answers: 1. Fannie grew up with poverty and racism. She didn’t want others to endure them. She knew all people have dignity and rights. 2. She risked registering to vote, even after she was beaten. She worked for civil rights organizations. She spoke and sang about equal rights and opportunities. 3. Fannie believed that hating or oppressing anyone was against God’s will; open-ended.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Says, “Love Your Enemies” (page 4)** Before reading aloud together, invite your child to notice how different Jesus’ advice is from the way many people in our society act today.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. We should love and do good to them, bless and pray for them, offer them still more of what we have. 2. Jesus likely would have been very proud of Fannie Lou Hamer, especially in the way that she believed that Christians should take care of people and put their faith into action.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Asks Us to Love as He Does (page 4)** It can be very difficult to forgive those who have wronged us. But God does not just love those who do what he wants; God loves everyone. Read aloud the doctrine as a summary of the Gospel concepts of forgiveness and unconditional love.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; it can be easy to misjudge someone if we don’t know them well. 2. Open-ended; it’s easy to like someone who shares our interests and views; conversely, it can be harder to build a relationship with someone who is different from us or even holds opposing views or is a member of a different religion. 3. It’s worth working it out for a good friendship; try to see things from another person’s point of view.*



- **Catholic Faith Word • Reconciliation (page 5)** Read the vocabulary word and definition aloud. You may wish to use this opportunity to review the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (See page 23 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*.)



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 33. Begin with an explanation of the structure of the Ten Commandments, also known as the Decalogue. The prefix *deca* means “ten.” The first three commandments guide our relationship with God; the last seven address our relationships with one another.

Explain that you will be focusing on these seven commandments. Turn to the Fourth Commandment—honor your father and mother. Take your time with this. You may choose to read about one or two of these commandments on pages 33-35 each day.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • David Turns the Other Cheek to Saul (page 5)** Read the introduction together. If needed, help your child find Sunday’s First Reading in the Bible: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23. Work with your child to answer the questions and look up the other Scripture citations.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • How Do You Love Your Enemies? (pages 6–7)** Have your child complete the first part of the activity. Adjust the directions in the second part for home use by working together to rate each response. Give your child some quiet time to complete the Reflect on Your Own section at the top of page 7. Have fun with the Gospel Rap on page 7.
- **GodTalk • We Learn About Faith by Asking (page 8)** Give your child time to read the three questions.
- **Closing Prayer** To close this lesson about forgiveness, pray the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi (see page 56 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*).
- **Looking Ahead: Ash Wednesday (March 2)** This begins the forty days of Lenten fasting, prayer, and almsgiving that prepare Catholics for Easter. The forty days symbolize the time Jesus spent in the desert before he began his ministry. *Lent* comes from the Old English word *Lencten*, which means “spring.”



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.