

Sunday Gospel Background

Jesus asks us to be like God when he calls us to love our enemies, do good to those who may hate us, and pray for those who insult us. These teachings come from a part of Luke's Gospel called the Sermon on the Plain (6:17–49), which parallels Matthew's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). To love an enemy calls us to be compassionate as God is compassionate and to love with unconditional mercy. This command reminds Christians that our enemies are members of the human race, and we all stand as equals before God.

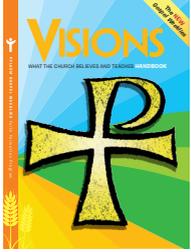
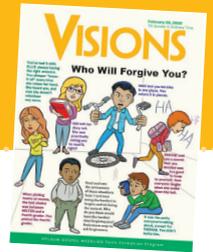
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Spend time together silently reviewing the past week and considering things for which you may need to ask forgiveness. End by praying together: "Forgiving God, hear our prayer."
- Cover Activity • Who Will Forgive You? (page 1)** Invite your child to examine the illustrations on the cover and rank the offenses from hardest to easiest (1 to 6) to forgive. Talk about the choices your child made in ranking the offenses. There is no right or wrong way to rank these, so affirm your child's choices. Discuss the best ways to ask for forgiveness.
- Article • Medgar Evers: Civil Rights Leader (pages 2–3)** Your child is likely very familiar with many of the leading figures in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, including Sister Mary Antona Ebo, from last week's lesson. In this story, you will learn about Medgar Evers as a model of God's forgiveness. Invite your child to read the article silently or take turns reading it aloud together.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1–2. Medgar experienced life in other parts of the United States and saw beautiful neighborhoods that he dreamed of; he wanted that kind of life for everyone. He wanted the greater rights and freedoms he experienced in Chicago, but he wanted to bring them to Mississippi. 3. He knew that holding hate for others would only destroy him. Open-ended.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Says, "Love Your Enemies" (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by taking turns reading aloud the Jesus parts. This is a familiar Gospel, so read it slowly and with expression. Encourage your child to listen carefully for significant challenges to our society's way of thinking.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus says to love and do good to them, bless and pray for them, offer them still more of what we have. This means doing more than just playing fair. It means kids should reach out to those who are mean to them. 2. God will measure out blessings to us in just the same way we measure them out to other people. 3. Open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Calls Us to Love Our Enemies (page 4)** Read aloud this summary of Sunday's Gospel theme.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Take a deep breath, take a break, take a walk—any of these may keep us from lashing out in anger; open-ended. 2. Open-ended; this can be as simple as someone who doesn't think like us or act like us to someone who has hurt us deeply. Seeing things from another's point-of-view can make us see someone differently. Forgiveness can also change our hearts.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 33. Share with your child that the Ten Commandments govern all people, whether they know the Scripture by tradition or through their own consciences. Briefly review the first three commandments. Remind your child that these commandments govern our relationship with God. Commandments four through ten address our relationships with one another. Read through these commandments together. Take time to reflect silently on how you live each of the commandments—i.e., how do you honor God and the Sabbath, your family, your neighbors?

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Compassion (page 5)** Read aloud this week's definition to reinforce understanding of the Gospel's message about forgiveness.
- **Our Catholic Faith • Our Prayers Thank and Ask (page 5)** Read aloud the feature about the prayers in the Mass and allow time for your child to write responses to the questions. Encourage your child to identify these prayers the next time your family attends Mass.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Push, Pass, or Peace (pages 7-8)** Read aloud the directions together. You can adjust this activity for home use by working together with your child to think of and describe various push, pass, or peace solutions. Talk about any similar situations you and your child have experienced.
- **Closing Prayer • Peace Begins with Me (page 6)** Together, silently reread the Gospel on page 4. This time pay close attention to all the ways Jesus asks us to change. Have your child write these in the Preparation column on page 6 and then have your child circle the one that is most challenging personally. Pray this service together, alternating the reading parts. Invite your child to share the challenge he or she circled and feel free to share a challenge that you face as well.
- **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.