



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples that his highest value is service. Jesus puts his arms around a child to demonstrate that welcoming others, including the smallest among us, is welcoming him. *Good News* provides stories and activities that will invite your child to connect with Jesus' story and the Sunday Gospel message.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** “Dear Jesus, thank you for your many blessings. Help our family learn to know and love you better this year. Amen.”
- Cover Activity • Who Serves Others? (page 1)** **Ask:** What does it mean to *serve*? *To take care of the needs of others.* Read the question on the cover aloud and give your child time to examine the photos. **Ask:** Who served in some of these ways at our church last Sunday? **Ask:** In what other ways do people of our parish serve others? Some are shown in the photos. You might share a recent parish bulletin or newsletter to point out additional ways people in your parish serve others—within the parish and in the larger community.
- Story • The New Babies (page 2)** Read the story aloud together. You might take turns reading one paragraph at a time. Or you can read the story aloud as your child follows along.
- Discuss the story using the *Know* questions.** Accept and affirm your child's answers to the questions, especially the last one. You might need to remind your child of the ways he or she helps—cleaning room, caring for pets or plants, etc.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Who Is the Greatest? (page 3)** Divide up the three reading parts between you and your child. If available, invite another family member to read a part. Other family members can listen as well.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** After listening to the response to the first question, you'll have an idea of your child's comprehension of the Gospel. From this, you might decide to read the Gospel again. Use the second question to help your child begin to understand that Jesus liked to be with people who didn't think they were special but who loved and shared with others.
- Catholic Faith Word • servant (page 4)** Remind your child about your earlier discussion about what it means to serve. Point out the Catholic Faith Word on page 4. Read the definition together. Emphasize that in Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we must put the needs of others before our own. We must be the “servant of all” (Mark 9:35).
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read “The Greatest Serve Others” together. Use this paragraph to summarize the message of the Gospel. **Ask:** What do you need to do if you want to be great? *Serve.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 16. Invite your child to find the words *Help Wanted* in green near the bottom of the page. **Ask:** Do you know what a help-wanted ad is? Explain that we might see them in the newspaper and in store and business windows. Invite your child to read aloud the lines of the ad in the box. Explain that a disciple is a follower of Jesus who learns from Jesus and tries to live what Jesus teaches.

Ask: Do you know who Paul is? *Saint Paul is a follower of Jesus. He started many Christian communities in the years after Jesus' Death and Resurrection. He wrote letters to the communities to teach them about Jesus and give them advice about living as Jesus' followers.* This help-wanted ad tells us that Paul needs our help to share the Good News about Jesus. Talk about how your child might complete the application. Encourage your child to think about his or her talents and how your child can use them as a servant of God and others. Offer additional help as needed. When your child has finished, read the application together and affirm what your child has shared.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 3.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • How Do You Serve Others? (page 3)** Read the directions aloud, then have your child read aloud the ways to serve. **Ask:** Do these give you any ideas for serving? Invite your child to think of additional ways. Provide extra paper if your child has more than one idea. Finish by having your child read and follow the directions for the strip at the bottom of page 3.
- **Closing Prayer • Discipleship Prayer Service (page 4)** End your learning session by praying aloud the prayer service together. Adjust the part about creating a class chain by inviting your child to tape the name strip to his or her learning/work space as a reminder that we are all learning to be Christ's disciples every day.
- **Family Corner (page 4)** You can use the **Question of the Week** at family meals or while driving in the car. You might add the **Family Prayer** to your meal blessing each week as well.



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