



Sunday Gospel Background

This Sunday's Gospel renews the call to share our whole selves. The widow gives to the Temple two small coins she could use to live on. Jesus contrasts her gift with the showy gifts given by some teachers of the Law, who are paid from the Temple treasury to which the widow contributes. The scribes live, in part, off her minimal livelihood. In this way, Jesus indicates that her small but wholehearted gift makes her the exemplary believer.

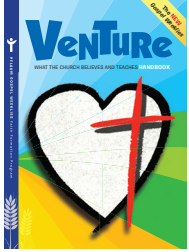
Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** Spend some time bringing forward people and situations you and your child are concerned about. After each petition, respond together: "Loving God, hear our prayer."
- ☐ **Story • Elijah and a Widow Have Enough to Eat (pages 1–3)** Have your child read aloud this comic version of Sunday's First Reading, 1 Kings 17:10–16, which introduces the Gospel theme—wholehearted giving of what we have, even if we have little. (Note: The comic also includes verses 1–9, which introduce the story, as well as 1 Kings 18, the following chapter.) Discuss how Elijah speaks differently to each character he meets: *harshly to King Ahab, calmly to the widow, like a preacher to the people, and prayerfully to God.*
- ☐ **Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Prophets tell kings and people what God expects of them and what God wants them to do. They promote God's message, not the king's political message. 2. She has barely enough food for herself and her son; she also is afraid of having a prophet like Elijah in her house. She is very direct and honest. Her jar and jug symbolize God's generosity, faithfulness, and love. 3. Open-ended. 4. Elijah has great faith in God and does what God asks, even when it angers King Ahab. He does not fear the king. He prepared wood for a fire and told the 450 prophets of Baal to do the same. Elijah told the people that the God who answers with fire is the true God.*
- ☐ **Catholic Faith Word • Prophet (page 2)** Read this definition aloud. Have your child tell how Elijah fits this description of prophet.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • How Much Is a Penny Worth? (page 4)** Before reading this Sunday's Gospel, read the "Widows in the Bible" feature on page 5. Then divide up the parts of Narrator and Jesus 1, 2, and 3, to proclaim the Gospel.
- ☐ **Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus criticizes the scribes for acting religious when they really have little faith. He says they dress up to gain respect, take the places of honor at synagogue and banquets, and pray publicly so everyone will notice. 2. She gives freely even though she has little. She is humble and full of faith. 3. Both widows give what little they have. Jesus gave everything, including his life, because it was what God asked of him. 4. Open-ended.*
- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Can Christians Share Too Much? (page 4)** Read aloud this feature as a summary of Sunday's Gospel concept of generously sharing what we have.
- ☐ **Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; they could be greedy or selfish, but they likely may fear being left without enough for themselves or their families. 2. Open-ended.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 51. If you copied this page on Catholic social teaching to make a poster, call your child's attention to it now. Remind your child that the goal of the common good is that all people work toward the formation of a society where everyone has all they need in order to flourish.

Read aloud the Rights and Responsibilities theme. **Ask:** what does "necessary for life" include? (Your child's answers may surprise you or you may be tempted to make a quick correction or judgment, especially if your child includes things like a car or a laptop. Simply listen and ask questions.) Repeat the question-and-answer process with the words "duty to defend." **Ask:** Do children have this duty? Do parents have this duty? How can we all perform this duty? Finish by noting that Jesus teaches that people who are poor have as much dignity as people who have material wealth.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • At the Eucharist, We Share What We Have (page 5)** Have your child read this feature. You may need to check your parish website to help your child complete the checklist. As noted on page 5, have a conversation with your child about how your family gives to your parish and other organizations that support those in need.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Everyone Has Rights, Everyone Has Responsibilities (pages 7-8)** Have your child read all of the rights listed on page 7. Assemble the weaving by following the instructions below. (**Note:** View a completed project by scanning the QR code or visiting gospelweeklies.com/lesson-updates.)
- Have your child carefully remove pages 7–8 from the rest of the lesson. Then cut off the bottom section (Responsibilities) of page 7 and cut the strips apart as marked.
 - Leave the top part of the page (Rights) intact. Fold in half, as shown, and cut the lines. Do not cut through the frame.
 - Your child then takes the top strip of responsibilities (Row A) and weaves it through the sliced rights as marked (Row A). The right for clean air and water should be next to the responsibility that accompanies it—recycle, use less.
 - When weaving is completed, a message will appear on the back that reads: *Every human person has the right to life and basic necessities. Every human person has the responsibility to help others.*
- **Saints • Father Damien (page 6)** Encourage your child to read about this caring man who followed Jesus' call to love by working with lepers on Molokai. Emphasize that he is the patron of lepers as well as outcasts, those who are not accepted in society.
- **Closing Prayer** This is National Vocation Awareness Week. Explain that, in this context, vocation refers specifically to those who have taken religious vows or are considering this call. Pray together for priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and all those who are considering dedicating their lives to serving the Church in this way.



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.