



## Sunday Gospel Background

The Great Commandment in this Sunday's Gospel shows us that our love for God, our neighbors, and ourselves is all interconnected. We love God through loving our neighbor and ourselves. Jesus makes God's love visible. We, in turn, make God's love visible to people in our time.

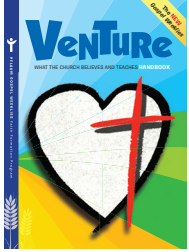
## Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** Take turns sharing a prayer of blessing and thanks for a person in your family—for example, “Lord, bless my sister, who is good at...” After each petition, lead the response: “Lord, hear our prayer.”
- ☐ **Cover Activity • Why So Many Rules? (page 1)** Have your child describe the cover art. Read aloud the directions for the activity and give your child time to unscramble the rules and write answers on the cover. *Answers: Starting from top: look both ways; don't fight; brush your teeth; love your neighbor; be on time; cross on green; obey your parents; keep off the grass; eat your vegetables; say please and thank you.*  
Discuss the two questions. Your child may choose a rule from the cover or come up with others.
- ☐ **Story • Carrying the Trophy Home (pages 2-3)** Have your child read the title and examine the illustrations to predict what this story may be about. Have your child read the story independently.
- ☐ **Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Carson remembers how he felt when he hit his first home run. 2. The crowd is praising their good sportsmanship. They are applauding Juan for not giving up. They are applauding Carson and Jessica for doing the sportsman-like thing, even though it prevents them from winning. 3. Juan's team officially wins, but Carson and Jessica's team learns about giving and wins over the crowd. Neither team really loses. 4. Possible answers: kind, selfless, caring, generous.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches the Great Commandments (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by dividing up the speaking parts: Narrator, Scribe, and Jesus.
- ☐ **Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Other than the Ten Commandments, most Catholic children of Venture age don't know any of the 613 commandments of Mosaic law, nor are they expected to. The same was true of the ordinary person in Jesus' time. The Scribe was an expert, who was more interested in an abstract discussion with Jesus than in an understanding of how God's will could help people live better and happier lives. 2. Open-ended. 3. Carson thought about how great it felt to hit his first homerun; he decided that Juan should have that feeling too. Jessica agrees with Carson's plan to carry Juan around the bases. 4. Open-ended; don't dwell on the negative, but spend some time discussing a few examples.*
- ☐ **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Love Binds Us Together (page 4)** Have your child read this feature as a summary of Sunday's Gospel concept of love.
- ☐ **Discuss the two Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; prompt your child with current events and social problems if help is needed getting started. 2. Open-ended; encourage your child to talk about how all kids are treated, whether it's at school or in your community. How can your child show love? What actions can your child take?*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 36 and read aloud the text. Have your child choose one Beatitude. Discuss how this Beatitude shows us how to live Jesus' law of love.

Finish by asking the questions from the bottom of this week's *VenTure* lesson, page 4. What other Gospel writer notes Jesus' great commandments? *Matthew 22: 37, 39 and Luke 10:25–27; the famous Gospel story is the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29–37).*

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Commandments (page 5)** Read this definition aloud. Emphasize that the Ten Commandments describe our relationship with God and with others. Jesus' great commandments urge us to love God and others.
- **Our Catholic Faith • A Creed States Our Beliefs (page 5)** Take turns reading the paragraphs on this page aloud with your child. This article shows the importance of the great commandment Jesus quotes in the Gospel today.
  - Have your child identify the groups and products associated with the slogans in column one. In God we trust. (*United States motto*); *Be all you can be.* (*United States Army*); *Just do it!* (*Nike*); *Buckle up!* (*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*); *Respect life* (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*).
  - Write down some sayings from the Gospels your child can remember and that are heard often as Christian slogans—*watch and pray; forgive seventy times seven times; blessed are the poor; see the lilies of the field, etc.*
  - Invite your child to examine the Hebrew characters at the bottom of the page as you read the Sh'ma from right to left.

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • How Do I Keep Jesus' Great Commandment? (pages 7–8)** Adjust the game for home use by having your child cut out the heart squares on page 7, but do not cut into the hearts themselves. Gather with your child and any other family members who want to play. Place the hearts with words facing down in front of you. Invite each person to place a card on their forehead, but don't let them look at it. (You might use a bit of tape to keep the cards on). Other family members can describe ways to live the Great Commandment as described on the card so that the person wearing it must guess which one it is. Be sure your child knows what we mean when we talk about one's soul. The soul refers to a person's individual spirit, the thing that makes that person who he or she is. Your soul is like your mind and heart and strength all united for one big purpose—to be with God forever.
- **Closing Prayer • Celebrate *Día de los Muertos* (page 6)** Although this lesson addresses a classroom celebration, you can adjust it for home use, while being respectful of its cultural significance. You might invite another family to join you. For the prayer service, take the Leader parts yourself, or have your child read them.



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](https://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture.