

VISIONS

Grades 7-9

VISIONS



PFLAUM PUBLISHING GROUP

VISIONS

Preview Pages

Weekly Student Lesson

- There are 32 lessons in the program each year delivered in four quarters (8 lessons each).
- Each lesson is based on the Sunday Gospel.
- Lessons will change each year according to the Liturgical Cycles.

Teaching Guide

- This sample Teaching Guide contains introductory material for the catechist/teacher and one lesson plan
- English Teaching Guides are sent quarterly (8 lessons each time) and are FREE with 10 or more student copies. Spanish language Teaching Guides are available free online.

Catechism Handbook

- One handbook is provided for each student and is delivered with the lessons for the first quarter.
- The concepts in the handbooks are integrated into each lesson to reinforce the doctrine.





Pflaum

October 30, 2022
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

VISIONS

I'd rather have a friend who is _____ and _____ or _____ instead of _____.

My closest friends would say my best quality as a friend is _____.

My first impression of someone is _____ accurate.
(always/most of the time/not always)

I value _____

in a person more than anything else.

The first thing I notice about someone when I meet him/her is _____.

When something bad happens to me, I want my friends to be

- Loyal. They should have my back.
- Honest. If I'm wrong, I want them to tell me.

Who Are Jesus' Friends?

Jesus makes unlikely acquaintances throughout his ministry—people on the fringes, outsiders who don't fit into society, people forgotten or shunned by others, and even sinners. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus surprises everyone by

choosing to spend time with Zacchaeus, a short, unpopular tax collector. **What do you look for in a friend? Respond to the items above. Be prepared to share your responses.**

What

LAUREN Knew



Lauren put her phone down and eavesdropped on the conversation her mother was having with Mrs. Langford in the next room. She often

overheard juicy gossip. Mrs. Langford was chair of the Parent-Teacher Association at Huntington High School.

“I heard at last night’s meeting that one of our straight-A honor students got caught,” Mrs. Langford said.

“You mean cheating?” Lauren’s mother asked.

Who? Lauren wondered to herself, excited.

“Yes,” Mrs. Langford sighed. “Julia Donnelly. A real shame—she’s only three years older than your Lauren. A real surprise too. She snuck a sheet of formulas and dates into the junior ACT test session. Last week, we nominated her for the first semester’s Best Student award.”

“Do her parents know?” asked Lauren’s mother.

“Yes, the family knows, but that’s about it. Mr. and Mrs.

Donnelly are upset, to say the least. This changes Julia’s future in a big way. She’s also lost her shot at a volleyball scholarship. She may even be expelled from school.”

Lauren couldn’t believe what she’d just overheard. *Julie Donnelly cheated! Wait until I tell everyone. Wait until I tell them in front of Sondra. It’ll stop her cold. No more “My sister’s so pretty, my sister is captain of varsity volleyball, my sister’s so smart, she will have her pick of Ivy League scholarships.”*

Lauren lay wide awake in bed that night. Her phone was on the nightstand. She was dying to send the Group Text of All Group Texts:

A volleyball player’s big sister will be kicked out of school soon. CU, Captain! Guess who?

But she didn’t send it. She wanted to see the look on Sondra’s face. *I will tell her after volleyball practice tomorrow, Lauren thought. Just wait until Sondra starts bragging about Julia, like she always does.*

I’ll ask how she did on the ACT. That will shut her up. It would mean keeping the news

to herself the whole day, and that was going to be tough. Lauren fell asleep full of anticipation, the plan all worked out in her mind.

“What’s with you today, Miss Smiley-Face?” asked Evelyn, one of Lauren’s best friends, the next day at school.

“Let’s just say I have some news of substantial interest,” replied Lauren.

“Whatever,” Evelyn said. “I know you can’t keep a secret.”

“When the time is right,” replied Lauren.

In English class, Sondra seemed preoccupied and distant. “Anything wrong, Sondra?” asked Lauren, after the bell had rung.

“Nope, nothing’s wrong,” Sondra responded, a little on the defensive. She gave Lauren a quizzical look when she walked away

Let her wonder, Lauren thought.

Classes finally ended. Lauren headed to the gym with Evelyn for practice, a tough ninety-minute workout.

Lauren, who usually loved volleyball, waited impatiently for 5:30 to arrive. Her moment was near. She was eager to savor it. In the locker room after practice, Lauren waited for the right moment. Brenda



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Something in Sondra's eyes caught her off guard. Lauren saw pain and fear in her eyes.

walked up as she shoved her practice clothes into her backpack.

"Have you seen the new fall concert schedule?" Brenda asked.

"I'll be going to one every week," said Sarah.

"Better get a job if you want to afford that," said Lauren.

"There's only one concert I want to see," said Evelyn. "I'd give anything to see Taylor Swift."

"Good luck, that sold out months ago. The tickets were only on sale for sixteen minutes. I don't know anyone who got them," said Lauren.

"My sister Julia has tickets," a voice said.

It was Sondra.

"Julia's boyfriend skipped class the morning they went on sale," Sondra said. "He got onto the site right away and got two tickets, main floor, fifth row."

A couple of girls groaned and rolled their eyes. "How come they didn't get you a ticket?" Brenda asked.

"Julia's probably too cool to bring her little sister," said Sarah.

"Well, maybe she'll let you have her ticket," Lauren said.

"What do you mean?" Sondra said slowly.

"Why would she do that?" asked Sarah.

"Well, I mean, are you sure she'll be going to the concert?" Lauren replied. "I mean, since she. . . You know, under the circumstances. . ."

"What circumstances? What are you talking about?" the girls questioned. All attention focused on Lauren and Sondra.

Sondra said nothing at all. She looked intently at Lauren.

She knows I know, thought Lauren triumphantly. She returned the stare. But something in Sondra's eyes caught her off guard. Lauren saw pain and fear in Sondra's eyes. Lauren could see Sondra pleading silently with her to keep her secret. *You're just afraid everyone will find out that your perfect sister isn't so perfect,* Lauren thought. *You're not such a big deal when you don't have your popular sister to hide behind.*

But in that moment, something changed. For once, conceited, confident Sondra looked scared. *Sondra's going to cry. This doesn't feel exciting anymore. Where was the fun in telling everyone?*

Lauren stared at her for a few seconds longer.

"Well, what's the deal?" asked one of the girls. "We've

got to get going."

"Well, I mean, isn't the concert the same night as the awards ceremony?" Lauren said awkwardly. "I just heard that Julia's been nominated for Best Student. Isn't she going to the awards ceremony?"

Lauren's friends shook their heads. "Big deal," they said.

"You're weird today," said Evelyn. "Real strange."

They picked up their books and backpacks and started home.

Lauren didn't look at Sondra when she passed by. She sat on the locker room bench for a few minutes until they were all gone.

Everyone will find out soon enough, Lauren thought as she stood up to leave. *There's no reason they have to hear about it now. There's no reason they have to hear about it from me.*

TALK

- 1 Why does the news about Julia interest Lauren? Why does she want to share it with her friends?
- 2 Why does sharing gossip lose its sense of excitement and fun?
- 3 What kind of power do rumors and gossip have in your school or neighborhood? How do you deal with gossip and rumors? For example, think about how you react to gossip spread on social media.
- 4 Why doesn't Lauren tell the team about Sondra's sister?





SUNDAY GOSPEL

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 19:1-10

A Visit from Jesus Changes Zacchaeus

Narrator 1: Jesus was passing through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. A rich tax collector named Zacchaeus lived there. Zacchaeus was eager to see Jesus, but he was short and couldn't see over the crowd.

Narrator 2: So Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd and climbed into a sycamore tree near the road where Jesus would come by. When Jesus came to the tree, he looked up and spoke to Zacchaeus.

Jesus: Hurry down, Zacchaeus. I want to stay at your house today.

Narrator 3: Zacchaeus climbed down quickly and welcomed Jesus with great joy. All the people who saw this started grumbling.

First Person: Jesus is going to stay at a sinner's house!

Second Person: Think of it!

Zacchaeus: See, half my belongings I will give to the poor, Lord. And if I have cheated people, I will pay them back four times as much.

Jesus: Salvation has come to this house today, for this man also is a descendant of Abraham. The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.



TALK

- 1 What do the people of Jericho say about Zacchaeus?
- 2 Why do you think Jesus invites himself to Zacchaeus's house?
- 3 How does Jesus' friendship change Zacchaeus?
- 4 Why do you think Jesus' friendship changes Zacchaeus?



and DOCTRINE

Connecting GOSPEL

Jesus Befriends the Outsider

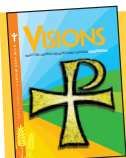
In this Sunday's Gospel, the grumbling citizens of Jericho were flabbergasted that Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus's house. However, this is precisely what Jesus came to do on earth. He came to save the ones who needed his love and forgiveness most. God sent Jesus to earth "to be the expiation for our sins" (CCC, 620). His very name means "God saves" (CCC, 452).

This fall, you have also read Gospel stories about a crooked

manager and a rich man. These are not victims or people left on the outside through no fault of their own. They have sinned and need to seek God's forgiveness.

Zacchaeus seeks Jesus and Jesus responds. In this moment, we see Zacchaeus's **conversion**. He experiences a change of heart. His promise to make things right with those he has wronged show him turning away from selfishness toward God.

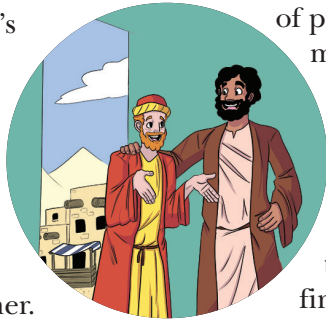
- 1 Why does it seem easy for Jesus to forgive Zacchaeus? Do you offer your friendship and forgiveness as easily to people who have hurt you?
- 2 Why is it hard to admit that we've wronged someone and need to seek forgiveness? Why must we also seek God's forgiveness?



The Sacrament of Reconciliation continues Jesus' mission of forgiveness for sins. Turn to page 24 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to read the steps of this sacrament, from repentance to absolution. What are the effects of the Sacrament? How is the person who receives it changed? Then turn to page 40. What two forms of prayer might we offer to God when we need forgiveness? Has someone told a lie about you or a half-truth? Have you have "liked" or shared a rumor that may not be true? Turn to page 34 and identify the commandment that deals with these choices.

Wisdom Reveals God's Love and Forgiveness

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus chooses to invite himself to stay at the home of Zacchaeus who is widely known as a sinner.



For the people in the crowd, this comes as a bit of a shock. Who is this Jesus who seems to be favoring a cheat, when he should be praising those who live without sin?

Jesus' actions may seem to the people to come from nowhere, but those of us who hear all of the Sunday readings already have a few clues! In the Old Testament, we see that God offers pardon and peace to those who recognize their sins and seek his forgiveness.

This Sunday's First Reading comes from Wisdom 11:22—12:2. Wisdom is an Old Testament book that was written in Greek about fifty years before the birth of Jesus. The exact author is not known, but it's believed that he was probably a member of the Jewish community in Alexandria, Egypt. The words sometimes come from the mouth of Solomon, a wise king who would have been well known to this audience.

The purpose of these writings is to strengthen, uplift, and guide the members the community in a time when they were experiencing suffering and oppression.

The Book of Wisdom could be read as an advice book, full

of pithy wise sayings. But it's meant to be understood as a call to seek God's wisdom. It's likely that Wisdom had just one writer who structured the overall message in three main parts. The first six chapters address the rewards a person may receive for living a righteous life. The second section runs from chapters 6 to 11 and is written as though it is spoken by Solomon; in this section, Solomon speaks about wisdom, wealth, power, and prayer.

This Sunday's First Reading comes from the third and final section, which spans chapters 11 through 13. These verses discuss God's special protection of the Jewish people during the Exodus, when they are led out of slavery by God. This reading emphasizes God's mercy and warns against honoring false gods.

Read this Sunday's First Reading.

Before the Lord the whole universe is as a grain from a balance or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth.

But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people's sins that they may repent.

For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made;

for what you hated, you would not have fashioned.

And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it;

or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you?

But you spare all things, because they are yours,

O LORD and lover of souls,

for your imperishable spirit is in all things!

Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little,

warn them and remind them of the sins they are committing,

that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you,

O LORD!

— Wisdom 11:22—12:2

How specifically does this reading offer comfort to the Jewish people at the time?

How might it comfort someone reading it today?

Catholic

FAITH WORD



CONVERSION Conversion

is a change of one's whole life, turning away from sin and toward God.

FAMILIES:
Read a reflection on this quote.



Lord, Jesus, you are truly present. Amen

From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life in all its fullness, and zeal to share that life with others.

—Saint John Paul II

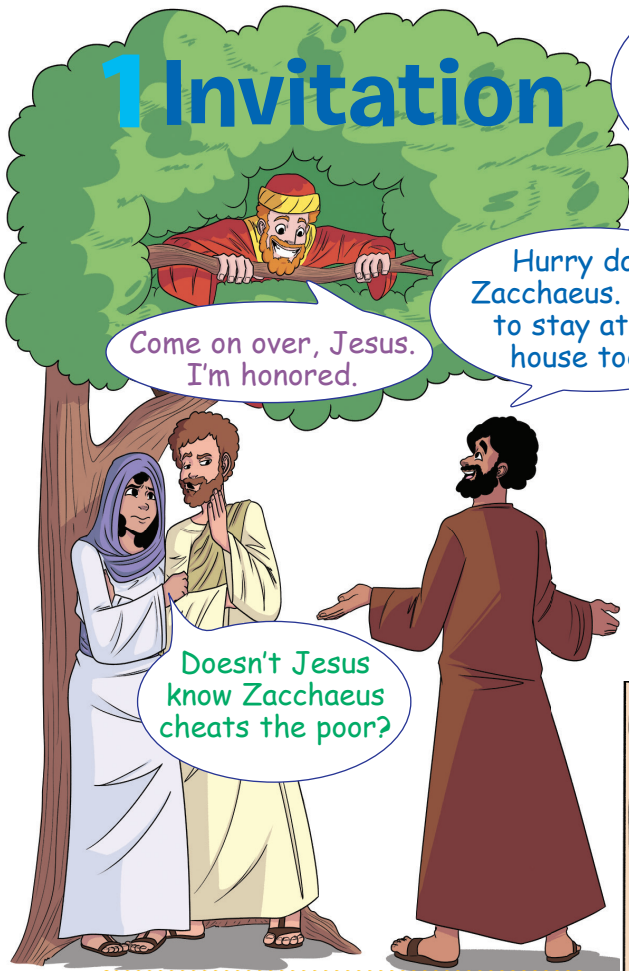
The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation, one of the Church's Seven Sacraments, is a Sacrament of Healing in which we confess our sins and receive forgiveness. To reconcile means to come back together again after a time of being apart.

In the Gospel, Zacchaeus is a tax collector whom people think is cheating them. When Zacchaeus hears Jesus is coming to town, he is so eager to see Jesus that he climbs a tree.

His encounter with Jesus moves through four stages that lead Zacchaeus to repay those he cheated and be reconciled with his neighbors. The Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrates these same four stages.

1 Invitation



Come on over, Jesus. I'm honored.

Hurry down, Zacchaeus. I want to stay at your house today.

Doesn't Jesus know Zacchaeus cheats the poor?

In Reconciliation, the priest invites us to recognize that we've done something wrong and need forgiveness.

Why does Jesus go to Zacchaeus's house?

2 Confession



Listen, Jesus. I will give half my belongings to the poor.

Great idea.

Zacchaeus knows he's taken advantage of people and has done other unloving things in his life. How about you?

What does it mean to confess?

What do you want to change?

- When did I respond with anger to someone? Pride? Jealousy?
- When did I cheat, lie, or steal?
- Have I tried with all my heart to live the commandments?
- Have I been helpful and kind to members of my family? Have I shown respect for the people of my family and community?
- What have I done that I regret? What do I want to make better?
- Am I the person and Christian I want to be?
- Do I work with others to build up our community?

In Reconciliation, the priest talks with you and encourages you to live a more Christian life.

Makes Things Right

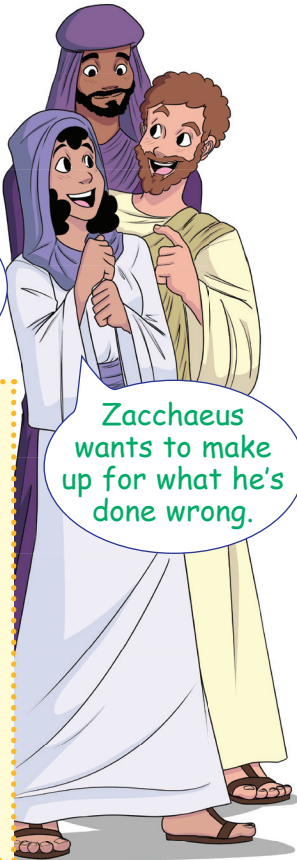
3 Satisfaction



If I have cheated people, I will pay them back four times as much.

We can also show we are sorry for our sins by our actions.

We discuss with the priest how we can avoid making these same mistakes and sins. The priest will give us a penance to help us make things right. **PENANCE** is making up for sin—doing a good deed, saying a prayer, or making some kind of sacrifice.

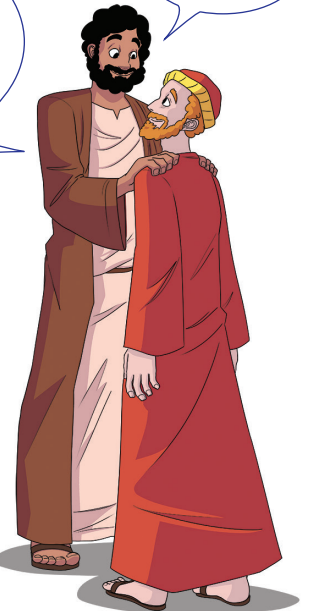


Zacchaeus wants to make up for what he's done wrong.

4 Forgiveness

Zacchaeus, salvation has come to your house today, for you are also a descendant of Abraham. The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Thanks, Jesus.



Prayer of Sorrow

(Act of Contrition)

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with all your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen. *(Rite of Penance)*

We pray the Prayer of Sorrow (Act of Contrition) as a sign that we are sorry and want to be healed by God. We receive absolution from a priest and celebrate forgiveness at the end of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **ABSOLUTION** means forgiveness. The priest places his hand either on our shoulder or over our heads and asks God to forgive our sins.

- If I damaged a friendship, how can I mend it?
- If I acted selfishly, how can I become more generous?
- If I acted with hate, how can I act more lovingly?
- If I took advantage of someone, how can I heal the wounds?
- If I wasn't honest with myself or others, how can I be more truthful?
- If I exclude others because of their skin color, how can I be less judgmental?

Three ways I can right a wrong I have done:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Priest: God, the Father of mercies, through the Death and Resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Penitent: Amen.

Priest: Give thanks to God for God is good.

Penitent: God's mercy endures forever.

Priest: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

Penitent: Amen.

(Rite of Penance)

We Pray with the Communion of Saints

Not only do all living Christians belong to the Church, but so do all faithful followers of Jesus who have died. Christians, both living and dead, form the Communion of Saints.

We profess our faith in the Communion of Saints when we recite the Apostles' Creed: ". . . I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the *communion of saints*, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."

The feasts of All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2) are family days, days when we remember that our bonds of love with God and with one another last forever. All Souls' Day is also a day of praying for all of the faithful Christians who have died in the hope of being raised to new life as Jesus promised.

The following Preface of Saints describes the family of believers singing God's praise together as a choir. Take turns reading aloud this prayer of praise to God for all of his saints:

For you are praised
in the company of your Saints
and, in crowning their merits,
you crown your own gifts.
By their way of life
you offer us an example,
by communion with them
you give us companionship,
by their intercession,
sure support,
so that, encouraged by
so great a cloud of witnesses,
we may run as victors
in the race before us

Mexicans call this two-day celebration *Día de los Muertos*, which means "Day of the Dead."

Death in the Mexican culture isn't the end of life. It is the start of a new cycle of life. This belief is rooted in both Christian and Aztec tradition.

Mexican people make altars called *ofrendas* to welcome the spirits of their dead friends and relatives as honored guests in their homes. People place photos of the dead people, as well as candles, personal mementos, and marigolds (called *zempasuchil*). *Zempasuchil* is the symbolic flower of death of the Aztec people of ancient Mexico.

The spirits of the *angelitos*—children who have died—arrive on October 31. Families greet the arrival of adult spirits on November 1. On November 2, All Souls' Day, Mexicans take the food they had placed on

and win with them the imperishable crown of glory, through Christ our Lord.

And so, with the Angels and Archangels, and with the great multitude of the Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim: Holy, holy, holy . . .

Write the names of the people with whom you want to praise God. Include friends and relatives both living and dead. Include people well-known today or from history.

the *ofrendas* to the graves of family members they want to celebrate and remember. They light incense and candles for an all-night vigil that reunites the living and the dead in spirit.



An *ofrenda* honoring a young man who has died.

With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources or go to gospelweeklies.com/family



Pray

I need your help, Lord, to be a good role model for others. Help me recognize when I need to change my behavior to be a better disciple. Amen.



Think

When has a friend been a good influence on me?



Act

Choose seats in a front row at Mass for the best possible view. Pay special attention to see if you notice anything new when your view is unobstructed. Pray that your family always remembers that Jesus is near.

VISIONS

WHAT THE CHURCH BELIEVES AND TEACHES

Catechism Handbook

- One handbook is provided for each student and is delivered with the lessons for the first quarter.
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VISIONS

WHAT THE CHURCH BELIEVES AND TEACHES **HANDBOOK**



PFLAUM GOSPEL WEEKLIES Faith Formation Program



Receiving the Eucharist:

- Increases our union with the Lord
- Forgives our venial sins
- Helps preserve us from grave sins
- Reinforces the bonds of love among members of the Church

The Church encourages all Catholics to receive the Eucharist at Mass. All are obliged to receive the Eucharist once a year, during the Easter season.

4. Sacraments of Healing

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick continue Jesus' work of healing and salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Penance, or Reconciliation

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Penance or Confession, the Lord has promised a way for sinners to be reconciled to God and to the church community.

The four actions of this sacrament are:

- Repentance, including sorrow for sins and the firm intention to sin no more
- Confession of sins to the priest
- Intention to do works of reparation
- Absolution by the priest, acting in the name and person of Christ

Christians prepare for the sacrament with an examination of conscience, during which they recall their sins since their last confession. They must tell all their mortal sins to the priest. Mortal sins are those that are gravely wrong and that the sinner commits deliberately. Less serious sins,

called venial, need not be told, although the Church does recommend that the sinner confess them to a priest.

After the penitent has confessed, the priest proposes an act of satisfaction to help make up for the sins. This act is called a penance.

The effects of this sacrament include:

- Reconciliation with God, by which the penitent recovers grace
- Reconciliation with the Church
- Remission of eternal punishment
- Peace and serenity of conscience
- Spiritual consolation
- Increase of spiritual strength



Photo credit: M. Migliorato/AGF/CORBIS

Anointing of the Sick

This sacrament provides a special grace for those experiencing the difficulties caused by grave illness or very old age. It can be received whenever a person begins to be in danger of death. It can be received again when a person develops a new illness or an existing illness worsens.

Priests and bishops may administer this sacrament. They use blessed oil to anoint the forehead and hands while saying a prayer asking for the special grace of the sacrament.

1. Forms of Prayer

There are several traditional forms of prayer. If you compare these prayers to human conversations, they will be easy to understand.

Blessing and Adoration

God blesses the human being and the human being can in return bless and praise God who is the source of all blessings.

Petition

In this form of prayer, you can ask God to send whatever satisfies your true needs. You can ask for God's forgiveness and help.

Intercession

Prayers of intercession ask God to help someone else—a grandmother who is having an operation, people who are suffering in a natural disaster, or someone greatly in need of God's grace.

Thanksgiving

Gratitude is a most important part of any human relationship. It is also most important in conversations with God, who is the source of all good. The central act of worship for Catholics—the Holy Eucharist—takes its very name from the Greek word for “thanksgiving.” No day should be without a prayer of thanksgiving.

Praise

Nobody would think of you as a true friend if you never had anything good to say to him or to her. Your prayer of praise shows your awareness and appreciation of God's goodness and his love. Prayers of praise are often like wonderful bursts of joyful conversation.

Contrition

Another form of prayer is the request for forgiveness. Conversations with parents or teachers or friends express genuine sorrow for having disobeyed, or having failed to do homework, or having caused a fight. Conversations with God often express real sorrow for not having lived up to your calling as a follower of Jesus.



Photo credit: Alessia Giuliani/CPI/ORB

2. The Holy Spirit and Prayer

The Holy Spirit teaches the Church to pray. Scripture, the liturgy, and the virtues of faith, hope, and charity are all sources of prayer. Regular prayers of the Church include daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, Sunday Eucharist, and the feasts of the liturgical year. And the Holy Spirit also brings prayers into the home. The Christian family is the first place for learning how to pray.



You shall not steal.

The Seventh Commandment forbids you from unjustly taking or using someone else's property and directs you to return stolen property.

But the commandment also requires you to be just and charitable in sharing your possessions, because God's Creation exists for the good of all the people of the world. Helping others is part of obeying this commandment, and so is taking care of the resources God has created.



You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The Eighth Commandment forbids you to lie in order to deceive someone. It is also

wrong to tell lies about another person or to tell others about another person's faults. Calumny and slander are telling lies about another person. Detraction is

telling others anything (even the truth) that detracts from another person's reputation. For example, telling a friend that the father of a classmate was once accused of embezzling is detraction. If you commit the sin of detraction, you must do everything in your power to repair the reputation of the injured person.



You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

The Ninth Commandment forbids you from desiring to commit sexual sins. Such desires are called lust and you

may not dwell on them. Instead, strive for the virtues of modesty and purity, and to show respect for others.



You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Tenth Commandment forbids you to covet, or to want for yourself, what belongs to another. The

commandment also forbids you to envy, or to feel sadness at, another person's possessions, talents, or good fortune. You can combat envy through good will, humility, and by recognizing that God will provide what you need.



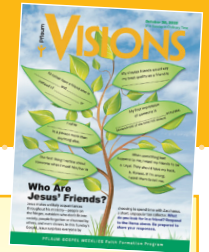
In the Book of Exodus, we read that the Israelites kept the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments in a gilded case known as the Ark of the Covenant. This replica depicts how it may have looked.

VISIONS

Teaching Guide Preview

- This sample Teaching Guide contains introductory material for the catechist/teacher and one lesson plan
- English Teaching Guides are sent quarterly (8 lessons each time) and are FREE with 10 or more student copies. Spanish language Teaching Guides are available free online.





For Catechists and Teachers

Scripture Background

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus visits the home of Zacchaeus the tax collector. This visit shocked many people, who then began to grumble about Jesus. Zacchaeus was not only a tax collector and therefore an agent of the Romans, he also regularly cheated his fellow Jews. It is understandable that many Jewish people would be shocked and dismayed that Jesus would dine with him.

But Jesus does not focus on Zacchaeus's sinful past; Jesus is concerned with his change of heart. Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus and promises to make amends for his past sins. For Jesus, this is a time for celebration. Zacchaeus is the sheep who was lost and now is found (see Luke 15:15–7). Jesus offers Zacchaeus forgiveness and reminds his disciples of his mission: "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).

Connecting Scripture and Doctrine

When our sins harm our neighbor, we must do what is possible in order to repair the harm, such as return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, and pay compensation for injuries. Simple justice requires as much (CCC, 1459). Conversion and repentance, or the movement of return back to God, entails sorrow for sins committed and the firm purpose of sinning no more in the future. Conversion touches the past and the future and is nourished by hope in God's mercy (CCC, 1490).

Materials

- *Visions* Student Lesson for 10/30
- *Catechism* handbook, pages 24, 34, and 40
- Pens or pencils
- Bible for each student
- Music player and *Venture/Visions* CDs
- Bible, cloth, candle, matches/lighter

Suggested Music

- "Fresh As the Morning" (CD-2, #10)
- "Word of Truth and Life" (CD-1, #1)

Lesson Resources

- *Visions Activity Book*, Activity #18
- Weekly Review Template: gospelweeklies.com/assessment
- Video Links: gospelweeklies.com/weekly-videos

Single-Session Lesson Pacing Guides

Note: These pacing guides are suggestions on how to present the lesson. Please adapt the lesson to suit your needs.

60-Minute Lesson

Share Experiences (20 minutes)

- Gathering Prayer
- Cover Activity • Who Are Jesus' Friends? (page 1)
- Story • What Lauren Knew (pages 2–3)
- Discuss the first *Talk* question.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine (20–25 minutes)

- Sunday Gospel • A Visit from Jesus Changes Zacchaeus (page 4)
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)
- Discuss the *Talk* questions related to doctrine.

 Distribute the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbooks. Turn to pages 24, 34, and 40.

- Our Catholic Faith (page 5)

Live the Gospel (15–20 minutes)

- Activity • The Sacrament of Reconciliation Makes Things Right (pages 6–7)
- Closing Prayer

Take-Home

- Activity • Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Visions Activity Book*, #18)
- Remind the young people to share their lesson with their families and do the *With My Family and Friends* activities on page 8 together.

90-Minute Lesson

Share Experiences (20–25 minutes)

- Gathering Song • "Fresh As the Morning" (CD-2, #10)
- Gathering Prayer
- Cover Activity • Who Are Jesus' Friends? (page 1)
- Story • What Lauren Knew (pages 2–3)
- Discuss the *Talk* questions related to the story.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine (40–50 minutes)

- Gospel Ritual • "Word of Truth and Life" (CD-1, #1)
- Sunday Gospel • A Visit from Jesus Changes Zacchaeus (page 4)
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)

 Distribute the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbooks. Turn to pages 24, 34, and 40.

- Catholic Faith Word • Conversion (page 4)
- Our Catholic Faith (page 5)

Live the Gospel (25–30 minutes)

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation Makes Things Right (pages 6–7)
- Activity • Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Visions Activity Book*, #18)
- Closing Prayer

Take-Home

Remind the young people to share their lesson with their families and do the *With My Family and Friends* activities on page 8 together.

Lesson Theme: Jesus befriends sinners and outsiders.

Five-Day Lesson Pacing Guide

Note: This pacing guide suggests how to present the lesson over five days. Please adapt the lesson to suit your needs.

Day 1

Share Experiences

- Gathering Song • “Fresh As the Morning” (CD-2, #10)
- Gathering Prayer (see page TG1-30)
- Cover Activity • Who Are Jesus’ Friends? (page 1)
- Story • What Lauren Knew (pages 2–3)
- Discuss the *Talk* questions related to the story.
- Closing Prayer • *Dear Jesus, thank you for inviting us to be your friends. Amen.* (Repeat.)

Day 2

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Gathering Prayer • *Dear Jesus, thank you for inviting us to be your friends. Amen.* (Repeat.)
- Gospel Ritual • “Word of Truth and Life” (CD-1, #1)
- Sunday Gospel • A Visit from Jesus Changes Zacchaeus (page 4)
- Discuss the *Talk* questions related to the Gospel.
- Closing Prayer • *Dear Jesus, thank you for sharing yourself in the Eucharist. Amen.* (Repeat.)

Day 3

- Gathering Prayer • *Dear Jesus, thank you for sharing yourself in the Eucharist. Amen.* (Repeat.)
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 5)
- Discuss the *Talk* questions related to the Doctrine.

 Distribute the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbooks. Turn to pages 24, 34, and 40.

- Catholic Faith Word • Conversion (page 5)
- Our Catholic Faith • (page 5)
- Closing Prayer • *Dear Jesus, help us to live as members of your Body. Amen.* (Repeat.)

Day 4

Live the Gospel

- Gathering Prayer • *Dear Jesus, help us to live as members of your Body. Amen.* (Repeat.)
- Activity • The Sacrament of Reconciliation Makes Things Right (pages 6–7)
- Closing Prayer • *Dear Jesus, help us to love others as you love them. Amen.* (Repeat.)

Day 5

- Gathering Prayer • *Dear Jesus, help us to love others as you love them. Amen.* (Repeat.)
- Weekly Lesson Assessment
- Activity • Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Visions Activity Book*, Activity #18)
- Closing Prayer • We Pray with the Communion of Saints (page 8)

Friday Take-Home

Remind the young people to share their lesson with their families and do the *With My Family and Friends* activities on page 8 together.

Curriculum Connections

- **Sci:** Direct small groups to design a way for Zacchaeus to see above the crowd without using a ladder or climbing a tree. Each group should build their design and test it before the class. (MS-ETS1-4)
- **Math:** Explain to the students that part of living in the United States is paying taxes. Have them use proportional relationships to calculate sales tax for different items. (CCSS.Math.Content.7.RP.A.3)

Extending the Lesson

Catholic Identity Project of the Week

Zacchaeus reminds us how important it is to give to the poor. Lead your group in organizing a donation for a local charity. Invite individuals to nominate local charities to support and vote on one as a group. Then have the students go and speak to the other groups and collect donations.

Saints and Feast Days to Celebrate

- **November: Black Catholic History Month (USA)** – The Church honors Black Catholics, including Saint Martin de Porres, Father Augustus Tolton, and Sister Antona Ebo. **Act:** Listen for Saints Perpetua and Felicity in Eucharistic Prayer I.
- **November 1: All Saints’ Day** – This Holy Day of Obligation honors all those in Heaven.
- **November 2: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)** – We remember

in prayer all those in Purgatory. We pray that they will be welcomed by God into Heaven.

- **November 4: Saint Charles Borromeo** – A noble, Charles played an important role in moving forward the Council of Trent. Later, he devoted his life to the Archdiocese of Milan. He gave up material things and cared for thousands of those living in poverty. **Act:** Donate to a food bank.




Teaching This Week's Lesson

Share Experiences

Objectives • The young people will:


- Recognize ways friendships call us to change and grow.
- Compare the qualities of their friendships with those Jesus establishes.
- Assess how gossip can damage, destroy relationships.

 Gather the young people in the prayer space. Play and sing "Fresh As the Morning" (CD-2, #10). Lyrics are available to download and print at gospelweeklies.com/lyrics.

Gathering Prayer Invite the young people to close their eyes and think about being with their families, with their friends. **Leader:** Loving God, I am grateful for the supportive people in my life and the support you give me when people are challenging. I ask for the wisdom to make good choices and create positive relationships. **All:** Amen.

Cover Activity • Who Are Jesus' Friends? (page 1) Over the next few years, the young people will learn much about friendship. The Gospels offer many interesting takes on friendship. Jesus often chooses to "hang out" with people most wouldn't consider popular or cool, like Zacchaeus in this Sunday's Gospel. Have the young people respond to the statements and questions on the leaves. Invite volunteers to share responses.

Story • What Lauren Knew (pages 2-3) Have the young people read the story aloud as a class, in pairs of weak and strong readers, or alone silently.

 **Discuss the Talk questions on page 3. Answers:**
1. *Julia is smart, pretty, and popular. Lauren gets tired of listening to Sondra brag about Julia. Blabbing the news about the cheating scandal would knock down Julia's image, take away Sondra's right to brag, and put Lauren in the social spotlight. Gossip gives people a sense of power.*
2. *The idea of spilling the gossip becomes unappealing when Lauren sees the fear and sadness in Sondra's eyes.*
3. *Open-ended. This is a good opportunity to let the young people share personal experiences. Practice or act out ways to stop gossip.*
4. *Open-ended. Lauren may recognize that the Donnelly family is already hurting, and she doesn't want to add to that hurt. Spreading gossip can also reflect back negatively on those who spread it.*


Discover Gospel and Doctrine


Objectives • The young people will:


- Recognize Zacchaeus as an example of conversion and reconciliation.
- Identify the specific requirements of the Eighth Commandment.
- Summarize the purpose of the Book of Wisdom.
- Analyze the four parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Gospel Ritual Gather in the space you have reserved for proclaiming the Gospel. Play and sing "Word of Truth and Life" (CD-1, #1).

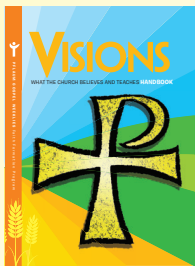
Sunday Gospel • Jesus' Visit Changes Zacchaeus (page 4) Choose five readers and proclaim the Gospel.

 **Discuss the Talk questions on page 4. Answers:**
1. *A short man, perhaps a bit impulsive, a collaborator with the Romans, a deal-maker, a crooked businessman.*
2. *A big crowd has just come out to welcome Jesus as a holy man, and he gives all his attention to someone they know is a cheater and a friend of the occupying Roman army. It's a lesson in befriending the friendless.*
3. *Zacchaeus decides to change his whole life, to give to the poor, and to pay back people he has cheated.*
4. *Open-ended. When someone is kind to us, we want to share that friendship with someone else.*

 **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Comes to Save and Befriend the Outsider (page 4)** This doctrine lesson emphasizes Jesus' mission on the earth—that is, he came to save everyone. Read this section aloud. Make sure to emphasize the concept of conversion, the moment in which Zacchaeus experiences a profound change of heart.

 **Discuss the Talk questions on page 4. Answers:**
1. *Jesus does it suddenly and without any warning. Open-ended.*
2. *Open-ended; when we harm our relationships, we must make them right. It is the same with God; we must admit our sins, express sincere sorrow, and seek God's forgiveness.*

 **Distribute the What the Church Believes and Teaches handbooks.**



What the Church Believes and Teaches


Sacraments of Healing—Penance, or Reconciliation (page 24)
The Eighth Commandment (page 34)

Turn to page 24 and read the section on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Use this section to summarize the four actions of the sacrament—repentance, confession, intention, and absolution.

Turn to page 40. **Ask:** Which of the prayer forms might be part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? *Petition and contrition*

Read aloud the paragraph on page 34, and discuss how gossip falls under the Eighth Commandment. Ask the young people how this week's story "What Lauren Knew" illustrates this commandment.

Emphasize that it also is not appropriate to spread negative talk or faults about someone else, even if these faults are factually correct. How does "liking" something on social media also a violation of this commandment?

 Have the young people close their *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbooks and return to *Visions*, page 5.

Our Catholic Faith • Wisdom Reveals God's Love and Forgiveness (page 5)

Studying Bible history enriches our understanding of the Sunday readings. This feature on the Book of Wisdom provides context and background for this Sunday's First Reading, Wisdom 11:22—12:22. Read aloud the text together. Ask for a volunteer to share the reading aloud with the class.

Catholic Faith Word • Conversion (page 5)

Read aloud this week's definition. Point out that Jesus' compassionate visit led to Zacchaeus's conversion. Have the young people work in pairs to respond to the two questions.

Live the Gospel

Objectives • The young people will:

- Analyze the Sunday Gospel following the steps of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Build understanding of the Communion of Saints.

Living the Gospel • The Sacrament of Reconciliation Makes Things Right (pages 6–7)

Ask three students to read aloud the voice balloons in scene 1, *Invitation*. Talk about the question at bottom. Jesus befriends Zacchaeus and encourages him to change. Have the young people write their response.

Summarize by reading aloud the box about Reconciliation.

Have the same three students read aloud scene 2, *Confession*. Read over the Examination of Conscience questions.

Have the three students read aloud scene 3, *Satisfaction*. Identify with the group ways to make up for the six examples of unloving actions. Give the students time to write their own three ways to right a wrong.

Now read aloud scene 4, *Forgiveness*. Read aloud about the Prayer of Sorrow and the priest's action. Pray the Prayer of Sorrow together as a class.

Prayer • We Pray with the Communion of Saints (page 8) This week, Catholics honor the saints and all of our beloved dead on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Read aloud this introduction to the Communion of Saints and the traditions surrounding these Church celebrations.

Ask for a few volunteers to take turns reading the Preface of Saints. Give the young people time to write the names of special people—living and dead, famous and those famous only to them. Share these names in prayer. **Leader:** Loving God, we know you are always with us. Bless and protect our loved ones, those still with us and those who have gone to Heaven to live with you. **All:** Amen.

With My Family and Friends

Remind the young people to share their *Gospel Weeklies* with their families and do the *With My Family and Friends* activities and prayer together.

Lesson Wrap-Up

VISIONS October 30, 2022, 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the lesson.

1. What does Father Greg Boyle say is the secret key to save the life of a young person who lives in the violent community in East Los Angeles?
2. What does Homeboy Industries do for gang members?
3. In this Sunday's Gospel, whom does Jesus say prefers the light? The dark?
4. How does John 3:16 summarize the entire Gospel?
5. What is your conscience? What forms a conscience?

GospelWeeklies.com

Name: _____

Putting the Pieces Together

This set of pieces of Reconciliation comes apart with a splash through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we do, we damage our relationship with God and with the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps our broken relationships. For this reason we call it a Sacrament of Healing.

Fill in the puzzle pieces below to reveal the six effects of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Use the words from the list.

Church conscience	confession	increase penance
of spiritual strength	reconciliation with God, by which the penitent receives	
reconciliation with the	spiritual	
remission of sinners	peace and serenity of	

VISIONS Sacrament of Reconciliation

Visit gospelweeklies.com/catechists-teachers to download this week's lesson review.

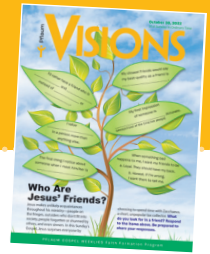
Use Activity #18 from the *Visions Activity Book* as a take-home activity or lesson wrap-up.

VISIONS

Parents Teaching Pages Preview

- Easy-to-use guides that walk parents through teaching each lesson with step-by-step instructions, background information, and discussion starters.
- Parents who are assisting their children at home will benefit from these simplified guides.
- Available in English and Spanish.





Sunday Gospel Background

When Jesus visits the home of Zacchaeus the tax collector, people begin to grumble about Jesus. Zacchaeus was not only a tax collector and therefore an agent of the Romans, he also regularly cheated his fellow Jews. It is understandable that many Jewish people would be shocked and dismayed that Jesus would dine with him. But Jesus does not focus on Zacchaeus's sinful past; Jesus is concerned with his change of heart. Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus and promises to make amends for his past sins. For Jesus, this is a time for celebration. Zacchaeus is the sheep who was lost and now is found (see Luke 15:1–7). Jesus offers Zacchaeus forgiveness and reminds his disciples of his mission: "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).

Share Experiences

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

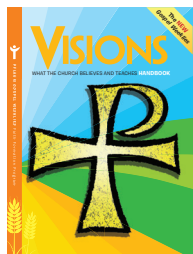
- Pray together** "Loving God, we are grateful for all the people who support us in life and for the support you give us when people are challenging. Give us wisdom to make good choices and create positive relationships. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Who Are Jesus' Friends? (page 1)** Over the next few years, your child will learn much about friendship. The Gospels offer many interesting takes on friendship. Jesus often chooses to "hang out" with people most wouldn't consider popular or cool, like Zacchaeus in this Sunday's Gospel. Have your child respond to the statements and questions on the leaves and discuss.
- Story • What Lauren Knew (pages 2–3)** Invite your child to read the story silently.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Julia is smart, pretty, and popular. Lauren gets tired of listening to Sondra brag about Julia. Blabbing the news about the cheating scandal would knock down Julia's image, take away Sondra's right to brag, and put Lauren in the social spotlight. Gossip gives people a sense of power. 2. The idea of spilling the gossip becomes unappealing when Lauren sees the fear and sadness in Sondra's eyes. 3. Open-ended. This is a good opportunity to share personal experiences. You might also practice or act out ways to stop gossip. 4. Open-ended. Lauren may recognize that the Donnelly family is already hurting, and she doesn't want to add to that hurt. Spreading gossip can also reflect back negatively on those who spread it.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus' Visit Changes Zacchaeus (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading parts aloud.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. A short man, perhaps a bit impulsive, a collaborator with the Romans, a deal-maker, a crooked businessman. 2. A big crowd has just come out to welcome Jesus as a holy man, and he gives all his attention to someone they know is a cheater and a friend of the occupying Roman army. It's a lesson in befriending the friendless. 3. Zacchaeus decides to change his whole life, to give to the poor, and to pay back people he has cheated. 4. Open-ended. When someone is kind to us, we want to share that friendship with someone else.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Comes to Save and Befriend the Outsider (page 4)** This doctrine lesson emphasizes Jesus' mission on the earth—that is, he came to save everyone. Read this section aloud. Emphasize the concept of conversion, the moment in which Zacchaeus experiences a profound change of heart.



- **Discuss the *Talk* questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus does it suddenly and without any warning. Open-ended. 2. Open-ended; when we harm our relationships, we must make them right. It is the same with God; we must admit our sins, express sincere sorrow, and seek God's forgiveness.*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 24 and read the section on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** Use this section to summarize the four actions of the sacrament—repentance, confession, intention, and absolution. Then turn to page 40. **Ask:** Which of the prayer forms might be part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? *Petition and contrition.* Next, turn to page 34 and read aloud about The Eighth Commandment. Discuss how gossip falls under this commandment. **Ask:** How does his week's story ("What Lauren Knew") illustrate this commandment? Emphasize that it also is not appropriate to spread negative talk or faults about someone else, even if these faults are factually correct. How is "liking" something on social media also a violation of this commandment?

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Wisdom Reveals God's Love and Forgiveness (page 5)** This feature provides context and background for this Sunday's First Reading, Wisdom 11:22—12:22. Read aloud the text and the First Reading aloud together by taking turns at each paragraph.
- **Catholic Faith Word • Conversion (page 5)** Read aloud the definition. Point out that Jesus' compassionate visit led to Zacchaeus's conversion. Work together to respond to the two questions.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • The Sacrament of Reconciliation Makes Things Right (pages 6–7)** After reading the introduction, go through each scene together: **Invitation, Confession, Satisfaction, and Forgiveness.** Take turns reading aloud the voice balloons and work on each of the activities together. Pray the Prayer of Sorrow together as a family.
- **Closing Prayer • We Pray with the Communion of Saints (page 8)** This week, Catholics honor the saints and all of our beloved dead on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Read aloud this introduction to the Communion of Saints and the traditions surrounding these Church celebrations. Take turns reading the Preface of Saints. Give your child time to write the names of special people—living and dead. Share these names as you pray the following: "Loving God, we know you are always with us. Bless and protect our loved ones, those still with us and those who have gone to Heaven to live with you. Amen."

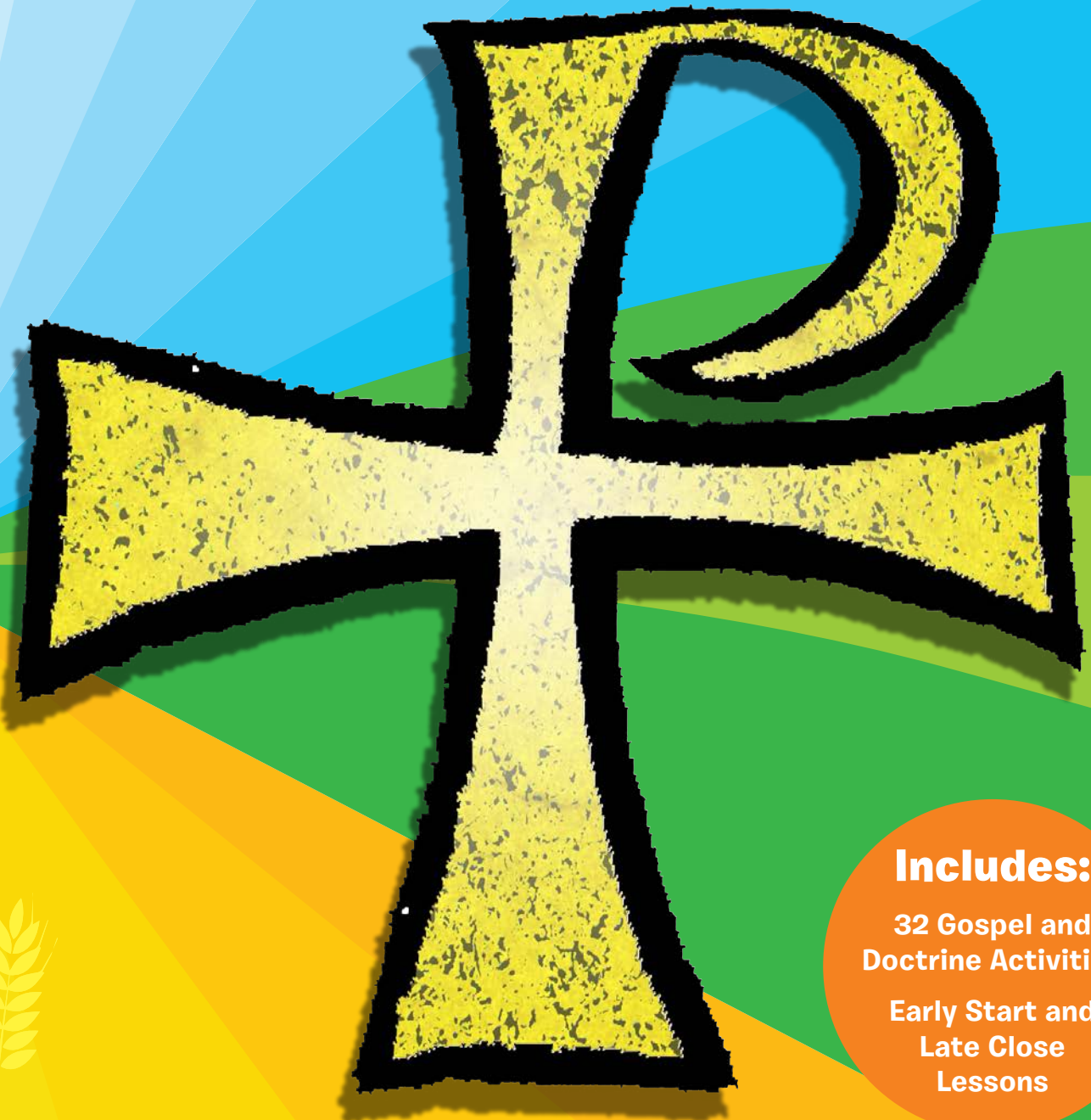


Parent Resources

For weekly materials lists, 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.

VISIONS

ACTIVITY BOOK



Includes:

**32 Gospel and
Doctrine Activities**

**Early Start and
Late Close
Lessons**



PFLAUM GOSPEL WEEKLIES Faith Formation Program



Name _____

Putting the Pieces Together

The Sacrament of Reconciliation continues Jesus' work of salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we sin, we damage our relationship with God and with the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation heals our broken relationships. For this reason we call it a Sacrament of Healing.

Fill in the puzzle pieces below to reveal the six effects of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Use the word bank for help.

Church

consolation

increase

conscience

grace

punishment

