



Teaching This Week's Lesson

Share Experiences

Objectives • The children will:

- Recognize that the sacraments bring us Jesus' loving and healing actions.
- Appreciate the actions and emotions that surround a family wedding.



Play and sing "Blest Are They" (CD-2, #11). Lyrics are available to download and print at gospelweeklies.com/lyrics.

Gathering Prayer Gather in the prayer circle. Tell the children that Sunday's Gospel is about a wedding feast. Jesus turned water into wine and made a big difference to the bride and groom. Ask who wants to make a toast for something good and exciting in his or her life. Begin by raising your hand in the air as if making a toast and say, "I thank you, loving God, for a beautiful day" (or for a new grandchild, or a loved one's new job, and so forth). **Ask the children to respond**, "We thank you, loving God." Then give them time to make their own toasts.

Cover Activity • Jesus' Actions Make a Difference (page 1)

Distribute *Venture* and ask the children to look at the top set of illustrations. **Ask**: What is happening? *A blind man asks Jesus for help.* Remind the children that they heard this Gospel back in October. Notice the blind man is helping a child at the far right of the illustration. Read the headline aloud and ask how Jesus' actions made a difference. Discuss the Zacchaeus story in the middle row and the church scene at the bottom. Have the children carefully tear the covers from their *Venture* lessons. Follow the directions to fold the page. **Ask**: Now what is happening? Read the headline sentence again. How is Jesus making a difference? Summarize by asking which of the Seven Sacraments are like Jesus' actions in the illustrations. (*Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation, Eucharist*)

Story • A Wedding in the Family (pages 2-3) Read this story aloud as a class, in pairs of weak and strong readers, or alone silently. The main character's name is pronounced "My-lay."



Discuss the Think questions on page 3. Answers:

1. Loyalty to their mother and worry that they may no longer have their father's undivided attention. Open-ended.
2. Her dad talks to Kai and Jodie's sons rather than her; the Genesis reading that a man clings to his wife; not being in the wedding and wearing formal clothes. She's afraid Jodie hates her and it's too late to apologize.
3. He invites her to sit at the head table with the rest of

the wedding party; Jodie's gift of the gecko charm let Maile know that Jodie did not hate her and wanted her to be as happy and joyful as she was. 4. Reconciliation and love.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

Objectives • The children will:

- Recognize how Jesus used a miraculous sign to show forth his power and to bless the wedding party.
- Explore the Sacrament of Matrimony in the context of the Wedding at Cana.
- Review what they've learned about the sacraments, the Church, and the Mass.
- Compare signs, miracles, and mysteries.

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

Sunday Gospel • Jesus Provides Wine for a Wedding Feast (page 4) Have six children take the parts of the three narrators, Mary, Jesus, and the Chief Servant, and the rest of the class be the Servants. Proclaim the Gospel.



Discuss the Think questions on page 4. Answers:

1. Relatives and friends of the couple, including Jesus, his disciples, and Mary.
2. Jesus is more like the bridegroom because he draws everyone together with a grand gesture of hospitality.
3. He values marriage and celebration, and wants people to be happy. He gathers people together in joy and gladness. See page 5 for further interpretation of Jesus' first sign.



Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Gathers People Together (page 4)

Read this summary of Sunday's Gospel message aloud. Jesus models how we can gather people together. We are bound together in our families and in our friend groups.

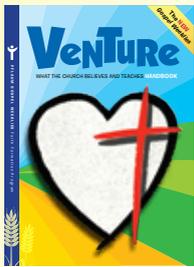


Discuss the two Think questions on page 4. Answers:

1. Open-ended; if leaving the classroom is not possible, brainstorm some of the parish events the children have attended.
2. Open-ended; they could invite family to do any activity together, or it could be more profound, like trying to help siblings mend a quarrel.
3. Open-ended; receiving the Eucharist could inspire you to be a better, more generous, or thankful person.



Distribute the children's What the Church Believes and Teaches handbooks.



What the Church Believes and Teaches

What Happens in the Sacrament of Matrimony? (page 26)
Quick Quiz (pages 27-28)

Read the first paragraph on page 26 aloud together.

Ask the children about weddings they have attended: How did the bride and groom make clear that they were making a covenant, a promise, to each other? How did the people present witness to this promise? What feelings about the seriousness of marriage did the ceremony evoke? Enjoy what the children share, but don't let details overwhelm the conversation.

Read the second paragraph. Jesus' presence at the wedding feast of Cana shows that he values marriage as an institution. The Church names marriage a sacrament because it gives the couple the grace to live out their promises to each other every day.

Continue with the other three paragraphs. If the children have questions about divorced and remarried Catholics or about marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics, you may wish to gather these queries and ask the pastor or deacon to answer them in a later class.

Turn to pages 27 and 28. Have the children work independently or arrange them in pairs to complete the responses. You may decide to have them answer from memory or give them permission to find their responses throughout the handbook.

Y Have the children close the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbooks and return to *Venture*, page 5.

Our Catholic Faith • Jesus Is the Best Wine (page 5) Have the children read this feature aloud, then work in pairs to complete the questions at the bottom of the page.
Answers: 1. A while, long enough for the wine to run out. 2. Six. 3. 25. 4. About 2400. 5. The best. 6. See the response to the third Think question related to the Gospel on page 4. **Priest's words:** Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Catholic Faith Word • Mystery (page 5) Ask for a volunteer to read aloud the definition. Invite discussion about mysteries of faith.

Live the Gospel

Objectives • The children will:

- Play a game to review and imagine their personal sacramental journeys.
- Learn the Gospels that reveal Jesus' signs in John's Gospel.

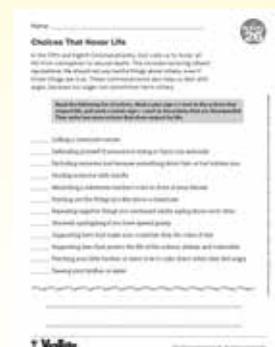
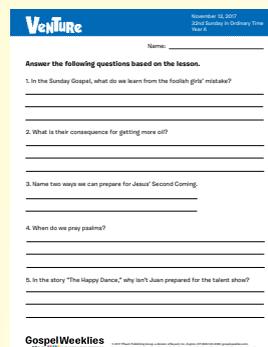
Living the Gospel • Sacramental Life (pages 6-7)

This board game, loosely modeled after the game of Life, is a journey through our sacramental lives. Read the directions aloud and divide your class into groups of three. Each group will need only one copy of *Venture*. Distribute coins and game markers to each group. Identify the symbols of the sacraments on page 6. Play one round of the game, and then discuss how our Christian lives are shaped by the sacraments.

Gospel Review • What Do Jesus' Signs Tell Us? (page 8) Distribute Bibles, but encourage the children to solve the puzzles from their existing knowledge of the Gospels. **Answers:** 1. You kept the best wine until now. 2. Go, your son will live. 3. Get up, pick up your mat, and walk. 4. I am the bread of life. 5. It is I; do not be afraid. 6. I am the light of the world. 7. I am the resurrection and the life.

Closing Prayer Remind the children that there are many types of prayer, including those of praise and thanksgiving that they offered at the beginning of class. There are also prayers of petition. Invite the children to offer prayers on behalf of people they know who may be especially in need of God's loving care.

Lesson Wrap-Up



Visit gospelweeklies.com/assessments to download this week's lesson review.

Use Activity #26 from the *Venture Activity Book* as a take-home activity or lesson wrap-up.