










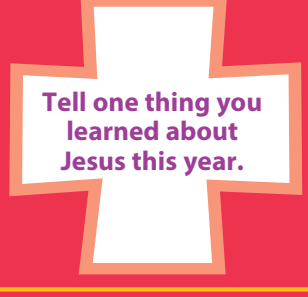



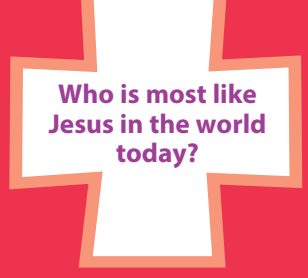


# VISIONS

## Who Shares the Faith with You?

Answer at least one question in each column and color its symbol.

SACRAMENTS	PRAYERS	COMMANDMENTS	JESUS
 <p>Who celebrated with you on your First Communion day?</p>	 <p>Who taught you to make the Sign of the Cross?</p>	 <p>Who taught you the Ten Commandments?</p>	 <p>Who was your favorite religion teacher? Why?</p>
 <p>Who baptized you?</p>	 <p>Sing a Christmas carol or Easter song that someone taught you.</p>	 <p>Which of the Ten Commandments is the hardest to keep?</p>	 <p>Who has helped you do Works of Mercy?</p>
 <p>Name one of your godparents.</p>	 <p>Who do you know who prays the Rosary?</p>	 <p>What is a commandment you think is missing?</p>	 <p>Tell one thing you learned about Jesus this year.</p>
 <p>In what parish did you make your First Eucharist?</p>	 <p>What prayer that you learned do you like best?</p>	 <p>Why do Catholics keep Sunday holy?</p>	 <p>Who is most like Jesus in the world today?</p>



# DOROTHY DAY

## A Saint for Our Time



**Long before she heard about Catholic social teaching, Dorothy Day learned about poor people on the streets of America's big cities.** Dorothy

was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1897. Her parents were Christian, but they did not practice their faith.

Her family lived in San Francisco when the 1906 earthquake turned the city to rubble and started a terrible fire. Dorothy always remembered how people helped each other.

Dorothy loved Chicago when the family moved there. Her father became the sports editor for a Chicago newspaper. When she wasn't in school, Dorothy took long walks in poor neighborhoods. She loved the smells of the food carts and enjoyed the friendliness of people even when she couldn't understand their languages.

On her walks, Dorothy learned about the terrible

working conditions in the Chicago meatpacking factories. She met immigrants who were poor and noticed that they were usually Catholic.

When she was seventeen, Dorothy enrolled in the University of Illinois. After two years in college, she moved to New York City. She started working as a reporter at a newspaper that supported social justice for workers. Dorothy was a successful journalist, but she felt restless.

**Dorothy began to attend Catholic Mass.** When she was twenty-seven, Dorothy decided to settle down with Forster Batterham, an English botanist who agreed with her about social justice. Forster loved all the beauties of nature, but he did not believe in God.

In 1927, Forster and Dorothy had a baby girl. Dorothy wanted her daughter to be baptized as

a Catholic. Forster opposed it. She and Forster separated, and Dorothy went ahead with Tamar Theresa Day's Baptism. Then Dorothy became a Catholic, too.

Dorothy wrote stories for all kinds of newspapers and magazines, including Catholic ones. She went to Washington, D.C., to cover a hunger march in the middle of the Great Depression. People walked in the rain, carrying signs asking for housing, health care, relief for women and children, and, most of all, jobs.

**After the march, Dorothy went to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to ask God to show her how she could help all these people.** When Dorothy got back to New York, she met someone who was the answer to her prayer.

Peter Maurin wanted someone to help him start a newspaper about Catholic social teaching. Dorothy fit the bill. She was a journalist. They could use her kitchen for an office. Together, they could start the paper.

And they did. On May 1, 1933, the first copies of *The Catholic Worker* were handed out in Union Square for a penny a copy. The paper told about injustice and corruption. Every week, Peter Maurin wrote an Easy Essay that pointed out how followers of Christ could live today.

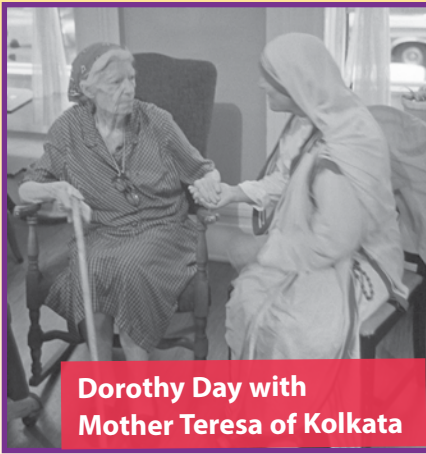


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**Dorothy Day with Mother Teresa of Kolkata**

**Because of the paper, people in New York knew about Dorothy and what she stood for.** People without jobs or homes began knocking at her door, asking for shelter and meals. Dorothy's home and office became the first Catholic Worker House of Hospitality. Within three years, there were thirty-three houses. Dorothy lived with the people she served and did not always have a space of her own.

Some people didn't think Dorothy should welcome people who were homeless.

"How long do you let them stay?" a social worker asked Dorothy.

"We let them stay forever," Dorothy said. "They live with us, and they die with us. Once they are taken in, they become members of the family."

Or, rather, they always were members of the family. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ."

One person felt exasperated with Dorothy and said, "Didn't Jesus say the poor will always be with us?"

"Yes," Dorothy said. "But there should be fewer of them."

**Dorothy Day spent her whole life fighting injustice and war and offering love and hospitality to everyone.**

Her daughter, Tamar, grew up, married, and had nine children. One of Dorothy's granddaughters, Martha Hennessy, volunteers at Maryhouse, a Catholic Worker House in Manhattan. Like her grandmother, Martha has been jailed for protesting war and torture.

Dorothy Day died on November 29, 1980. Father Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I., describes Dorothy as both a pious Catholic and a radical protester. He wrote, "She was equally

comfortable leading a peace march and leading the Rosary."

In 2000, the Vatican named Dorothy Day a Servant of God. In 2016, the Church began a



**Dorothy was seventy-five when she was jailed for supporting Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. It was her fifteenth time in jail. She served ten days.**

canonical inquiry, a long process of gathering information and interviewing people who knew Dorothy. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, told a group of bishops, "I am convinced she is a saint for our time."

Martha Hennessy said that her grandmother "wants us all to become saints—that's what's important for us to remember."

## **TALK**

- 1 What does Dorothy Day learn on the streets of big cities?
- 2 What leads Dorothy to become a Catholic?
- 3 How does Dorothy put her talents to use to help people who are poor?
- 4 Do you think Dorothy Day should be named a saint? Why?

## **THE CATHOLIC WORKER**

**The price for a copy of *The Catholic Worker* is still just a penny. There are more than two hundred Catholic Worker houses worldwide. You can learn more about them and about Dorothy Day's cause for canonization at [catholicworker.org](http://catholicworker.org) or [dorothydayguild.org](http://dorothydayguild.org).**





# SUNDAY GOSPEL

3rd Sunday of Lent

John 4:5-42

## Jesus Talks to a Samaritan Woman

**Narrator:** On his way from Judea to Galilee, Jesus came to a town in Samaria named Sychar, not far from the piece of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired out by the trip, sat down by the well. It was about noon. His followers had gone into town to buy food. A Samaritan woman came to draw some water.

**Jesus 1:** Please give me a drink of water.

**Woman:** How can you, a Jew, ask me, a woman from Samaria, for a drink?

**Narrator:** In that time, most Jewish people wanted nothing to do with Samaritans.

**Jesus 2:** If only you could see God's gift and who is asking you for a drink, you would ask him for a drink and he would give you living water.

**Woman:** Sir, you don't have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where can you get living water? Our ancestor Jacob gave us this well; his family and flocks all drank from it. You don't claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?

**Jesus 1:** Everyone who drinks this water will keep getting thirsty, but whoever drinks the water that I give will never be thirsty again. The water I give will become a spring within that wells up into eternal life.

**Woman:** Sir, give me this water! Then I will never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come for water anymore.

**Jesus 2:** Go call your husband and come back.

**Woman:** I don't have a husband.

**Jesus 1:** You are right to say that you don't have a husband. You have been married to five husbands, and the one you live with now is not really your husband. You have told me the truth.

**Woman:** I see you are a prophet, sir. You know the history of my people. Our ancestors worshiped God on this mountain, but you say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship.

**Jesus 2:** Believe me, the time is coming when people will worship neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not understand, while we Jews understand what we worship, for the salvation of the human race will come from the Jews. But the time is coming, and is already here, when real worshipers will worship God in spirit and truth. These are the worshipers God wants. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and in truth.

**Woman:** I know the Messiah is coming.

**Narrator:** *Messiah* means "anointed" or "Christ."

**Woman:** When the Messiah comes, he will tell us everything.

**Jesus 1:** I who am talking to you am the Christ.

**Narrator:** At that moment, Jesus' followers returned. They were very surprised to find him talking with a woman, but none of them said to her, "What do you want?" or



asked him, "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar at the well and went to talk to her townspeople.

**Woman:** Come and see the man who knows our history and who wants us to worship with all people in spirit and truth. Do you think he could be the Messiah?

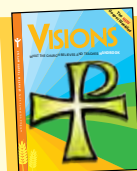
**Narrator:** The people set out to meet Jesus. Many believed in Jesus on the strength of the woman's word. When the Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay, so he did for two days. Many more believed in Jesus after listening to his teachings. They spoke to the woman.

**Townsperson 1:** We believe in Jesus now, not because of your story but because we ourselves have heard him.

**Townsperson 2:** We know Jesus is the Savior of the world.

### TALK

- 1 What does the Samaritan woman know about the history of her people?
- 2 What is the living water Jesus is talking about?
- 3 Who brings the Good News to the townspeople?
- 4 What will worship in spirit and truth be like?



Like Dorothy Day, each one of us is called to continue Jesus' mission of love. Turn to page 12 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*. What command did Jesus give his disciples? Which of the Works of Mercy did Dorothy offer to the people who came to live with her? (See list on page 51.)

# Jesus Reaches Out to Samaritans

In the 700s B.C., ten of the twelve nations that descended from Jacob belong to the kingdom of Israel. That kingdom includes Samaria and Galilee. The other two tribes belong to a southern kingdom called Judea. Its capital is Jerusalem.

The hostility between Jews and **Samaritans** begins when the Assyrians defeat the northern kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. The southern kingdom survives. The Assyrians are from the land where Iraq is today.

The Assyrians take captives and move many Israelites off their land. In their place, the Assyrians move five tribes loyal to them into the area of Samaria. These new settlers do not worship the God of Israel.

Over time, the Israelites who remain in the north marry some of the people from these tribes. The Israelites of the south then see their northern cousins as people who are no longer of pure Israelite blood. They view them as heretics who worship false gods. In fact, the gods of

these five tribes are the five husbands to whom Jesus refers when he says to the woman, “You have had five husbands.”

● **Find the five tribes of the Samaritan people in 2 Kings 17:24.**

About 150 years later, the Babylonians—a new superpower—defeat the Assyrians. The Babylonians attack and defeat the southern kingdom of Judea, destroy the Temple, and take people into exile in Babylon. These exiled Jews return to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple after 540 B.C. The people of Samaria offer to help, but the exiled Jews refuse. They want nothing to do with the Jews of mixed heritage and mixed religious loyalties. These Samaritans then turn their backs on Jerusalem and the Temple.

Jesus, who is Jewish, invites the Samaritan woman and her townspeople to join his community. The woman becomes a missionary to her townspeople, bringing them

the news that Jesus wants these long-despised people to be part of his community.

Sunday’s Gospel takes place at Jacob’s Well, a source of water for people in Samaria since the time of Jacob. Jesus intrigues the woman by telling her he possesses living water that one may drink and never be thirsty again.

Jesus helps the Samaritan woman reimagine who she is. She is not a despised human being. Within her and within all of us is an inner well or spring. The Holy Spirit within us opens us to awe in God’s presence.

● **How are our minds and hearts like a well inside of us?**

**Catholic**  
**FAITH WORD** 

**SAMARITANS** The Samaritans live in the central area of Israel between Galilee in the north and Judea in the south. In Jesus’ time, other Jewish people regarded them as heretics because they didn’t worship at the Temple in Jerusalem.



and **DOCTRINE**

Connecting **GOSPEL**

## Jesus Calls Us to Spread the Good News

In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus invites the Samaritan woman to believe in him and become a witness for others. Jesus shows that he wants all people to believe in him and worship one God in spirit and truth.

Jesus sends all of us who are baptized and have living springs within us to invite others to know Jesus by the way we live. Jesus explains to the woman that it

soon won’t matter where people worship. Salvation does not come from a physical location, like a temple or town. It will be where people worship in spirit and in truth. “The Body of the risen Christ is the spiritual temple from which the source of living water springs forth: incorporated into Christ by the Holy Spirit, ‘we are the temple of the living God’” (CCC, 1179).

“ ” **1** What do you enjoy most about going to Mass? Who might you ask to join you and your family for Mass?

**2** How does the way you live show others that you are a Christian? List two examples.





# Who Is Jesus?

## An Interview with Jesus

**Q** Do you get homesick for the hills of Nazareth now that you live near the lake in Capernaum?

**A** Jesus: We have hills here too. I like to climb and find a place to look out over the lake.

**Q** Would you describe your family as very religious?

**A** Yes, we walked down to Jerusalem for Passover every year.

**Q** Some people criticize you for not keeping the Law of Moses strictly enough.

**A** I use my common sense. If a person or an animal needs help on the Sabbath, I help them. God made the law for us, not us for the law.

**Q** Do you have a lot of friends?

**A** Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are three of my best friends. The disciples who follow me from village to village are like friends. We are together all the time—Peter, Andrew, John, Mary Magdalene, and Salome. They learn from my teaching, and I learn from the questions they ask. They want to understand my words in their hearts.

**Q** How important is the prayer you teach your followers? People call it the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father.

**A** I pray that prayer all the time. It never fails to remind me of my mission. Every part is important—God's kingdom



to come, daily bread for people who are poor, forgiveness for enemies. That's what I'm all about.

**Q** Who inspires you?

**A** My parents, first of all. My mother loves to talk about what I teach and about the Scriptures. She will ponder something in her heart for a long time and then ask me about it. Joseph works

with stone and wood. He likes working with his hands because it keeps his head free for thanking God—that's what he says. My cousin John the Baptist inspired me to go out to the desert the way he did. It changed him, being alone with God for weeks. I knew my time to start preaching had come when he was beheaded.

**Q** You wanted to take his place?

**A** Yes, in a way. John's preaching stirred up so many people. They wanted to hear more about God's love for them.

**Q** Didn't his death scare you?

**A** It sure did. But the needs of so many people pulled at me.

**Q** How do you sum up what your life is all about?

**A** Telling people God loves them and healing people so they will know that God wants them whole and isn't punishing them.

**Q** What is your biggest challenge?

**A** Not everyone hears my message.

In Sunday's Gospel, the Samaritan woman persuades her neighbors to come back to Jacob's Well with her and decide for themselves whether Jesus is the Messiah. This activity asks you to use all you know about Jesus to persuade others to be his followers.

**1** Work together in groups of three or four to plan how you will persuade people who have never heard of Jesus to learn more about him. Draw on all you remember about Jesus from the Gospels in *Visions* this year—

- Who Jesus is
- Who his family is
- What he teaches
- How he acts toward others
- What his friends and enemies think of him

A list of the Gospels is on page 7. Find your favorite teachings and actions. Use a Bible to help you.

**2** Make your case for Jesus by writing a song, making a speech, creating an ad, or acting out the story that best shows who Jesus is.

**3** Each group takes a turn making a presentation to the whole class. The class votes on which group most effectively persuades people to learn more about Jesus and, perhaps, become his followers.



# Why Follow Jesus?

## JESUS' TEACHINGS

**A rich man fails to help Lazarus, the beggar, at his gate** (Luke 16:19–31).

**You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, so they see your good deeds** (Matthew 5:13–16).

**Pray always without growing weary like the widow who persists in seeking her rights** (Luke 18:1–8).

**Those who humble themselves will be exalted. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled** (Luke 18:9–14).

**If you bring your gift to the altar and recall that your brother or sister has anything against you, leave your gift at the altar, go first and be reconciled, and then come and offer your gift** (Matthew 5:23–24).

**If someone strikes you, turn the other cheek. If someone presses you into service for a mile, go two miles** (Matthew 5:39–41).

**Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you** (Matthew 5:44).

**Why are you worried about clothes? Learn from the way the wildflowers grow. God will provide for you** (Matthew 6:28–30).

## JESUS' ACTIONS

**Jesus forgives the thief on the Cross** (Luke 23:39–43).

**Jesus heals ten lepers; only one thanks him** (Luke 17:11–19).

**Jesus invites himself to eat with Zacchaeus, who then gives half of his possessions to the poor** (Luke 19:1–10).

## WHAT OTHERS THINK OF JESUS

**A voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”** (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

**John the Baptist said, “A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me”** (John 1:30).

**One of the criminals hanging on a cross next to Jesus said, “This man has done nothing criminal. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom”** (Luke 23:35–43).

**Title of our presentation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Members of our group**

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**Main reasons why we follow Jesus**

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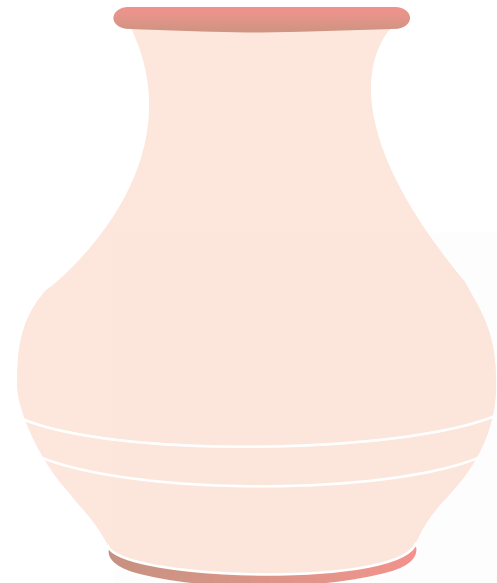
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**We will tell about Jesus in**

- ☐ a song   ☐ a skit  
☐ an ad  
☐ Gospel dramatization  
☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

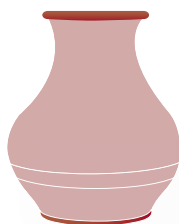


In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus offers living water to the woman at the well. The living water Jesus offers us is the water of Baptism. Like the woman at the Well, the Holy Spirit wells up within us as the impulse to love and to live as Jesus did. The woman leaves her water jar to become a witness to her townspeople, who believe her word that Jesus is the Messiah and come to meet him themselves. Water is a gift that meets our physical and spiritual needs. The pitcher of water at the center of your prayer space is a reminder of your Baptism. **Celebrate this prayer service together.**

**Leader 1:** Water quenches our thirst, nourishes our crops, fills our rivers, and cleans our bodies. Imagine your life without water. *Pause.*

**Leader 2:** Water gives us life and can also take it away. Picture in your mind the rage of a swollen river or the crashing of ocean waves. *Pause.*

**Who brought you to the waters of Baptism the way the Samaritan woman brought the people of her town to the living water of Jesus? Write the name(s) on the water jug on the other side and cut out this box for the prayer service.**



**Leader 3:** Water brings people together. We meet others at a beach or pool just as our ancestors met at wells. Think of a friendship that began near water. *Pause.*

**Leader 4:** The waters of Baptism bring us together as a community of believers in Jesus. Let us remember who brought us to the living water of Baptism into Jesus' new life. Let us say their names and place the names in our class water jar.



Play and sing "Come Back" (Venture/Visions Music CD, CD-1, #13).



## With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources.



### Pray

Thank you, Jesus, for sharing your gifts. Help me to share these gifts with others. Amen.



### Think

How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?



### Act

Search for all of the places where holy water is available in your church. Holy water is sometimes called "living water" because the Holy Spirit lives in it. Bless yourself with holy water before leaving the church.



For free at-home activities, visit

[@gospelweeklies.com/seasonal](https://gospelweeklies.com/seasonal)