



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus welcomes children and their families and invites them to be his followers. He even asks his adult followers to be more like children because children are especially good at responding with their whole hearts to the goodness in others.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Jesus, we know you love children and families. Thank you for giving us our family to love. Thank you for making us part of your family at church. Amen."
- Activity • Who Has Time for You? (page 4)** Begin with this activity on page 4. Unscramble the words together or let your child do it independently. **Answers:** *parent, coach, teacher, friend, sister, brother*. Once your child has unscrambled the words, share some examples of these people from your child's life. Ask how they make time for your child and how it makes your child feel.
- Cover Activity • Who Welcomes You? (page 1)** Turn back to the cover and read the header aloud. Read the first question below the pictures. For each picture, **ask:** Have you been welcomed in this way? If yes, direct your child to color the voice balloon for that picture. Take more time with the Baptism picture so your child understands this is when we are welcomed into God's family. Ask the remaining questions on the page.
- Story • Who Can Play? (page 2)** The girl in today's story turns the tables on children who won't welcome her to their play by becoming a welcoming person herself. Read the story aloud to your child. When you get to the questions in red, pause and invite your child to speculate before continuing with the story.
- Discuss the *Know* question related to the story.** Explore Clare's options with your child. Note that Dorine isn't one of the children who had told Clare she couldn't play with them. **Ask:** Would it make a difference if the child asking to play had been one who hadn't let Clare play on the first day? Explore how our hurt or angry feelings can sometimes lead us to want to hurt the person who hurt us. **Ask:** What do you think Jesus would want Clare to do?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Welcomes Children (page 3)** Invite your child to describe what is happening in the big picture at the top of page 3. Help your child find Jesus (in white) sitting under the tree. Then ask your child to describe what is happening in the small round picture. Proclaim the Gospel together by alternating the reading parts. Invite other family members to participate, if available.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** After the first question, **ask:** When have you been left out because you were too young? Discuss the fact that sometimes this is done for your child's safety, but sometimes grownups get busy with the things we think are important and we forget to pay attention to or include children. Jesus showed that people of all ages—even small children—are important to him and part of God's family. Discuss the second *Know* question.
- Catholic Faith Word • Kingdom of God (page 4)** Point out and invite your child to read aloud the line in the Gospel in which the term *Kingdom of God* appears. **Ask:** What prayer includes the words "thy kingdom come, thy will be done"? *The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)*. Refer to the definition of *Kingdom of God* on page 4. Read the definition together.



- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)** Read “God’s Children” together. This is a good summary of the Gospel message and a lead-in to the next section on the Sacrament of Baptism.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 21. Explain that even though many of us don’t remember what happened on the day of our Baptism, we can remember the importance of our Baptism every time we enter and leave the church. **Ask:** Do you remember what we do with water when we enter and leave a church? *We remember our Baptism when we bless ourselves with holy water and make the Sign of the Cross. This is a reminder that we are members of God’s family because of our Baptism.* **Ask:** Why is water a good sign of what happens in Baptism? *It cleans and gives life.*

Have your child turn to page 21 in the Catechism handbook and find the words of Baptism. Make the connection between these words and the Sign of the Cross we make as we enter and leave church. Point out the sentence on page 21 after the words of Baptism. **Ask:** What two things do Baptism and Confirmation do? **1. Mark us as belonging to Christ. 2. Make us members of the Catholic Church.**

Print the words *grace* and *sanctifying grace* on a sheet of paper or a white board. Have your child find the definition of *grace* on page 53 and read it aloud. Point out the sentence that begins “The gift, a share...” Impress upon your child the responsibility of taking care of this very important gift—a share in God’s own life. Read the final sentence again. Have your child find the definition of *sanctifying grace* on page 55. Point out that God’s gift of sanctifying grace helps us to live as his children.

Share pictures and stories from your child’s Baptism. If you can, find the dates when each member of your family was (or will be) baptized. Mark the dates on a calendar and remember to note and celebrate them this year.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • The Third Commandment: Keep Sunday Holy (page 4)** Read aloud the activity title. **Ask:** What is another word we sometimes hear in this commandment? *Sabbath instead of Sunday.* Read the copy at the top of page 4 aloud together. Emphasize that the *most important way* to keep Sunday holy is going to Mass. Have your child color in the graph and discuss some new ways your family can keep Sunday holy.
- **Closing Prayer** Pray the Sign of the Cross. Invite your child to speak aloud some concerns or names of people to pray for. Respond to each with “Lord, hear our prayer.” Then pray: “Loving God, we ask you to hear our prayers and answer them. We make our prayer in Jesus’ name.” Your child can respond, “Amen.” Close with the Sign of the Cross.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday’s Scripture