

## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of a vineyard owner who needs workers. He pays workers hired for only an hour's work the same day's wage as those hired at dawn. This story is not really about wages—or fairness. It's about God's love, which abounds for all of us.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, bless our time together as we learn about you. Bless each member of our family. Amen."
- Cover • God's love is generous. (page 1)** Look at the cover illustration with your child. Discuss what is happening and look for the hidden pictures together. Have your child identify the priest, altar servers, choir, song leader, usher with the basket, and the people in the pews.
- Story • Dad's Birthday Dinner** Say: Listen to how everyone helps in this birthday celebration.

Today is Dad's birthday. When Mom and the children asked him what he wanted for his special birthday supper, Dad said, "I would like to have spaghetti and meatballs." Everyone laughed because this is what Dad asks for every year.

"We will make spaghetti and meatballs for you," Mom said. "Everyone can help."

Mom got out Grandma's recipe for meatballs and a big bowl. She put hamburger and Italian sausage into the bowl. "How can I help?" asked Grace. "You can measure the spices and put them in the bowl," Mom said. "Read the recipe carefully and show me what you are adding." Grace added spices one at a time. Mom nodded her approval each time.

"How can I help?" asked Charley. "As soon as we have mixed up the meatballs, you can use the little scoop to make perfect balls," Mom told Charley. "That will be fun," Charley said.

Just then Eddie came into the kitchen. He had been playing with the puppy in the backyard. When he saw Grace and Charley helping Mom, Eddie said, "I want to help too." Mom

smiled and said, "Wash your hands. Then I will give you a job."

After Eddie had washed his hands, Mom pointed to a cupboard next to the sink. "Eddie, please get the big cookie sheet out of the cupboard." Eddie found the cookie sheet and put it on the table next to Mom. "Now rub some shortening all over the cookie sheet so the meatballs won't stick to it," Mom said. "When you have finished, Charley will put the meatballs on the sheet and put them in the oven."

Soon the kitchen was filled with the smell of meatballs baking. A pot of water for the spaghetti was ready on the stove. The pasta sauce was simmering.

"Something smells good," Dad said, peeking around the kitchen door.

"I put in all the spices," Grace said.

"I made the little meatballs," Charley said.

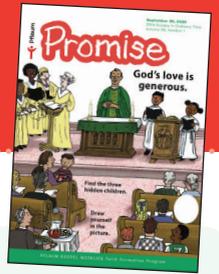
"I got the cookie sheet ready for Charley," Eddie said.

"We all helped," said Mom. "There is a lot of love in this birthday dinner."

**Ask:** Who helped make Dad's birthday dinner? Why did everyone want to help? What did Mom mean about love in the food?

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • God is generous. (page 2)** Invite your child to follow along by looking at the pictures on the pages as you read the Gospel aloud. If you prefer, tell the Gospel in your own words.



Jesus told his followers this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who owned a vineyard where grapes are grown. He went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He hired some workers and said he would pay them for a day's work.

"At nine o'clock, the man needed more workers. He told them: 'Please go and work in my vineyard. I will pay you what is fair.' The man went out again at noon, three o'clock, and five o'clock to hire more workers.

"Soon evening came. The vineyard owner told his manager to pay the workers. He told him: 'Begin by paying the ones I

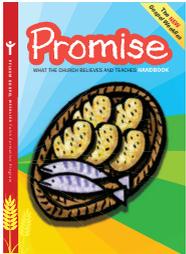
hired last. End with the ones I hired first.'

"The workers who started working at the end of the day were paid for a whole day's work. The ones who worked all day were paid the same. The ones who worked all day were unhappy. They grumbled and said: 'The last people you hired worked only one hour. You paid them the same as you paid us. We worked all day in the heat. It's not fair!'

"The man who owned the vineyard said: 'I am not cheating you. You agreed to work for a day's pay. Can't I do what I want with my money? Are you upset because I am generous?'"

Jesus said, "The last will be first, and the first will be last."

**Ask:** What does *generous* mean? *Gives freely, not selfish.* **Ask:** How was the vineyard owner generous? **Ask:** How is God like the vineyard owner? Explain that Jesus told this story to show us how much God loves everyone. God is not stingy. God is generous.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 6. Read the top three paragraphs and help your child complete the activity. **Answer:** *Bible*. Explain that the Gospel stories you will read every week and that we hear at Mass on Sundays come from the Bible. The Bible tells us about God's promises to us. God wants us to open and read his words of love in the Bible. Finish by reading the final paragraph on page 6 to your child.

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

- **Word of the Week • Bible (Promise, page 4)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 4. Share this definition: *The Bible is a holy book that tells us about God's love for us.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • I am a Promise child. (page 3)** Turn back to page 3 and complete the rebus together, adjusting for home use. For example in line 5, you might substitute "family" for "class."
- **Closing Prayer • We pray and sing. (page 4)** Stand and hold hands as you read and sing the song on page 4 together, following the gestures of the children in the illustration.
- **Family Corner (page 4)** Feel free to say the family prayer together every day this week. Use the Question of the Week as a conversation starter at dinner or while driving in the car.



## Parent Resources

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