



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about ten maidens who go to a wedding. Five come prepared, wisely bringing extra oil for their lamps; the other five come empty-handed. In Jesus' time, negotiating a dowry (money or property the bride's family gives to the groom's family) could make the groom's arrival time unpredictable. Jesus teaches us to be prepared for his return at the end of time. We will be ready to meet Jesus if we make wise choices. A loving choice is a wise choice. An unloving choice is a sin. This week's lesson provides opportunities to help your child consider choices, and the ways God helps us to make wise and loving decisions that can help us grow in wisdom.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray Together** "Loving God, we thank you for giving us life. Help us grow to be wise and kind. Help us to make loving choices. Amen."
- Cover Activity • My Conscience Toolbox (page 1)** Look at the cover together. **Ask:** What is in the photo? *Toolbox and tools.* Explain that God gives us tools to help us make good choices. Read aloud the activity title and explain that God has given each of us a conscience to help us make good choices. Read aloud the poem above the red square. Have your child look at the letters inside the square, then read aloud the directions in blue. **Answers:** *Ten Commandments, Golden Rule, saints, Bible, Church Teaching, parents, prayer.* **Bottom Answer:** *Holy Spirit.* Point out that the unscrambled words are all tools that will help us keep our consciences strong. The Holy Spirit will help us use these tools well.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- First Reading • Wisdom Is a Gift (page 2)** Before turning to page 2, invite your child to look at the big title on page 1. Read it aloud. **Ask:** What kind of choice is a wise choice? *Loving, what God wants, good. A person who makes wise choices has wisdom.* Turn to page 2 and have your child find the word *Wisdom* at the top of the page.

Read aloud the title and explain that this is Sunday's First Reading. It's from an Old Testament book called *Wisdom*. If you have access to a Bible, show your child where the reading is. Point out that the Bible calls *Wisdom* *she*. Point out the picture of the dove. **Ask:** What does the dove stand for? *The Holy Spirit.* Explain that many people think of *Wisdom* as the Holy Spirit. Take turns reading each sentence of the First Reading.

- Discuss the Know questions related to the First Reading.** **Answers:** 1. *God.* 2. *Make good and loving choices, help us know right from wrong.*
- Sunday Gospel • The Wise and Foolish Girls (page 3)** Sunday's Gospel is about being ready for Jesus' coming at the end of time. Explain that in Jesus' time, people used lamps filled with oil for light in their homes. Wedding feasts were usually held in the evening; the time the feast began was very flexible. People had to be ready for a long wait. Invite your child to listen as you proclaim the Gospel. You may wish to have your child represent the wise girls and the foolish girls as you read the verses aloud. Have your child use facial expressions and body movements to show how the girls feel in each situation. Summarize by having your child repeat why Jesus told this story.
- Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.** **Answers:** 1. *Bring extra oil, be prepared.* 2. *Listen to parents and teachers, obey God's laws, be kind, make loving choices.*



- **Activity • Make a Gospel Storybook (pages 3-4)** Ask: Who are the characters in the picture on page 4? *The ten girls with their lamps lit.* Guide your child in cutting out the storybook and making the folds (instructions on page 4). Have your child tell the story to you (or another family member, if available), by using the storybook.
- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read together "God Helps Us Choose."
- **Catholic Faith Words • conscience, sin (page 4)** Read aloud the two definitions. Remind your child that every one of us has a conscience. It will help us make wise and loving choices and lead us away from sin. Point out that a sin is a foolish and unloving choice.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 30. As you read aloud this page about sin, use three fingers to help your child remember that: Sin is doing something wrong (finger #1) when we know it's wrong (finger #2), and we choose to do it anyway (finger #3).

Point out that we can sin by our actions, words, thoughts, and by not acting or speaking when we should. Invite your child to come up with examples of each of these and talk about who is hurt by sins. Use another three-finger memory aid: Sin hurts our relationship with God (#1), others (#2), and self (#3). **Ask:** Who does Jesus tell us to love in the Great Commandment? *God (#1), neighbor (#2), self (#3).*

Ask: What should we do when we have sinned? *Say we're sorry, ask to be forgiven. Emphasize that we need to say we're sorry to the person(s) our sin has hurt. We also need to ask God to forgive us.*

Turn to page 23 and read aloud the first paragraph through "right again." Invite your child to read the bulleted lines. Review the steps of the sacrament together in the second column.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 2.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • What Wise People Do (Good News page 2)** Say: I would like to be wise. Would you? **Ask:** What is the gift that God gives each of us that helps us make wise choices? *Conscience.* **Ask:** What are the tools we need in our conscience toolbox (see page 1)? **Ask:** Who will help us use these tools well? *The Holy Spirit.*
Have your child complete the activity on page 2 of *Good News.* **Answers:** *Jesus, Listen, kind, loving, good, laws, Trust, Pray*
- **Family Corner (page 2)** Say the prayer together, or a form of it, as you prepare for Sunday Mass this week. Share the *Question of the Week* as a conversation starter.
- **Closing Prayer** Read the quote from Saint John Paul II on page 2. Then share about something or someone you wish to pray for. Invite your child to do the same. Take turns if you have more needs to voice. After each concern, respond together: "Lord, hear our prayer." Make the Sign of the Cross together.



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