

Sunday Gospel Background

Sunday's Gospel compares the Last Judgment to a shepherd separating sheep from goats. The shepherd distinguishes the sheep by their merciful actions. The sheep are people who have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, sheltered the stranger, clothed the naked, and visited the sick and imprisoned. Jesus offers us a clear message for how we should treat others.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together:** "Jesus, help us be like you by looking for ways we can help others. Amen."
- Story • The Thank-You Box** Explain that you are going to tell a story about two brothers named Dalton and Drew.

Dalton Nelson had a problem. His brother Drew had made a project for his sixth-grade religion class. It was a Thank-You Box. On one side of a big cardboard box, Drew had drawn pictures of all kinds of food. On the other side, he drew pictures of mittens and hats, shoes and sweaters. On one end of the box, Drew had drawn a soccer ball and hockey skates. Drew wrote "Thank You, God!" in big letters on the other end of the box. Dalton helped him color the letters.

But now that the box was finished, Dalton had a problem. Drew wanted Dalton to put some of his own things in the box, and Dalton didn't want to. "You have two soccer balls," Drew said to Dalton. "Put one of them in the box. We will take the box to church. Father Bill will give the things in the box to a family that doesn't have toys or clothes." Dalton made a face. "What if my other soccer ball gets a hole in it?" he asked.

"Then I won't have any at all."

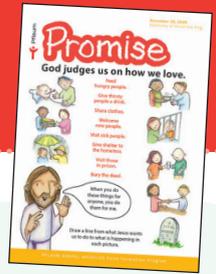
Drew pointed to the picture of the sweater he had drawn on the box. "What about your hockey sweater from last year?" Drew said. "It doesn't fit you anymore. It's just lying on the floor in your closet." Dalton said, "That's my favorite sweater. You can't take that."

Just then, Mom came in the room. "No one is going to take anything away from you, Dalton," Mom said. "But I did find all these jackets and mittens and hats in the hall closet. Let's see which ones you will wear this year. You can choose what you want to put in the Thank-You Box. Then we will go to the kitchen and the family room and find food and toys for the box too. Is that OK?" Dalton went with Mom. Soon he felt happy and excited that the Thank-You Box was full.

Ask: How did Dalton feel about sharing his clothes and toys at the end of the story? What changed for Dalton?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches the Works of Mercy** Explain that Jesus' friends often asked him who would be in his kingdom. In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus makes the answer clear.



One day, Jesus told his followers what it will be like when he comes again.

He said: "I will gather all the people of the world together. Then I will say to some of them: 'You have my Father's blessing. Come to the kingdom we have prepared for you. I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me. I was naked, and you gave me clothes. I was sick, and you took care of me.'

The people will ask, 'Jesus, when did we see you hungry or

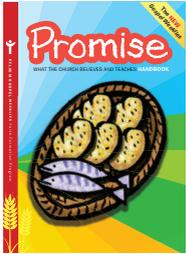
thirsty or sick or any of these things?' I will answer, 'Whenever you did one of these things for someone in need, you did it for me.'

Then I will say: 'Not all of you can come into my kingdom. Some of you saw me when I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. You saw me thirsty and didn't give me a drink. I was a stranger, had no clothes, and was sick, and you didn't help me.'

Those people will ask, 'Jesus, when did we see you like this and not help you?' I will tell them, 'What you did not do for someone in need, you did not do for me.'"

Ask: What ways of helping others did Jesus give us in the Gospel? Explain that these are some of the Works of Mercy. Mercy means being willing to forgive or help. It means treating others like God treats us.

- **Cover Activity • What Does Jesus Want Us to Do? (page 1)** Look at the cover together. **Ask:** Are any of the people acting like Drew and Dalton's family? Call attention to Jesus and read aloud his words. Read aloud the list in red. Have your child draw lines from the sentences to the pictures that match. Help your child recognize these actions as Works of Mercy.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 21. Read aloud the text and invite your child to imagine what each teaching of Jesus looks and feels like. Help your child complete the activity on page 21. Refer back to the list of eight teachings marked with red hearts. For each picture, **ask:** Which teaching is the child following? Which teaching is the child not following?

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

- **Word of the Week • saint (page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *A saint is a person who lived like Jesus and is now in Heaven.* Explain that following Jesus' teachings and doing the Works of Mercy will help us become saints in Heaven someday too.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • I can do Works of Mercy. (pages 2-3)** Look at the town together on pages 2-3. Read aloud the question on page 2 and ask your child to find the people in the town who are doing Works of Mercy. Then direct your child's attention to the four small pictures on page 3. Have your child find people who are sharing what is pictured in each square.
- **Activity • Make a crown for Jesus. (page 4)** Explain that this Sunday is a special celebration of Jesus Christ as King. Read aloud the title and directions for this activity. Have your child trace the letters of Jesus' name on the crown. Encourage your child to color the jewels of Jesus' crown by doing kind actions this week.
- **Closing Prayer:** "Jesus, thank you for your gifts. Help us to show our love for you by sharing them with others. Amen."



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