

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. Here 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, you were always kind and helpful to people in need. Show us how to give to people who need our help. Amen."
- Story • The Lion and the Mouse** Tell this story from Aesop's Fables:

One day, a lion was fast asleep in his den. Suddenly, he was awakened by a tiny mouse scampering over his nose. The lion was annoyed at being woken up. He roared a terrible roar and grabbed the mouse with his paw and shook him. The little mouse was terrified. "Please let me go," he begged. "If you do, I will never forget your kindness. Someday, I will help you." The thought of the tiny, little mouse ever being able to help a large, ferocious lion made the lion laugh out loud. The lion opened his big paw and let the tiny mouse go.

Not long after that, the mouse was running through the long grass of the savanna. He ran right into the lion! The lion

roared just as he had done the last time. But this time, the lion roared in fear. He had been caught in a hunter's net.

The mouse could see that no matter how hard the lion struggled, he could not free himself from the strong net. "I can help you," the mouse said and began to gnaw away at the ropes with his sharp little teeth. Finally, he gnawed through the last rope and the lion was free.

"There," said the mouse. "You laughed when I promised I would help you someday, but you see, even a little friend may one day become a good friend."

Ask: How do you feel when you do something kind for someone?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

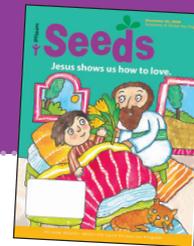
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus shows us how to love. (page 1)** Read or tell the following version of the Gospel:

One day, Jesus' friends asked him what it will be like when he comes again. He told them this story: "When I come again, I will gather everyone together. Then I will say to some of the people, 'I want you to come and be with me and my Father and the Holy Spirit forever. When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat. When I was thirsty, you gave me a drink. When I didn't have any place to stay, you took me to your house. When I was sick, you visited me. When I didn't have

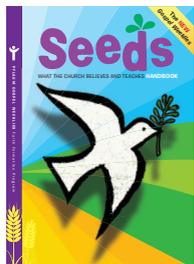
any clothes, you gave me some.'

The people might be confused. They will say, 'Jesus, when did we see you hungry and feed you? When did we notice that you were thirsty and give you a drink? When did we invite you to our house? When did we visit you when you were sick? When did we give you some of our clothes to wear?'

I will tell them that whenever they did any of these things for my brothers and sisters, it was the same as if they did it for me."



Invite your child to look at the illustration on the cover of *Seeds*. **Ask:** How does this picture show an example of what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel? *Jesus is visiting a sick child. Jesus is showing us how to love—by doing everyday loving actions.* **Ask:** What would you bring to this sick child? Have your child draw this gift inside the rectangle.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 16. Read the sentence at the top of the page. Paraphrase what Jesus says in Luke 3:11: “If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn’t have a coat. If you have food, share it with someone who has no food.” **Ask:** What do you have that you can share?

Spend a few minutes talking about each scene illustrated on the page. Ask your child to draw a circle around the pictures that show children sharing.

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

- Activity • We share food with others. (page 2)** Read the title on page 2. Explain that donating food is a way we can do what Jesus talks about in the Gospel: “When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat.” Have your child trace the items that are needed at a food bank and draw lines to put them in the food donation box.
- Word of the Week • mercy (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *Mercy is being willing to forgive or help. It means treating others like God treats us.* Explain that when we share with others, we are showing mercy.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • You helped me. (pages 3-4)** Look at pages 3–4 together and ask your child to describe what is happening in the illustrations. **Ask:** Which children have problems? What are the problems? Which children can help?
Have your child cut on the heavy cutting lines to separate the cards and place them on a desk or table with the pictures of Jesus and his words from the Gospel facing up. Read the words aloud. Your child can play the game by turning over one card with Jesus’ picture and one card with his words, “You helped me.” If the cards show a match—a problem and someone making it better—your child can remove them from the table. If they don’t match, your child continues to turn pairs of cards over until the match is found. The game is completed when all the problems have been matched with the correct solutions.
- Closing Prayer** “Dear Jesus, thank you for telling us to help other people. We will share our food and our love this week. 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