



## 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** Gather anything you might have that represents nature—colored leaves, rocks, flowers, and fall vegetables like corn or squash. Explain that your prayer today will be to tell how each one of the objects shows God to us. For instance: God, you are free and soaring like birds or, simply, God, you are beautiful. Conclude by praying: "Thank you, God, for the beauty you have created, and for all that it teaches us. Amen."
- Activity • Are You Ready? (page 1)** Go through the five situations together. Together, brainstorm some options for preparing and what happens when we don't. Ask if your child notices any common results in each category. Your child will likely conclude that proper preparation helps us remain calm, avoid mistakes, and perform well. In the opposite case, we waste time and energy and may not perform as well as we otherwise could.
- Story • The Happy Dance (pages 2-3)** Introduce this story by asking your child to think about the kinds of promises we make to friends, families, and teammates. For example, when you are on on a team, you promise to show up for practice and do your best at all times. **Ask:** What happens if you don't keep a promise? Explain that this week's story involves three friends who promise to do their best to prepare for a talent show. Take turns reading sections of the story. Pause throughout to share and talk about reactions.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Juan doesn't show up for rehearsals and he doesn't practice at home. He decided to do other things—practice basketball, play games with another friend—instead. 2. Blake and Sonia spent a lot of time practicing and really wanted to win. Juan can apologize, but his actions should match his words. It may take some time for him to rebuild trust with his friends. 3. Help your child with this by answering it yourself. Then give your child time to list commitments such as chores and homework, activities, friends, parish, etc. Are either of you overcommitted? Spend some time discussing priorities and promises.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

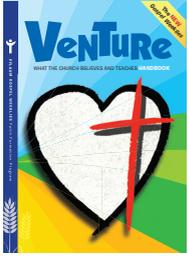
- Sunday Gospel • The Parable of the Ten Girls (page 4)** Share between you the parts of Narrator, Jesus, Watcher, Bridegroom, Wise Girls, and Foolish Girls.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Dowry negotiations were of unpredictable length, so the wise girls prepared for the delay by bringing extra oil. They could then light their lamps when the groom finally came and joined the wedding procession. 2. The foolish girls miss the wedding feast. Juan's choices mean their trio loses the talent show. He also damages his friendship with Sonia and Blake. 3. Invite the children to give concrete examples of how Jesus taught us to live—prayer, study, good works, looking to do God's will.*



**Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Teaches Us to Be Ready (page 4)**

This is a practical description of how Jesus asks us to be ready for his Second Coming. No one wants to be caught unprepared or doing something they shouldn't be doing.

**Discuss the *Think* questions on page 4. Answers: 1–2. Open-ended.** Encourage your child's response by sharing your own answers.



**Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 47.** Take turns reading each of the items in the list. Use a Bible to show where each of the readings and the Responsorial Psalm may be found. Pray aloud the Apostles' Creed (page 52) together to reinforce the Profession of Faith section.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to VenTure, page 5.*

**Catholic Faith Word • Psalm (page 5)** Read together this week's definition. If you have access to a Bible, help your child locate the Book of Psalms.

**Our Catholic Faith • The Responsorial Psalm Helps Us Listen to God's Word (page 5)**

Help your child look up the First Reading in a Bible or online. (Go to [usccb.org/bible](http://usccb.org/bible).) Together, read Wisdom 6:12–16 aloud. Read page 5, including the directions in blue text. Invite your child to read Psalm 63. You and any available family members can reply with the repeated response in colored type. Have your child underline and circle key words as directed. Underline: thirsty, longs, dry, waterless, praise, thanks, satisfied, joy. Circle: glorious, better than life, always, help, shadow, wings.

## Live the Gospel

**Living the Gospel • Wise and Foolish Choices (pages 6–7)** Your child will probably notice that this game follows the model of Chutes and Ladders. The board traces a day of dilemmas. After playing a round together, discuss what your child has learned about choices and the consequences of our actions.

**Saints • Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini (page 8)** Ask if your child has ever heard of the saint in this week's lesson. Many hospitals and schools are named after Mother Cabrini. Note that, even by modern standards, Saint Frances was extremely well-traveled. She crossed the ocean more than twenty times!

**With My Family and Friends (page 8)** Say the prayer together, or a form of it, as you prepare for Sunday Mass. Share the *Think* question as a journal prompt.

**Closing Prayer** Read aloud the quote from Saint John Paul II on page 6. Invite your child to think about something big coming up this week—maybe it's one of the situations you encountered in the cover activity. Then pray: "Loving Jesus, when we have big decisions, remind us to turn to you. Help us to remember your Gospel message to be prepared. We want to live our lives ready to return to you. Amen."



## Parent Resources

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