



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.

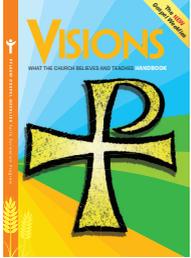
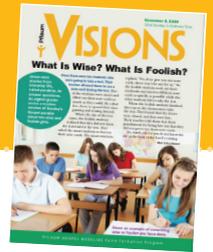
Share Experiences

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

- Pray Together** Reflect together on the wisest people you know. Then offer the following prayer: "Loving God, we ask you for wisdom today. Help us focus on you and your message during this time as we learn about you." Then pray The Lord's Prayer together.
- Cover Activity • What Is Wise? What Is Foolish? (page 1)** Have your child read the modern parable aloud. Allow the story to inspire your child to come up with a "wise and foolish" story, either imagined or from personal experience.
- Story • The Right Side (pages 2-3)** Recall the modern parable you just read about being prepared and making smart choices as you read the story aloud together.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Louise slowly takes responsibility as the consequences pile up and she faces Josh at the police station. 2. The scooter doesn't belong to Louise. It's too big for her to handle. Josh told her not to take it. She doesn't have a license. 3. Louise does not anticipate having an accident, dealing with the police, getting hurt, causing damage to the scooter and the vehicle, and the possibility of spending time in juvenile detention. 4. The officer does what is right. He does not yell at Louise, but he urges her to confess what she has done wrong. 5. Josh makes sure Louise is safe first. He is kind without dismissing the severity of what she has done and how she can make things right again. 6. Open-ended. Louise can work to help pay off the damage to Josh's scooter. She can seek forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and then strive to make better, wiser choices.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Parable of the Wise and Foolish Girls (page 4)** Read the roles aloud. You may have to read more than one role, or you can invite other family members, if available, to take parts.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Lamps were part of daily life, so the girls would know the lamps may need oil. They did not know when the bridegroom would arrive for the wedding feast, and they should have been prepared. 2. Faith, prayer, living Jesus' message. 3. By living every day as Jesus taught in the Gospels: forgiving people who hurt us, doing homework on time, praying every day, being courteous and helpful, doing what we know is right in spite of peer pressure. 4. Open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Reminds Us To Be Ready Always (page 4)** Read aloud this section that highlights the Gospel message that we must live our lives in preparation for Jesus' Second Coming.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; hanging out with friends who encourage you to make good choices 2. Open-ended; Jesus gives us the Scriptures, which provide many lessons on good (and poor!) decision making.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 12. **Read** the first three paragraphs. **Ask:** What do you contribute to the Body of Christ? Remind your child that a contribution can come from the gifts and talents God has given us.

Read the final paragraph. Pause and repeat the second half of the last sentence: "... the Church is often called the Bride of Christ." **Ask:** If the Church is the Bride of Christ, who is the bridegroom? Your child will likely respond "Jesus." Refer back to the Gospel reading on page 4 of *Visions*. Read it again together, replacing the bridegroom with Jesus and the bride with the Body of Christ—that is, all of us. **Ask:** How does this give the Gospel deeper meaning?

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Last Judgment (Visions page 5)** Read aloud the definition, which reinforces the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel. We live our lives prepared for Jesus' return for the last (or final) judgment.
- **Our Catholic Faith • The First Reading Prepares Us for the Gospel (page 5)** Invite your child to read aloud the first two columns. Read aloud the directions at the top of the right column. For the final question, provide the option of responding in a journal or simply discussing it together. Again, remind your child that preparation is the key to making wise choices: surrounding yourself with wise friends, and keeping up a regular prayer life.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Wisdom Comes to Us in Short Sayings (page 7) and The Wisdom Game (page 8)** Turn to page 7 and read the introductory paragraphs at the top. Take turns reading the wise sayings aloud. Then go to page 8 and read the game directions aloud. **Answers:** *The matches are as follows: 1. Proverbs 13:20/If you want a friend. . . ; 2. Sirach 12:13/Ask for trouble. . . ; 3. Proverbs 17:22/Turn that frown. . . ; 4. Psalm 49:17-18/You can't take it. . . ; 5. Proverbs 13:11/Easy come. . . ; 6. Proverbs 15:27/Honesty. . . ; 7. Sirach. 7:8/Learn from. . . ; 8. Proverbs 18:17/ There are two sides. . . ; 9. Proverbs. 17:17/ A friend in need. . .*
- **Puzzle • What Do You Remember? (page 6)** Use the puzzle to measure how well your child has retained information from the first eight *Visions* lessons. **Answers (starting at top left):** *Matthew, common good, Liturgy, Wisdom, love, Matrimony, Ordinary Time, parable, Faithful.*
- **With My Family and Friends (Page 6)** 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. Then pray: "Loving Jesus, when we face 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
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture