

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is moved with compassion for a leper; an outcast of society. The leper, whose faith in Jesus brings him to ask for healing, is so moved by this sign of God's love that he tells the Good News everywhere he goes. Jesus shows that God's love is for all people. We are called to do the same. During Lent, the Church asks us to pray, sacrifice, and care for others. Affirm the ways your child cares for others and for God's Creation. Look for opportunities to discuss situations when it's difficult to care for, respect, or include someone.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "God, you give us people to love and who love and care for us. Thank you for sending Jesus who shows us how much you love us. Amen."
- Story • I can show I care. (page 2)** Invite your child to look at the pictures on page 2 as you share this story poem about a brother and sister.

Mom said, "Ted, help me clean up this mess."

Ted nodded and answered yes.

Mom said, "Beth, will you please go and help your brother?" Beth said no.

Ted started to clean and sweep;
he got very tired and fell asleep.

Beth decided to pick up the broom.

She cleaned and straightened the whole room.

Which child said yes? Which child said no?

Which was the one to change and grow?

"Beth," said her mom, "can your sister Tess use your new crayons?" Beth said yes.

"Ted, please help Tess color so I can go and make our lunch." Ted said no.

Tess broke the red crayon and broke the black.

Beth took all of her crayons back.

Tess cried. Ted felt sad.

Ted played with Tess until Tess was glad.

Who is a caring child? Can you guess?

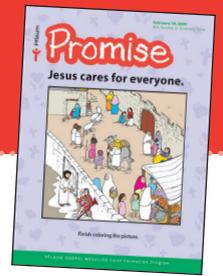
Do both children care? Yes! Yes! Yes!

Look at the pictures at the bottom of page 2. Help your child cut on the heavy horizontal line and the heavy vertical line. Your child will have a yes and no version of Beth and Ted. Have your child fold on the dotted lines. Tape the figures on the sides to make two finger puppets. Read the story poem again, inviting your child to use the puppets to show which child is saying yes and which is saying no. Conclude by saying that we can always change and grow.

- Word of the Week • respect (page 3)** Help your child find the word *respect* on page 3. Share this definition: *Respect means showing that a person or thing has been created by God. It means caring for it and treating it well.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

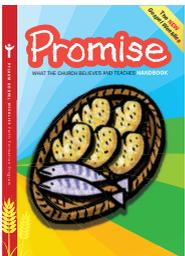
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus cares for everyone. (page 1)** Look at the cover together. Read aloud the background and then proclaim the Gospel story:



Background: In Jesus' time, some people had leprosy, which was a bad skin disease. They were left out of everything. They had to stay away from all other people so no one else would catch their sickness. (Invite your child to find the leper in the illustration—lower left.) In the market, women were buying oranges and children were playing with other children. (Have your child find the market.) But the leper had to stay away from the market. Near the door to the synagogue courtyard, children were playing games and grown-ups were going inside to pray. (Find the door at upper right.) But the leper had to stay away from them. The leper couldn't even go home. The leper was left out of the market, the synagogue, and even his family.

Gospel: One day, a man who was sick with leprosy called out to Jesus. The man said, "Jesus, if you want to, you can make me better." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. Jesus said: "I do want you to be better. Be well!" The man's sores went away. He told everyone he met that Jesus had healed him.

Ask: How do you think the leper felt before Jesus healed him? How do you think the leper felt after Jesus healed him? What can you do to make sure no one feels left out? Invite your child to add color to the page.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 22. Read aloud the words next to the second heart (at the bottom). Then read the activity directions. Encourage your child to draw things your child really does, not things your child may do some day.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, pages 3–4.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • Jesus Cares Valentine (pages 3–4)** Read the title and the top red heart on page 4. Remind your child about Peter's mother-in-law and all the people Jesus healed. Read the next red heart. Recall the leper. Then read the bottom red heart.

Ask: Who does Jesus want us to care for? *The sick, those who are left out, everybody.* We are followers of Jesus, so we need to do what Jesus does. Point out that Valentine's Day is a good time to celebrate how much God loves us and how we love one another.

Have your child cut the green stem along the left edge of the page first. Next, cut apart all the hearts; then cut carefully around the individual hearts. Direct your child to glue the stem in the middle of a sheet of construction paper, then arrange the three big red hearts on the paper and glue them down. Then add the three small hearts. Point out the small sample on page 4 for placement.

- Closing Prayer** Invite your child to repeat this prayer after you: "Jesus, you care for the sick. / You care for those who are left out. / You care for us. / Thank you, Jesus. / 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