

## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is driven into the desert by the Holy Spirit. Jesus encounters the Devil's temptations as well as the comfort of his Father's angels. From this desert experience, Jesus goes out to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God. The forty days of Lent invite us to grow as Christians and show our belief in God's promises. Talk with your child this week about how your family will observe Lent. The prayer box in this issue can help.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Pray the Sign of the Cross together. Then say the Lord's Prayer, inviting your child to repeat each line after you. Pray the Sign of the Cross again.
- Cover Activity • Jesus teaches us to be faithful. (page 1)** Talk about what is happening in the pictures on the cover. *Clockwise from top left: receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday; praying the Stations of the Cross; attending Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration; doing Works of Mercy (like feeding the hungry); praying the Rosary; and celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.* **Ask:** What is in the middle of the page? *A cross.* **Ask:** Why is a cross important to us? *We pray the Sign of the Cross, Jesus died on a Cross, it reminds us of Jesus and his love and sacrifice for us.* Lent is special time when we do loving actions and pray more than usual. It's a time of getting closer to God and one another as we get ready for Easter.
- Story • The Kissing Hand** Borrow a print copy of *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn from your public or school library. You may also share a video telling of this story. Find it at <https://www.storylineonline.net/books/kissing-hand>.

Before sharing the story, invite your child to think back to the first day of school. Talk about what your child was excited, nervous, or scared about. Emphasize that it's normal to feel any or all of those things when we start something new. In *The Kissing Hand*, Chester doesn't want to go to school. Mrs. Raccoon shares a family secret with him. Have your child listen closely to find out what the family secret is.

After sharing the story of *The Kissing Hand*, **ask:** What is the family secret? What does Chester take with him to school? How does it help him? What does Chester give his mother?

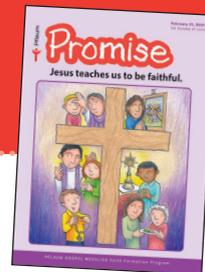
Introduce the word *faithful* to your child. Explain that someone who is faithful will always be there for you. A faithful person is someone you can count on, who believes in you, and who wants good things for you. The kissing hand reminds Chester that his mother always loves him—even when they are apart. Chester kisses his mother's hand too. Chester and his mother are faithful to each other. **Ask:** Who is a faithful friend (or family member) to you? To whom are you faithful?

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches Us to Be Faithful** **Ask:** Do you know what it means to be tempted? *To have a strong urge to do something we know is wrong.* Explain that even Jesus was tempted sometimes. Invite your child to listen to the Gospel to hear what Jesus did when he was tempted.

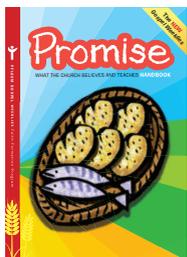
The Holy Spirit sent Jesus out into the desert. Jesus stayed there for forty days. While Jesus was in the desert, the Devil tempted him, but Jesus trusted God and not the Devil. Wild

animals kept Jesus company. After his time in the desert, Jesus went to Galilee. "God is near," he said to the people. "Turn away from sin and believe that God loves you."



**Ask:** When the Devil tempted Jesus, what did Jesus do? *He trusted God and not the Devil. Jesus believed that even if some things are hard, God our Father wants only good things for his children. Jesus knew that God was faithful to him. Jesus was faithful to God too.* **Ask:** What do you believe about God? *God made us and all of Creation. God loves us. We can trust God. God is faithful. God will take care of us.*

- Word of the Week • creed (page 2)** Help your child find the word *creed*. Share this definition: *A creed is a prayer that tells what members of the Church believe.* At Sunday Mass, we stand with everyone in the church and say together what we believe about God. This is our creed.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 18. Read about holy seasons. Then take some time to talk about the pictures for the matching activity. Have your child use a pencil or crayon to match the words *Lent* and *Easter* to the pictures.

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

## Live the Gospel

- Activity • Lent is a time to . . . (page 2)** Invite your child to use a secret code to find a hidden message. Read the first part of the sentence: “Lent is a time to…” Explain how to match the symbols to the letters. Get your child started by finding the first letter together. When your child has finished the activity, read the message together: *Lent is a time to pray, help, share, and forgive.*
- Activity • Make a Prayer Box (pages 3-4)** Talk together about the pictures on pages 3–4. Have your child color in the word *Lent*. Show your child how to cut on the heavy solid lines on page 3 that have scissors icons. Set aside the prayer strip for the time being. Show your child how to fold on all the dotted lines. You will need to fold twice, backward and forward, so the sides of the box will be easy for your child to manipulate. Use a glue stick or tape to attach the sides. Look at the prayer strip and talk about people or concerns for which your child wants to pray. Write or have your child write a prayer on the strip. Keep the prayer box and prayer strip at your family table or in another prominent place in your home during Lent.
- Closing Prayer** Together, look at the picture of Jesus on the bottom of the prayer box. Read the words and have your child repeat them. Have your child read the prayer strip and respond, “We pray in Jesus’ name.” Conclude by **praying:** “God, bless our family as we pray and do loving actions during Lent. Amen.”



## Parent Resources

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