

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches during Sabbath synagogue worship and expels an evil spirit who interrupts him. The people who witness this are amazed at his authority. They comment that he is a far greater teacher than any of their rabbis. In Mark's Gospel, this is the first cure Jesus performs as he begins his public ministry.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be with us. Help us learn more about him today. Amen."
- Story • I can learn. (page 3)** Have your child look at the pictures on page 3 as you tell the story:

Last Tuesday, Jenna woke up and started to sing. Tuesday was music day in school. Jenna wanted to warm up. She brushed her teeth and got dressed. Jenna found her shoes under her bed and put them on. "I can't get this shoe tied," she said. Dad heard her and came to help. "Watch how I do it, Jenna," Dad said. Jenna watched and then she tried. "Thanks for teaching me how to tie my shoe, Dad," Jenna said.

After breakfast, Jenna walked to the bus corner. The crossing guard said, "Wait! It isn't safe yet." Then she blew her whistle and motioned the children to cross. When the children were seated on the bus, the bus driver said, "Don't stand while the bus is moving. Don't be loud. I want to get you to school safely and on time." At school, Jenna could hardly wait for music

class. Mr. Kramer played his guitar, and the children sang their favorite songs. When Mr. Kramer was singing "The Little Red Caboose," he forgot the words. "I know them," said Jenna. Mr. Kramer asked Jenna to teach the class the words to the song. In health class, Mrs. Mooney taught the children how to brush their teeth and gave each child a new toothbrush. After lunch, Father Mathias read them a story about Jesus.

At dinner that night, Dad asked Jenna what she had learned that day. "I learned how to tie my shoe, how to wait before crossing the street, how to behave on the bus, how to brush my teeth, and how good Jesus was to his friends," Jenna said. "Great!" said her dad. "And I was a teacher too," Jenna said. "I taught the class the words to 'The Little Red Caboose.'"

After you've read the story, have your child cut apart the pictures. Save the bottom strip for later. Have your child place the pictures side by side in order on a workspace.

- Activity • I need teachers. (page 4)** Ask your child to turn over the pictures. The blocks spell *I need teachers*. Say the words aloud together. Invite your child to give examples of people who teach. **Ask:** Do you teach anyone?

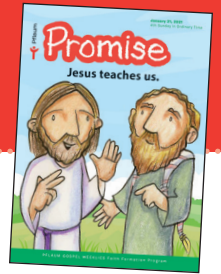
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus teaches us. (page 1)** Share the Gospel:

Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum where Jesus went to teach in the synagogue. The people were amazed at what a good teacher Jesus was. Suddenly, a man with an unclean spirit cried out. The unclean spirit said: "What are you doing here, Jesus? Leave us alone. I know you are the Holy

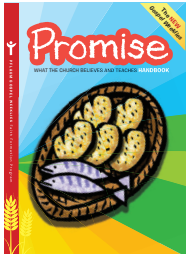
One of God."

Jesus said, "Bad spirit, get out of this man!" The bad spirit left the man. A woman who saw this said, "It is a miracle!" A man said, "See what power Jesus has!" Soon, people all over the country were talking about Jesus.



Help your child focus on *why* Jesus did this—to show us God’s love for us and God’s wish that we can all be free to love. Jesus’ healing miracles are signs of inner healing so that we can fully be God’s children and brothers and sisters of one another.

- **Word of the Week • Gospel (page 3)** Help your child find the word *Gospel*. Share this definition: *A Gospel is a book in the Bible that tells us the Good News about Jesus. We listen to a Gospel reading at every Mass.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 23. Read the story of the wedding at Cana. **Ask:** Who did what Jesus said? *Mary*. Explain that Mary loves God and Jesus very much. Mary can help us to be good followers of Jesus.

Read aloud the directions for the activity. Give your child time to draw the hearts. Then take turns telling about a time when you did what Jesus tells us to do.

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

Live the Gospel

- **Story • Sister Thea teaches us to love all people. (page 2)** As you share this photo story, have your child place a finger on the picture that shows the part of the story you are telling.
 1. Bertha Bowman was born in Mississippi. Her nickname was Birdie. When she was nine years old, Birdie asked her parents if she could become a Catholic. They said yes.
 2. When Birdie was twenty years old, she joined a community of religious sisters. She was the only black sister in her community. She became known as Sister Thea.
 3. Sister Thea studied to become a teacher. She taught in elementary and high schools. She also taught at a college. She used songs and stories in her classes. One of her favorite songs was “This Little Light of Mine.”
 4. Sister Thea taught people what it is like to be a black Catholic in the United States. People learned that we might have different colored skin, but we are the same on the inside and that God loves us all. God wants all of us to let our lights shine.

Ask: What was special about Sister Thea? What was one of her favorite songs? What did she teach people about the color of our skin? What did she teach people about God’s love? How can we act like Sister Thea? To learn more about Sister Thea, go to the website of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration: fspa.org.
- **Closing Prayer** Invite your child to repeat each line of the prayer after you: Jesus teaches me that God loves me. / Jesus teaches me to pray. / Jesus teaches me to forgive. / Jesus teaches me to share. / Jesus teaches me to love everyone. 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