

## Sunday Gospel Background

When Jesus finds people buying and selling in the courtyards of the Temple, he chases them out, saying that the Temple is the house of God, not a marketplace. Jesus is showing us here that God calls us to live holy lives. We can hear God's call when we pray. We answer God's call by making loving choices, asking for forgiveness when we make unloving choices, and forgiving others.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Thank you, God, for hearts to love you (*point to heart*) / for hands to fold in prayer (*fold hands*) / for bodies that move (*jump up and down*) / and for family to love (*point to one another*). / Amen."
- Cover Activity • What is wrong? (page 1)** Invite your child to examine the cover of *Promise* and find what's wrong in this store. There about thirty things that are wrong. Some things are silly. Other things are unloving actions. Explain that when we have done something wrong, we need to say we're sorry. **Ask:** For which things should someone say, "I'm sorry"?
- Story • Owen Gets Mad.** Share this story with your child:

When Owen woke up, he could smell the rain. "Oh, boy!" Owen thought, "If it's rained just enough, the sand will be perfect." Owen jumped out of bed and got dressed. He ran out the back door and to the sandbox. The sand was perfect. Just right for making houses. Owen created streets and houses and tall buildings. He put little pieces of evergreen on the street corners to make trees. He was so busy making his town that he didn't notice his brother and sister, Alex and Clare. Clare was pitching a softball to Alex, and he was hitting it back to her.

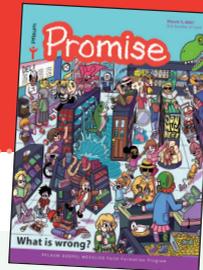
Then something awful happened! Clare pitched the ball to Alex, and he hit it hard! The ball went high over Clare's head. She backed up to catch the ball. CRASH! She fell into Owen's sandbox and smashed his whole town!

"Momm!" Owen yelled. The door flew open. "What's wrong? Are you hurt?" asked Mom. "Clare smashed my town," Owen yelled. "I hate her!" Clare stood up and stepped out of the sandbox. "I'm sorry, Owen," she said. "I didn't mean to hurt your town." "I hate you," Owen said again. "Owen," Mom said, "it's OK to be angry, but it's not OK to tell Clare you hate her." Mom gave Owen a hug. "What did Clare say to you?" Mom asked Owen. "She said she was sorry," Owen said. "And I'll help you build the town again," said Clare. "What do you say?" Mom asked Owen. "I forgive you. And I'm sorry for saying I hate you, Clare," Owen said. "Let's all have breakfast," said Mom. "I'll make pancakes." "Yeah!" said Alex. "Yeah!" said Clare. "OK!" said Owen.

**Ask:** How did Owen feel when he was making his town? When Clare fell on it? When Mom gave him a hug? When he accepted Clare's apology and offer to help him rebuild his town? Talk about times you've felt angry and what you did to make things better. Invite your child to do the same. Summarize: Anger is a feeling God gave us. It's OK to feel angry, but it isn't OK to hurt others or ourselves when we're angry.

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Teaches About Prayer** Invite your child to listen as you tell about a time when Jesus got angry.



One day, Jesus comes to the Temple in Jerusalem. For Jewish people, the Temple is the house of God. Jesus sees people selling oxen, sheep, and doves. It is noisy. It is more like a market than a place to pray. Jesus shouts: "Stop this! Get out of here! This is God's house, not a market."

A man selling doves asks, "What miracle will show that you can chase us away?" Jesus says, "If you destroy this Temple, I

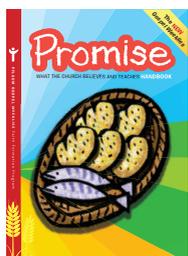
will build it again in three days."

The man selling sheep says: "It took forty-six years to build this Temple. How can you build it again in three days?"

Jesus is talking about his body as God's temple. His followers do not understand what he means until he has been raised from the dead.

**Ask:** Why did Jesus get angry? *The Temple was a place where people prayed and praised God. The people selling things made the Temple too much like a store.*

- Word of the Week • prayer (page 3)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 3. Share this definition: *Prayer is a heart-to-heart talk with God.*
- Activity • Jesus Invites Me to Pray Booklet (pages 3-4)** Have your child cut across the heavy black cutting line on page 3. Help to nest the booklet pages together, using the page numbers as guides. Read through the booklet together, doing the activities and reading the Gospel. The Prayer Path (page 6) answer is *This is how you are to pray.*



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 28. Read Jesus' promise at the top of the page. Give your child time to draw a place to pray. Remind your child that it's important to pray every day. Prayer helps us grow closer to God. It helps us become holy, more like God.

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

## Live the Gospel

- Activity • A Bad Start for Owen (page 2)** Read the title and invite your child to fill in the missing words: 1-sand, 2-town, 3-hard, 4-sorry, 5-angry. **Ask:** What word do the letters in the boxes spell? *Sorry.* **Ask:** Who said, "I'm sorry"? *Clare and Owen.* Point out that what was a bad start for Owen got better when Claire said she was sorry and offered to help him rebuild his town. **Ask:** How can we say we're sorry to God? *Pray to God to say we're sorry.* *Show we are sorry by changing our bad behavior and trying to make right what we have done wrong.*
- Closing Prayer** Say together, "I am sorry, Jesus," after each of the following: For the times we have been selfish... For the times we were mean... For the times we forgot to say prayers... Jesus, help us during these days of Lent to remember your love for us and to be loving to one another. 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