

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. Make Valentine's Day a celebration of God's love and your love for each other. This week's *Seeds* activity can help your child make a tactile expression of our belief that God's love for us is the source of our love for each other.

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 us. Thank you for sending Jesus to us to show us how much you love us. Amen."
- Story • Sammy's Valentine (page 2)** Tell this story about a boy who made a valentine for his grandma:

Sammy has a big imagination. While he was coloring a valentine for his grandma, Sammy imagined her turning cartwheels when she received it. It was the nicest valentine Sammy had ever made.

Sammy took the stamp his mom gave him and put it on the envelope. His mom wrote Grandma's address. Then Sammy got his jacket and went outside to put the valentine in the mailbox. Down the porch steps, Sammy jumped, one-two-three. "I'm a bunny," he said. He crouched down and hopped. "If I were a bunny, I would hop to Grandma's with my valentine. She would pet me and feed me lettuce." Then he remembered, "I don't like lettuce! I don't want to be a bunny."

Sammy began flap his arms up and down. "I'm a bird," he said. "I'm soaring high in the sky. I'm flying over Grandma's house and dropping her valentine down the chimney. I can fly all day. I only come down to eat bugs." Then he thought, "Eat

bugs? Ewww! I don't want to be a bird."

Sammy saw a water puddle. He made swimming motions with his arms. "I'm a fish swimming through the water with my fish friends," Sammy said. "I will swim Grandma's valentine to her house. I will stop just long enough to eat some worms." Then Sammy remembered, "I won't eat worms! I don't want to be a fish."

Sammy was reaching up to put Grandma's valentine in the mailbox when he saw a caterpillar. Sammy flopped down to get a closer look. He watched the caterpillar move its body up and down as it moved along. Sammy tried to move like the caterpillar. "It hurts my stomach to crawl like this," Sammy said. "I couldn't eat anything if I were a caterpillar."

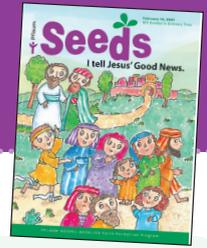
Sammy jumped up and put Grandma's valentine in the mailbox. Then he skipped up the driveway to his house, singing, "I'm glad I'm me. I'm going to eat a cookie."

Ask: Who would you like to write a valentine to?

- Activity • Creative Movement** Together with your child, look at page 2 of *Seeds*. Invite your child to identify the bunny, bird, fish, and caterpillar. Have your child color the heart shape by each picture after first making a movement like that creature.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

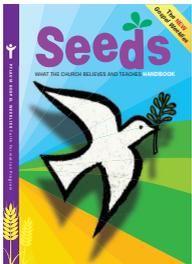
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus heals a man with leprosy. (page 1)** Invite your child to look at the pictures on page 1 as you read this Gospel story.



Once when Jesus was with his friends, a man who was sick with leprosy came up to him. Leprosy means the man had sores on his body that wouldn't get better. The man knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Jesus, if you want to, you

can make me better." Jesus said, "Be healed." Right away, the man's sores healed up. "Don't tell anyone," Jesus said. But the man was so happy, he told everyone he saw! "Jesus healed me!" Then everybody wanted to be with Jesus.

Ask: What was wrong with the man? Why do you think Jesus healed him? Explain that Jesus came to show us how much God loves us. Making people better is a sign of God's love. Look at the illustration on the cover. Together, find Jesus, his friend standing next to him, the leper running to tell people he was healed, and the people passing on the Good News about Jesus to each other. Notice the two people at the bottom of the page who don't look happy. Not everyone thought Jesus should talk to people like the leper. They were angry with Jesus.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 32. Show your child The Lord's Prayer. **Explain** that Jesus taught his disciples this prayer when they asked him to teach them how to pray. **Say** each line aloud and invite your child to repeat it after you.

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

- **Word of the Week • Holy Spirit (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *When Jesus went back to Heaven, he gave us a special helper. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray and do what is good.* Explain that we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us pray as Jesus taught us.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Jesus loves us all. (pages 3-4)** You'll need a ribbon for this activity. You may wish to cut out the hearts ahead of time yourself. Adjust the size of the slit to the width of your ribbon so the hearts will not slip down when the ribbon is hanging. Fold the heart as shown in the illustration to cut the slits. If you choose to have your child cut, demonstrate how to cut the four heart squares on the heavy lines on page 4. You will need to help cut the slits for the ribbon.

Have your child place the cutout hearts with words faceup on a workspace. Read the words aloud: *Jesus loves us all.* Place your child's hearts in the correct order and orientation for threading onto the ribbon. When your child has threaded all four hearts onto the ribbon, read them together: *Jesus loves us all.* **Say:** "I am (Name), and Jesus loves me." Have your child do the same. Then have your child turn over the heart ribbon so the side without words shows. Write the names of family and friends your child wants on this Jesus valentine and display it in your home.

- **Closing Prayer** Jesus, you love us. You give us food, family, and friends. 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