

Sunday Gospel Background

Jesus commands an unclean spirit to leave a possessed man, and it does. In Mark's Gospel, this is the first cure Jesus performs as he begins his public ministry. *Seeds* uses art and story to share the message of Jesus' love for us and his desire to heal us. We have within ourselves the capacity to love and forgive, pray and ponder, act and react because we are made in God's image.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Dear God, you made every one of us special. Thank you for sending Jesus to be with us. Help us learn more about his peace today. Amen."
- Story • Pippa's Problem and Her Peaceful Path (page 2)** Tell this story about a girl who needs to be peaceful:

Pippa was playing with blocks. She was building a house with a garage. She looked for a car to put in the garage. Her brother Andy had a red toy car that looked like it would fit. Pippa knew the cars were special to Andy. He had asked her not to touch them. "The car will be safe in my garage," Pippa thought. She picked up the red car and drove it into the garage. She put a block in front of the garage for a door.

When Andy came home from school, he saw that the red car was missing. "Did you take my red car?" Andy asked. Pippa nodded. "It's in my garage," she said. "It's very safe."

Andy took his car back. Pippa tried to grab it, but Andy held it over his head. Pippa yelled, "Mom!" Their mother came in. Pippa was crying. "You know you shouldn't take Andy's cars,"

Pippa's mother said. "I think you should take some time out."

Pippa put on her jacket and sat on the porch. The sun felt warm on her face. After a while, Pippa's mom came outside and asked, "Would you like to visit the ducks?" Pippa nodded yes. They walked to the duck pond. Pippa laughed at the silly ducks. She found a smooth stone that just fit in her palm. On the way home, Mom talked to Pippa about Andy's cars. Pippa was sorry she had taken one without asking and for making Andy angry. At home, Pippa talked to Andy. "Andy, I'm sorry I took your car," she said. "That's okay," Andy said. "Just ask next time. Do you want to shake on it?" Pippa and Andy shook hands, "I can help you build a bigger garage if you want," Andy said. "Yes, I do," Pippa said. And that's what they did.

Invite your child to retell the story using the illustrations on page 2. **Ask:** How did Pippa's behavior upset the family's peace? What helped bring peace to Pippa? How did Pippa and Andy make peace?

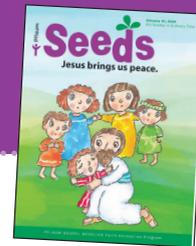
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus brings us peace. (page 1)** Read this Gospel story to your child:

After Jesus had called his first followers, he went with them to the synagogue. It was the Sabbath day when Jews like Jesus gathered to listen to the Bible and hear someone teach about what the words meant. On this day, Jesus was the teacher. People listened closely because they could tell Jesus was a special person God had sent to them.

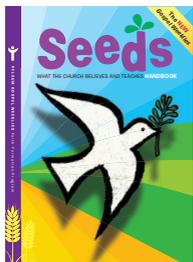
Suddenly, a man came in and started yelling at Jesus.

"What are you doing here, Jesus?" he yelled. "Have you come to destroy us? I know you are the holy one of God." Jesus said, "Bad spirit, be quiet! Come out of this man." The man became quiet. He sat down and listened to Jesus' teaching. People were impressed by how Jesus had made the bad spirit leave the man. They told everyone about Jesus.



Emphasize that Jesus cared about the man and freed him from unpeacefulness.

- **Word of the Week • prayer (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *Prayer is a heart-to-heart talk with God.* Explain that when we don't feel at peace, we can pray to Jesus for help.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 32. Review the Sign of the Cross, speaking the words aloud. Explain that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the Three Persons in One God—the Holy Trinity. Point to the words “Holy Spirit” on the page. **Say:** Let's learn a prayer to the Holy Spirit, who can help us find peace when we are sad, scared, or angry. Close your eyes and say, “Holy Spirit, help me,” after each prayer I say.

Then **pray:** Whenever I feel sad, I know I can pray. . . (R.) Whenever I am scared, I know I can pray. . . (R.) Whenever someone makes me angry, I know I can pray. . . (R.) Feel free to say this prayer at any time with your child.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Seeds, page 3.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • I can be a peacemaker. (page 3)** **Ask:** How does a peacemaker act? How does a peacemaker not act? Do you want to be a peacemaker? Explain that God wants all of us to be peacemakers. Read the title and directions on page 3. Give your child time to complete the activity. Then discuss each photo and your child's responses. For the photos in which the child is not acting as a peacemaker, **ask:** How could this child act as a peacemaker?
- **Activity • The Holy Spirit brings us peace. (page 4)** Read the title on page 4. Explain that the Holy Spirit sometimes appears in the Bible in the form of a dove. The Holy Spirit is a special friend who helps us in hard times and brings us peace. Help your child trace one hand (with fingers spread out) inside the circle on page 4. Have your child add an eye and a beak to the thumb, and feet at the bottom to turn the hand into a dove.
- **Closing Prayer** “Holy Spirit, help us to be peacemakers wherever we are. Bring us peace whenever we are upset or afraid. Thank you for being our helper. 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