



Sunday Gospel Background

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus refers to himself as the vine. He says that his followers are the branches. Jesus shares God's life with us. We belong to his family. As long as we stay connected to Jesus like branches connected to the trunk of a vine, we will share God's life, grow in faith and love, and produce good fruit. As you fill in the family tree on page 2 of *Good News*, talk about ways you stay connected with your extended family. Remember to pray the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) with your child every day.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Share names of people and any concerns you wish to pray for. If you wrote down names last time, add any additional names to your list. Pray together: "Loving God, you always care for us and watch over us. Please take care of the people and concerns we have mentioned today. Please bless our family as we learn more about you. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Jesus Brings Us Together (page 1)** Have your child follow the directions. *Possible connections:* Two children with musical instruments, two with music club shirts, two with pets, three with sports equipment, three with Bolts team shirts, two boys with baseball equipment, boy with soccer ball and girl in soccer uniform, two with food drive bags, two with math books. **Ask:** How are you connected to any of the children in the picture?
- Story • Family Trees (page 2)** Read aloud the story. Help your child complete the family tree on page 2. Feel free to expand this by drawing a larger tree representing your family on a separate sheet of paper.
- Discuss the Know question related to the story.** You may wish to talk about how a tree spreads its branches across a wide area, and compare that to the various places members of your family live or have lived—remembering that you all share the same roots.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is the Vine (page 3)** Sunday's Gospel is told in a visual format. Jesus is the trunk of the vine (bottom). The children are the branches with their leaves and fruit. Notice that the children are of many different ethnic groups. The vine has traveled far since Jesus' time. Proclaim the Gospel by taking turns reading aloud the parts.
- Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.** **1.** *Jesus is like a vine that's planted in good soil and reaches its roots way down. His roots are in God, his Father. He is the source of our faith. He is solidly rooted in God's love. He gives us his life in the sacraments. His words have traveled all over the world.* **2.** *We are like branches because we're connected to Jesus by Baptism. We're part of his family just as we are part of our own family. Just as we need our family to love us and teach us how to love others, we need Jesus to love us and teach us how to love and serve God. We need to stay connected to our family and to Jesus. We grow strong and beautiful when we stay connected to Jesus and to his Church where we hear his teachings and receive him in the sacraments. There are many of us who grow out of the one trunk. Some are big old branches and some are new ones, still green and flexible. (You might use a plant to illustrate how branches connect to the main stem of the plant.)*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read together "We Share Jesus' Life." Emphasize that an important way to stay connected to Jesus is by praying.



- **Catholic Faith Word • Body of Christ (page 3)** Read aloud the definition of *Body of Christ*. This dual meaning may be difficult for a concrete thinker to grasp. You might use the saying “You are what you eat” as a way to help your child make the connection. Holy Communion truly is the Body of Christ, and the people who receive it (members of the Church) are also the Body of Christ in the world.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 35. Read aloud the section under “The Perfect Prayer.” Look up Matthew 6:9–15 and read it together. Then look up Luke 11:2–4 and read it aloud. **Ask:** Which version is closer to the one we pray? *The one in Matthew’s Gospel.*

Turn to page 40. Invite your child to silently read the paragraph under “The Lord’s Prayer” and look for the word *unites*. (It appears twice.) **Ask:** To whom does praying the Lord’s Prayer unite (connect) us? *God the Father and Jesus, the Son of God, the Church, all who call God Father.* Relate this to staying connected to Jesus as branches are connected to a vine.

Take turns reading aloud the seven petitions of the Lord’s Prayer. Encourage your child to pray this prayer every day to help stay connected to Jesus.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • I Grow Good Fruit (page 4)** Before your child completes the activity, refer back to the Gospel (page 3) and **ask:** What does Jesus want us to grow? *Good fruit.* **Ask:** What does that mean? If your child needs ideas, you might refer to Connecting Gospel and Doctrine on page 4. **Ask:** What other good fruits can you grow? Then have your child come up with at least three ways for the “I Grow Good Fruit” activity. You can use these responses in your closing prayer. Invite your child to color the leaves and grapes.
- **Closing Prayer** “God our Father, help us stay connected to Jesus, your Son. Help us grow good fruit with our lives.” Invite your child to read the ways he or she will grow good fruit (page 4). End with the Lord’s Prayer.



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