



Sunday Gospel Background

Sunday's Gospel opens with the religious leaders trying to find a reason to have Jesus put to death. Jesus uses the metaphor of the grain of wheat, which must be buried and crack open to grow new seeds. This is what will happen in Jesus' Death and Resurrection. As Jesus' followers, we also grow, by praying to Jesus. We also follow the example of saints. This week, be sure to offer affirmation for the many ways your child is growing as a follower of Jesus.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to live with us and for teaching us about God. Help us listen to your words and grow as God's children. Amen."
- Cover Activity • How Does a Seed Grow? (page 1)** Invite your child to describe what is happening to the seed-plant in each of the pictures. **Ask:** What would the next picture look like? **Ask:** When you have planted a seed, how long did it take to grow? Stress how growth happens slowly. **Ask:** What shows that you are slowly growing every day? Point out that your child's growth, like the growth of seeds, is slow and continual.
- Story • Hooray for Spring! (page 2)** Read the title on page 2 aloud and **ask:** How is the little girl feeling today? Point to the first picture and read the text aloud. Continue this way with the story. When you have finished, review the story by inviting your child to name the things in nature that the little girl sees and how they make her feel.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

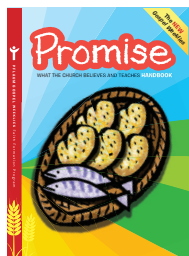
- Gospel • Jesus Is Like a Seed** Share this Gospel:

Jesus knew that he would soon be put on a cross, die, and rise from the dead. He said to his friends: "A seed must be buried in the earth if it is going to grow. If no one plants it, the seed stays just a seed. But when someone plants a seed in the

earth, it will sprout and become a plant that grows many new seeds."

Jesus was talking about how he would have to die. Like a seed that's planted, his Death would bring new life.

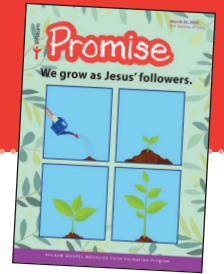
Ask: How is a seed being planted in the ground like dying? *It gets buried. It stops being a seed when it breaks open and starts to grow into a plant.* This is a good time to plant some seeds with your child to illustrate how Jesus' Death brings new life.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 27. Read aloud the promise next to the first heart. **Ask:** How does praying help you grow? *Praying helps us grow closer to Jesus, grow in love for others, etc.*

Read aloud the second promise. Remind your child that Jesus always hears our prayers. Sometimes we don't get an answer right away or the answer we want, but Jesus always hears our prayers and answers with love. Give your child time to complete the prayer starters on the page.

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



Live the Gospel

- Word of the Week • Church (page 4)** Help your child find the Word of the Week at the bottom of page 4. Share this definition: *The Church is God's family, the faithful people that God has called together all around the world.* **Ask:** How does the Church help you grow to be more like Jesus? *Teaches us about Jesus, helps us pray with other people who believe in Jesus, gives us role models of Jesus' followers, etc.*
- Activity • Saints help us to grow like Jesus. (pages 3-4)** Read aloud the names of the saints on page 3. **Ask:** What makes someone a saint? *Followed Jesus; grew closer to God by praying, loving others, being kind; died and is in Heaven with God.*

Read aloud the activity title. Explain that the four saints are members of the Church who give us good examples of how to follow Jesus. Show your child how to cut on the heavy dark lines around each saint's picture. Read the stories on the back of the cards. After reading each story, ask how each saint can help us learn how to grow closer to God. All four saints loved God, prayed, helped others, and gave their energy to telling the Good News of God's love to others.

- Closing Prayer** Stand with your child in the middle of your learning space. Invite your child to plant himself or herself like a little seed, crouched to the ground. Direct your child to slowly grow into a beautiful plant as you **pray:** God, you give life to us and to seeds that get planted. The seeds slowly sprout and grow. *(Give time for your child to slowly stand and grow.)* You water them with rain. *(Pretend to water your "plant".)* You warm them with the sun. *(Lightly touch your child on the shoulder.)* Help us grow in our love for you. *(Have your child sway in the breeze.)* Help everyone in our family care for others, share our blessings, and help others grow in love for you. *(Hold arms out toward one another.)* 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