

Sunday Gospel Background

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus refers to himself as the vine. He says that his followers are the branches. The branches of a vine share the same life as the vine. Jesus shares his life with us. We share the Good News with others and live like Jesus taught us.

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. We are the Body of Christ in the world.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, thank you for our family. Help us stay connected to you always as we grow in love for Jesus and our neighbors. Amen."
- Cover Activity • We belong to a church family. (page 1)** Look at the picture on the cover of *Promise* together. **Ask:** What is happening on this playground? Explain that your child can change everything that's going on in the picture. Help your child fold your copy of *Promise* so that the hearts match and the children on the playground are now engaged with one another. Fold the cover back and forth a few times so your child sees the differences. **Ask:** What does this picture tell us about this community of friends?
- Activity • Words connect us together. (page 2)** Have your child turn to page 2 and read the title at the top of the page. Talk about what the word *connect* means: Holding hands during the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) *connects* many people. Smiling and saying thank you *connects* you with that person. Read the first words in the left column: *Come to*. Have your child make a sentence by matching those two words with words in the right column. The best match is *my party*. Invite your child to finish the activity by drawing lines between the two sets of words to make sentences: *Come to my party. Play with me. I am sorry. I can help you. I like you. You are my friend.*

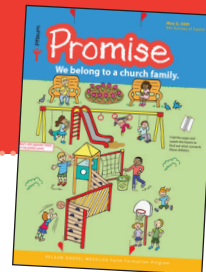
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is the Vine; We Are the Branches** Talk about any plants or trees your family cares for. **Ask:** What happens if a plant or tree doesn't get enough water? What happens if a branch is broken off the plant or tree? Will that branch still grow a leaf, vegetable, fruit, or nut? If possible, show a branch or vine to your child. Explain that Jesus used a plant to help us understand how we are connected to him. Share the Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the vine, and my Father is the vine grower. My Father cuts off branches that do not grow fruit. A branch cannot grow fruit if it is cut off from the vine. You cannot grow fruit if you are not connected to me. I am the vine. You are the branches. You will grow good fruit if you

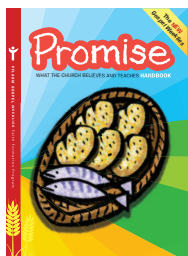
follow me. You can do nothing if you are cut off from me. Stay connected with me and let my teachings become part of you. Then your prayers will be answered. Give my Father honor by growing good fruit with your lives and becoming my disciples.

Ask: How is Jesus like a vine? Does he have leaves growing out of his ears? *Jesus is like a vine that's planted in good soil and reaches its roots way down. Jesus' roots are in God, his Father.* **Ask:** How are we like branches? Do our arms have bark on them? Do our fingers



sprout leaves and grapes or apples? *We are like branches because we are connected to Jesus by Baptism. We are part of his family just as we are part of this, our own family. Every person needs a family to love them and teach them 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.*

- **Word of the Week • parish (page 2)** Show your child the word **parish** on page 2. Share this definition: A *parish is our church family that gathers for Mass and prayer.* Explain how being involved in your parish helps you stay connected to Jesus.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 19. Read aloud the title. Take turns reading aloud the next three paragraphs. Invite your child to use the code to find the names of some holy days and feast days of saints.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, pages 3-4.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • I Belong at Church Booklet (pages 3-4)** Have your child open to pages 3–4 of *Promise*. Show how to cut on the heavy dark horizontal line to create two long rectangles. Have your child find the one with people going into a church and fold it so that the picture is on top. Then have your child fold the other long rectangle so that booklet page 3 is on the top. Help your child nest the two folded pages together to make a booklet. Page through the booklet together, making sure the page numbers are in order. Have your child place the booklet faceup on a workspace. Read aloud the cover title. **Ask:** What is happening in the picture? *People are walking into a church.* **Ask:** Why do people go to church? What happens there? Continue in the same manner with the other pages of the booklet. Point out that the booklet shows many ways that children belong at church and at Mass. Whether you attend Mass online or in person, encourage your child to bring this booklet to your celebration of the Mass, as a way to follow along.
- **Closing Prayer** “Loving God, thank you for the gift of Jesus, the parish we belong to, and saints who help us follow you. Help us always stay connected to Jesus like branches are connected to a vine. 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