

## Sunday Gospel Background

Sunday's Gospel comes from the long talk Jesus shared with his Apostles at the Last Supper. He gave them a great command: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Jesus asks us to love one another. Loving actions connect us. They help us create communities of friends and neighbors who care about one another. The Holy Spirit unites us and helps us to love God and others.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Jesus, we want to be like you. Help us obey your laws of love and act in loving ways toward everyone. Amen."
- Story • Rules, Rules, Rules! (page 2)** Tell your child this story:

Ben was at the crafts table at school when the teacher clapped his hands for silence. "Boys and girls," Mr. Harper said, "it's time to put away your things." Ben quickly glued one last heart on his Mother's Day card. "Remember, I have just one rule for you: clean up your scraps and put everything away." Kaylee brought the paper recycling bin over to the crafts table. Ben swiped his arm across the table, and the paper scraps fell into the basket. Randall and Elise put the scissors and glue away. "Thank you," said Mr. Harper.

Later that day, Ben was waiting to cross the street with his friend Andy. "I have only one rule," the crossing guard told the boys. "Don't step out until I tell you it's safe." Ben and Andy waited together.

The next day was special—a field trip to the science museum! When they lined up, one of the moms told them to grab the hand of their buddy and hold their hands high. "I have just one rule," the mom said. "Don't lose your buddy." Ben and his buddy stayed together for the whole time at the

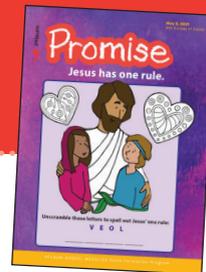
museum.

After school, Ben's dad took him to tee-ball practice. Ben hit the ball every time he was up to bat. After his turns at bat, he took his baseball mitt and went out by second base. "I have only one rule," the coach told Ben. "Keep your eye on the ball." Ben crouched down like the big boys did and waited for the ball to come his way.

That night, Ben said to his mom, "I have to keep a lot of rules." "What rules do you mean, Ben?" his mom asked. Ben told her about cleaning up the crafts table, waiting for the crossing guard, staying with a buddy on the field trip, and keeping his eye on the ball at tee-ball practice. His mom gave him a hug. "I know you're good at following the rules," she said. "You're very good at keeping the one rule we have at home too. It's the one rule Jesus told us about." "Love one another," Ben said with a big smile. "You got it," said his mom. "Now go love your sister Jasmine by reading her a book while I get supper ready."

**Ask:** How does Ben feel when he keeps the rules? Why does Ben's mom have only one rule for him? What is it? How does Ben keep that rule?

- Activity • Jesus loves and obeys. (page 3)** Have your child open *Promise* to page 3, folding it so that only page 3 shows. Read the title aloud. **Ask:** Who are the three people in this picture? *Jesus, Mary, Joseph*. Talk about ways this is like or not like the chores and tasks your family does. Give your child time to find and circle the hidden objects. Explain that we honor Mary during the month of May.



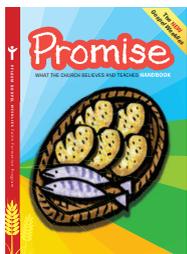
## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- **Sunday Gospel • Jesus has one rule. (page 1)** Explain that Jesus' friends liked to talk with Jesus and listen to him. Jesus had supper with his friends the night before he died. He told them many things he wanted them to remember:

Jesus told his friends: "I have loved you just as my Father has loved me. Live in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you. I want your joy to be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. You

are my friends if you obey me. I call you friends. I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. "You did not choose me. I chose you. I send you out to grow good fruit that will last. When you pray in my name, God will hear you. I command you to love one another."

**Ask:** How does Jesus' rule about loving one another make you feel? This is a good time to talk about love as respect and tolerance. It isn't just hugs and kisses. Sum up that Jesus is always with us to help us grow into people who love other people the way he loves us. Show your child the *Promise* cover and read the title together. **Ask:** What do you think Jesus is telling the two children? Invite your child to unscramble the word and finish coloring the picture.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 27. Read aloud the first line next to the third heart. **Ask:** Who is the special helper? Read the three lines about the Holy Spirit. Explain that whenever we need help, we can pray to the Holy Spirit. Point out the prayer at the bottom of the page. Remind your child that the Holy Spirit helps us pray. Read the prayer together or break it into sections for your child to repeat after you. Invite your child to color and decorate the prayer.

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

- **Word of the Week • Confirmation (page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *Confirmation celebrates the Gift of the Holy Spirit and gives us strength to do Jesus' work.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • The Holy Spirit is my helper. (page 4)** Read the title and directions on page 4 together. Give your child time to connect the dots. *The image is a dove.* Explain that in the Bible, the Holy Spirit sometimes takes the form of a dove, wind, fire, or water.
- **Closing Prayer** Together, pray the prayer under the dove on page 4.



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](https://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture