

## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Nicodemus comes to talk to Jesus at night. He is afraid the other Pharisees will see him. Jesus tells him to live the truth and come to the light. The darkness of night can cause us to be fearful. In this *Seeds* lesson, your child can explore feelings of being afraid and learn about problem-solving skills to deal with fear, celebrating that God is always with us, even when we are afraid.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together:** "Dear God, we know you care for us. You are always with us. Help us trust in your love. Amen."
- Story • Annie and the Monster** Share this story about a girl who thought she had monsters in her bedroom:

Annie's mom tucked her in and kissed her good night. Annie watched her mom leave the room and close the door. Annie pulled the blankets over her head and lay there quietly, listening for monster noises. She didn't hear anything. She wondered, "What if I hear a monster? What would I do?"

Then she remembered what her dad said: "When you meet a monster, be sure to tell him hi! Monsters do have feelings, and without a hi, he'd cry." Annie peeked out into her dark room.

Still, Annie worried: "What if I see a monster? What will I do?" Then she remembered what her mom said: "When you meet a monster, be sure to tell him hi! Monsters do have feelings and may be very shy."

Annie crawled out from under her blankets and put her feet on the floor. She peeked under her bed. "What if there's a monster under my bed?" Annie wondered. "What can I do?" Then she remembered what her brother said: "When you meet a monster, don't let him see you cry. The monster might

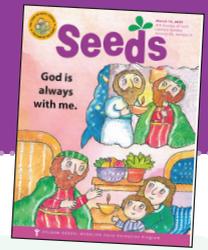
be hungry. Bring out a piece of pie."

Annie tiptoed toward her closet. She reached for the doorknob but pulled her hand back. Annie stood without moving or making a sound, worrying, "There might be a monster hiding behind my new dress or next to my bat and balls." Then Annie remembered what her mother and her father and her brother said and, quick as a flash, threw open the closet door and turned on the light. She looked behind her dress and picked up her bat and balls, but there was no monster anywhere. "Where can that monster be?" she wondered. Annie put both hands on her hips and called out: "Monster, Monster, you're hiding, and I don't know why. My father says you're lonely. My mother thinks you're shy. My brother thinks you want to eat a piece of pie or two. But I think you're as scared of me as I am scared of you." Then Annie turned around, turned off the closet light, and went back to bed, leaving the closet door open just a little. "Good night, Monster," Annie said. "Sleep tight." And Annie went to sleep.

- Activity • When are you afraid? (page 2)** Together, look at the pictures of scary things on page 2. Invite your child to put an X next to anything your child is afraid of. Talk about these and any other fears your child might have. **Ask:** How did Annie deal with her fear in the story?

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus is the Light of the World. (page 1)** Tell your child that this story is about a teacher named Nicodemus who was afraid to talk to Jesus during the daytime.



A man named Nicodemus came to talk to Jesus. Nicodemus was a religion teacher called a Pharisee. The Pharisees sometimes criticized Jesus, but Nicodemus believed that Jesus came from God. Still, Nicodemus did not want his friends to know that he was talking to Jesus, so he came to visit him at night. He wanted to understand why Jesus had come.

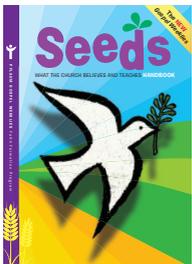
Jesus told him: "God loves the world so much that he gave his only Son to become one of us. Everyone who believes in him will live with God forever. God didn't send his Son to

punish the world. God wants to save the world through his Son."

Jesus didn't tell Nicodemus that he is God's Son, but we know that he is. He talked to Nicodemus about light and darkness. Jesus said: "Some people like the darkness because they do bad things. They hate the light because the light shines on the bad things they do and everyone can see them. People who do what is good choose to live in the light. The light shows that they are obeying God."

Look together at the *Seeds* cover illustration. **Ask:** Where is Jesus? Where is Nicodemus? Note that Nicodemus is in two places. In the bottom picture, he's telling his family about his talk with Jesus. **Ask:** How does Nicodemus look when he is talking with Jesus? *Puzzled, not sure.* **Ask:** How does he look when he tells his family about Jesus? *Happy.* He wants them to know about Jesus' love.

- Word of the Week • Church (page 3)** Help your child find *Church* on page 3. Share this definition: *The Church is God's family, the people that God has called together all around the world.* Explain that we belong to God's church family.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 33. Explain that God has chosen a Guardian Angel to remain with each one of us constantly. We are never alone, because an angel is at our side. Help you child locate the second prayer in the right side column on page 33. Have your child point to each word as you read it aloud. Start again and read it in short phrases, stopping after each for your child to repeat it. Encourage your child to memorize and pray this prayer often.

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

## Live the Gospel

- Activity • Thank you, God . . . (pages 3-4)** Read the words on each flag on page 3. Turn to page 4 and have your child describe the illustrations. Help your child cut apart the flags on the heavy black lines. Tape the flags to straws or craft sticks.
- Closing Prayer** "Loving God, thank you for the gifts of light and darkness, rain and rainbows. Help us turn to Jesus whenever we're afraid. Guide us to live always in the light of your love. Amen."



## 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