

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.

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 all learn how to stay connected to you and grow to love Jesus more and more. Amen."
- Story • *Swimmy*** Explain that *community* is a word we use to talk about groups that have a connection and who care for one another. Talk about communities your child belongs to: Your family, *Church, school, friends, sports team, town.*

Explain that a community of fish is called a *school*. Share the story of *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni. Find it by searching YouTube, or look for the book in your local library. After sharing the story, **ask:** How did Swimmy feel when he got away from the tuna and swam alone in the sea? What helped Swimmy feel happy again? Why didn't the new school of fish want to swim and play and see things? What did Swimmy do to help them? What other kinds of things can only be done when everyone works together?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

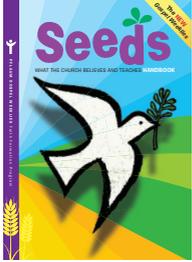
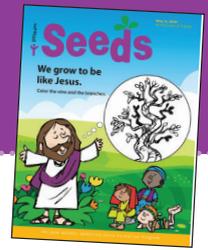
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. (page 1)** Explain that Jesus used a plant to explain how we are connected to him:

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me. I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will

produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me. Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered. When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honored.

Ask: What connects us to Jesus? *We are his brothers and sisters through Baptism. We are all children of God.* **Ask:** What can you do to make your connection to Jesus strong? *Make loving choices, go to Mass, read Seeds, pray, listen, be kind to others.* Invite your child to color the vine and branches on page 1.

- Word of the Week • New Testament (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. It tells us about Jesus' life and teachings.* Explain that the story about the vine and the branches, and all the other stories we have heard about Jesus, are in the New Testament part of the Bible.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 10. **Ask:** Who is this man? *A priest.* **Ask:** How do you know he is a priest? *Vestments, he is behind the altar at church, his hands and arms are raised in prayer.* Explain that a priest is a man who serves God's people. He leads the people when they gather in church to worship. He is the leader of our Church family. That's why we call him Father.

Have your child color the shapes in the picture to match the colors in the shapes at the bottom of the page. Share the name of your parish pastor with your child and remember to pray for him, mentioning him by name, during your family prayer time.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to *Seeds*, pages 2-3.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • People help one another. (pages 2-3)** Read the title on page 2 aloud. Explain that these people have important jobs that help others. Have your child cut out the squares on the edge of page 3. Look together at both sides of the squares. Explain that these are tools the workers need to do their jobs. Tell the story of each worker below. As you finish each, direct your child to find two tools the worker needs. Start by having your child put a finger by the gardener.
- Lucas loves to plant flowers and take care of the earth. His work reminds him of how much God loves us to give us such a beautiful world. **Ask:** What tools does he need? *Digging tools and tray of plants.* **Ask:** How does his job help others?
 - Glen loves to teach and tell his students about the Bible. He is telling the story of Noah and the ark. Glen is happy to see the children's drawings. **Ask:** What tools does he need? *Books, scissors, crayons, glue, and paper.* **Ask:** How does his job help others?
 - Julie likes to build things for people. She can make tables and chairs. She can also build houses and sheds. What tools does she need? *Hard hat, tool belt.* **Ask:** How does her job help others?
 - Ms. Mendez helps children who feel sick or get hurt at school. If they are very sick, she calls their parents. **Ask:** What tools does she need? *Stethoscope, bandages.* **Ask:** How does her job help others?
 - Maria help us to safely cross the street. If there is trouble, she calls for help. **Ask:** What tools does she need? *Hat with shield, walkie-talkie.* **Ask:** How does her job help others?
 - Tyrone rides on a firetruck. His job is to hurry to fires and put them out. Sometimes he has to rescue people and animals. **Ask:** What tools does he need? *Firehose, fireman hat.* **Ask:** How does his job help others?
- Activity • Thank you, God, for our world. (page 4)** Invite your child to color the picture on page 4 and describe the illustration. Remind your child that God created our beautiful world. One of our jobs is to take care of it. **Ask:** How can we take care of God's world?
- Closing Prayer:** "Loving God, thank you for the gift of Jesus, the communities we belong to, and for the beauty of all your Creation. Help us 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