

Sunday Gospel Background

Sunday's Gospel comes from Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples at the Last Supper. It is a summary of his message of love. God sent Jesus to show the unlimited love God has for us. We respond to God's gift of love by imitating that love for those around us.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together:** "Jesus, thank you for giving us your mother Mary to be our mother too. Amen."
- Story • Charley looks for a gift.** A coloring page to accompany this story is available at gospelweeklies.com/lesson-updates. Share this story:

Charley wanted to give his mother a gift on Mothers' Day. Charley lived on a farm. He asked the farm animals for their ideas. Charley first went to Mrs. Cow. Charley said, "I need a Mother's Day gift for my mother. What should I give her?" Mrs. Cow chewed her cud, swished her tail, and said, "You could give her some of my nice milk." Charley thought and then politely said, "Thank you, Mrs. Cow, but my mother already has milk."

Next, Charley went to Mrs. Hen. She was sitting in the sun outside the chicken coop. "Good morning," said Charley. "I need a Mother's Day gift for my mother. What should I give her?" Mrs. Hen fluffed her feathers and said, "Give your mother one of my nice eggs. Fresh this morning!" Charley thought and then politely said, "Thank you, Mrs. Hen, but my mother already has eggs."

Charley was sitting on the fence, thinking about what his gift could be when up walked Mr. Bear, who lived in the woods behind the barn. "Mr. Bear," said Charley, "What should I give my mother for Mother's Day?" Mr. Bear said, "I know where there's some nice honey. We could ask the bees to give us some." "My mother already has honey," said Charley. "What about a bouquet of wildflowers?" Mr. Bear suggested. "I always pick flowers for her," said Charley. "I want something she'll like more than anything in the world." Mr. Bear thought and then said, "I have it!" He whispered into Charley's ear. Charley smiled and said, "Thank you, Mr. Bear. That's the perfect gift for my mother." On Mother's Day morning, Charley gave his mother the most wonderful gift: a big bear hug to show his love.

Ask: Why did Charley pick the present he did?

- Activity • Stand-Up Story Cards (pages 3-4)** Show your child how to cut on the heavy horizontal line on pages 3-4 to make two rectangles. Then make one cut on each rectangle on the heavy dark line that ends in a dot. Do not cut beyond the dot. Show your child how to nest the pieces together and use the story cards to tell the story.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

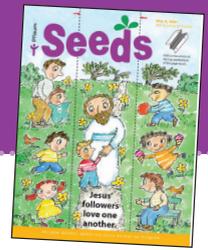
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus has one rule for us: Love one another.** Explain that one day, Jesus told his friends it was time for him to go back to his Father.

Jesus said, "I have loved you just as my Father has loved me. Stay faithful to my love for you. If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him.

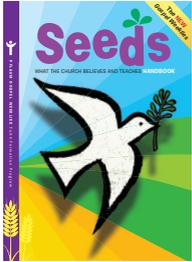
"I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am. Now I tell you to love one another as I have loved you. You are my

friends if you obey me. I speak to you as my friends, and I have told you everything that my Father has told me.

"You didn't choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit that will last. Then my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. I command you to love one another."



- **Cover Activity • Love brings us together. (page 1)** Explain that your child can bring the people in the picture together. Use the diagram on page 1 to help your child make the folds. Make a crease in the middle so the two sides can meet. **Ask:** How have the people have come together? What loving actions do you see?



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 28. Explain that these are faith words your child has learned this year. Starting on page 28 and continuing to page 31, have your child guess what each picture is. Then read aloud the definitions.

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

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

Live the Gospel

- **Story • How Many Marys?** Share this story:

Molly, Mary, Miriam, Lupe, and Mario all went to preschool together. One day, their teacher, Mr. Kent, announced a new girl would join their class. Her name is Imani. "Imani means faith," Mr. Kent told the class. Mary waved her hand. When Mr. Kent called on her, Mary said, "I have a special name too. I'm named after Jesus' mother, Mary." Mr. Kent agreed, "That is a special name." Molly raised her hand and said, "My mother is from England. My baptism name is Mary, but Mother says that in England, girls named Mary can be called Molly."

More hands were waving. Mario said, "My name is the boy way to say Mary. My mother named me after Jesus' mother because she helped me get born safely." Lupe said, "Our family is from Mexico. I am named after Our Lady of Guadalupe, who came to Mexico a long time ago." Mr. Kent smiled. "Are there any more Marys in our class?" he asked. One more hand went up. Miriam said, "In Jesus' language, his mother was called Miriam. Mary and I have the same name too." Mr. Kent thanked everyone for telling about their names.

Ask: Why were so many children named for Mary? What is special about Mary?

- **Prayer Activity • I can learn to pray the Rosary. (page 2).** Explain that one way we honor Mary this month is by praying the Rosary. Have your child color the large beads blue and the small beads red.
- **Closing Prayer** Pray a decade of the Rosary together. Have your child follow along as you say the prayers by placing a finger on the rosary beads on page 2.



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