



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus faces hostile religious leaders who are plotting against him. Many Jews and Greeks who are in Jerusalem for Passover seek him out. His popularity fuels his opponents' hostility. Jesus' friends worry about him. Jesus uses the life cycle of wheat to teach them about what will happen to him. He explains, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (John 12:24). Jesus challenges his friends to follow him—to serve others and give their lives as he does.

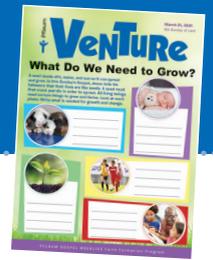
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Share people and intentions you and your child wish to pray for today. After each petition, respond together: "Loving God, hear our prayer."
- Cover Activity • What Do We Need to Grow? (page 1)** Read aloud the directions at the top of the page. Invite your child to come up with a few words and phrases for each photo. Possible answers may include: *water, food, clothing, sun, love, attention, coaching, practice, support/encouragement*. **Ask:** What do we need to grow spiritually, or closer to God? *Prayer, reading the Bible, acting as Jesus does.*
- Story • Coming to You Live: Good News for Kids! (pages 2–3)** In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that a seed must crack and die in order to yield new life. He, too, will suffer, die, and rise in order to fulfill his promise of eternal life. In this story, Mat Vido and his team bring good news to children facing difficult situations. The shows Mat produces give others hope and allow patients to share their time and encouragement with other children facing surgery or sickness. Read aloud the article with your child. (Note: The hospital where Mat currently works is not mentioned in the article due to patient privacy.)
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Working at the hospital allowed Mat to mix his love of working in television and radio with helping people; it made him feel him fulfilled, with greater sense of purpose. 2. Open-ended; it's a positive way to help others, and perhaps distract them from their own illness or pain. 3. Open-ended. Virus restrictions can prevent in-person visits; however, text messages or phone calls likely would be welcomed.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

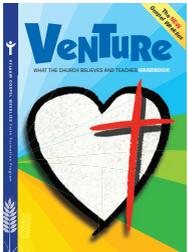
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus' Death Brings New Life (page 4)** Explain that a metaphor makes a connection between something familiar and something strange or unfamiliar; for example, in this Sunday's Gospel, the metaphor connects the familiar way seeds grow with the unseen, unknown, and dangerous future that Jesus faces. Jesus' Death will not end his life, but will produce a rich harvest of followers. Proclaim the Gospel by reading the various parts with your child.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. A seed appears to die; however, in the earth, it swells, bursts its shell, sprouts, and grows into a new plant. It uses its stored energy to nourish a new wheat plant; the new plant grows up and produces many more grains of wheat. 2. Through this metaphor, Jesus hints at his own Resurrection. Life comes from Jesus' suffering and Death as surely as many grains of wheat come from the planting of a single one; Jesus lives on in all of his followers and in the Church. 3. People in El Salvador remember the words Romero spoke and his example of love; they continue to fight poverty and injustice as he did.*



Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus' Death Gives Life (page 4)

Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday's Gospel and summarize your discussion of the metaphor of Jesus' life as a grain of wheat.

- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; your child may have initiated a friendship through an act of kindness. 2. Together, brainstorm a list of ways your family can live as Christian disciples through the year.*



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 45, and read aloud the section at the top of the page.** Direct your child's attention to the Seven Petitions section. Read aloud the petitions in blue type and have your child read the explanations. Discuss as needed. Explain that, in the next part of the lesson, you will be reading the Lord's Prayer in the Gospel of Matthew. Your child might be surprised to learn that the Lord's Prayer comes directly from the Bible, and that it is part of two Gospels, Matthew and Luke.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to VenTure page 5.

- Catholic Faith Word • Lord's Prayer (page 5)** Read aloud the definition to introduce the *Our Catholic Faith* feature.

- Our Catholic Faith • We Pray the Lord's Prayer Together at Mass (page 5)** The Creed and the Lord's Prayer are two prayers of the Mass that belong to both the people and the priest celebrant—that is, we say them aloud together. Read aloud the text together. Give your child time to respond to the questions at the bottom of the page. It's a good time to remind your child that prayer can happen at any time, not just during Mass.

Live the Gospel

- Living the Gospel • Commandments Call Us to Respect Others' Belongings and Friendships (pages 6-7)** Read aloud the introduction at the top of page 6. For each of the three dilemmas, have your child identify the problem, think of as many alternative courses of action as possible, consider the consequences, and then write down a personal response to the dilemma in the spaces provided. Remind your child that the commandments are about respecting each other's rights, not finding a legalistic way to get around them.
- Saints • Saint Oscar Romero (page 8)** The anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination, March 24, always occurs in Lent, when we read the Gospel about the grain of wheat that dies in order to produce a rich harvest. Many other church workers in El Salvador were martyred during the repression of the 1980s, including four American churchwomen and six Jesuits, their housekeeper, and her daughter in 1989. Like Archbishop Romero, they stood for equality and justice for the poor of the nation.
- Closing Prayer** Pray the Lord's Prayer to conclude your faith-sharing time together.



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.