

## 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.

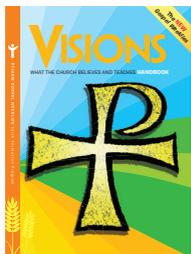
## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, look with kindness on our family. With your great compassion, wipe away our imperfections and guilt. Create clean hearts in us. Amen."
- Cover Activity • One Grain of Wheat Becomes Many (page 1)** Invite your child to read about the life cycle of wheat and the steps involved in processing wheat into flour and bread. Note the time and effort that goes into every step of this process—the work of human hands. Talk about where you see yourselves in the life cycle of wheat, and where you might feel "planted."
- Play/Drama • Jeremiah, the Prophet (pages 2–3)** Explain that prophets speak for God, warning people when they don't keep the commandments and urging them to trust God's love and faithfulness. God calls Jeremiah to tear down and to build up. You can read this historical drama together as a family, with members taking the various parts, or have your child read it silently.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Jeremiah reminds the people—especially the kings—to trust and honor their one God and to keep the commandments. Like a lawyer, he indicts the king and people for breaking God's law. 2. Jeremiah still speaks to us about how God wants us to live and testifies to God's faithfulness no matter what. 3. Like Jesus, Jeremiah is controversial. He suffers with the people under attack and suffers from officials seeking to kill him. He is a witness of how to live. 4. Open-ended.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is Like a Grain of Wheat (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by reading it aloud together. Alternate the speaking parts.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Like a seed that dies to grow wheat, the worldwide Church grows out of Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Open-ended. 2. People who are self-centered end up closing themselves off to others and God. 3. After his Resurrection, Jesus draws all who believe in him to himself. Faith in Jesus' Resurrection from the dead is the heart of Christian faith.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • God Gathers Us Together as a People (page 4)** Read this feature aloud to articulate meanings and images of Church—people of God, Body of Christ, family of God.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Remind your child of possible relatives—godparents, grandparents, a favorite aunt or uncle; open-ended. 2. The nature of social media is that its influence—whether good or otherwise—grows quickly! Think of social media campaigns to support young people who have been bullied, for example, or peaceful efforts to right some other wrong.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 14. Remind your child that this Sunday's Gospel is about Jesus' Death, but it's more about what happens after his Death. This section on page 14 is not long—just three paragraphs—however, it contains essential Church teaching, so make sure to take time with each paragraph. Here are some questions to ask as you read. (Answers can be found in the text.)

**Paragraph 1:** What happens immediately after someone dies? What happens at the resurrection?

**Paragraph 2:** What happens to those who die, but are not yet ready for eternal life with God?

**Paragraph 3:** Why is it so important that we pray with the Communion of Saints during Mass? What is the Kingdom of God?

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • Covenant (page 5)** Draw attention to the definition and read it aloud to introduce the *Our Catholic Faith* feature.
- **Our Catholic Faith • Jeremiah Speaks of a New Covenant (page 5)** Read the introduction and Sunday's First Reading aloud, using the timeline for reference. Look at the map and ask if your child recognizes the locations. Discuss the map question. *When Assyrians and Babylonians try to extend their empires, they must follow the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers north and then go south on the road along the sea—right into Israel. Egypt can follow the same way of the sea north.* **Discuss:** What is the king of a small country to do? **Ask:** What do Jeremiah's words tell us about God? Why do you think his words are so unpopular?

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Bread and Wheat Help Us Reflect on Who Jesus Is (pages 6-7)** Read the paragraphs on the left side of page 6 together, then make a list of all the meanings of bread and wheat.
  - Read aloud the blessing of the bread at the top of page 6. **Ask:** Where have you have heard these words? *At Mass, (the Prayer over the Offerings).* Take some time to respond to the questions together.
  - Read aloud the quote from 1 Corinthians on page 7; then respond to the questions together.
  - Brainstorm responses to the question near the priest's hands and take turns writing the responses in the grains of wheat.
- **Attitudes • What Is the Best Advice You Have Ever Received? (page 8)** Invite your child to read the responses on page 8, circling any that are particularly meaningful right now. Ask what response your child has to this week's *Attitudes* question. Affirm your child's response.
- **Closing Prayer** Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Invite your child to pay special attention to the line, "Give us this day our daily bread." Together, ponder what this line means to you today.



## 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.