



## Sunday Gospel Background

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares himself to a vine and us, his followers, to the branches. All of the branches of a vine live from the nutrients that its roots find in the soil and its trunk brings to the branches. The Church has spread like a vine. From its roots in Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection in Palestine, Jesus' followers have become witnesses who have taken his message throughout the world.

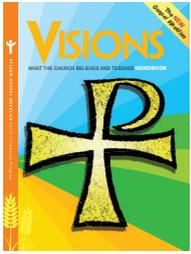
## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Explain that you will be exploring the Sunday Gospel about the vine and branches. Jesus is our common vine; we are the branches. During Mass, we pray the Lord's Prayer together before we receive the Eucharist. We pray as a community. Invite your child to join hands with you and pray the Lord's Prayer together.
- Cover Activity • What Makes Our Church Catholic? (page 1)** Your child can probably identify Pope Francis in the photo, upper left. Explain that Pope Francis is with Patriarch Bartholomew I, head of the Eastern Orthodox Church. He and Pope Francis often speak out to protect refugees and God's Creation. After reading the introductory paragraph in the left column, discuss the three questions together.
- Article • The Cowboy Priest Rides on to Sainthood (pages 1–3)** Jesus left his disciples with a "missionary mandate," a direct order to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19–20). Have your child silently read this story about Father Eusebio Kino, who took Jesus' missionary call to heart.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. By sharing the faith and baptizing them; by helping them escape forced labor, by sharing knowledge to improve their lives. 2. He became ill and nearly died. He missed the first ship to America. His first mission in Baja failed. Padre Kino's setbacks ultimately resulted in a more fruitful life, serving thousands of people and changing their lives for the better. 3. Open-ended. 4. Through the Kino Border Initiative and Kino Teens, people are reminded to see Christ in everyone, especially migrants.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is the Vine, We Are the Branches (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by taking turns reading aloud the four parts.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. We can share his life and strength. He is the one who is the root and trunk of the vine and gives the vine its character and life. 2. No one can live apart from the vine, but branches can be pruned to bear more fruit. Whatever anyone on the vine asks will happen. 3. Open-ended; grandparents are like the main vine from which your family grows. Same name, similar looks, know same songs or jokes, similar talents, ways of doing things, common history, nationality, religion, values, etc. 4. Jesus is the one vine; all Christians are the branches. Jesus shares with us the divine life of Father, Son, and Spirit. Connect this image with other images of Church—Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit.*
- Connecting Scripture and Doctrine • We Are One in Jesus (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine. Emphasize that Christians belong to the same family, with common roots in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended. 2–3. These are both action items; help your child with them as you are able.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Ecumenism (page 4)** Read aloud the definition to connect the Sunday Gospel message to the *Our Catholic Faith* feature.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 40. Read through the prayer forms together. Invite your child to choose one of the prayer forms and compose a prayer as an example of that form. Invite your child to share this prayer with your family.

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

- **Our Catholic Faith • We Work for Unity Among All Christians (page 5)** This feature highlights the history of how Jesus' followers, the Christians, became segmented into different "branches." It also explains that the Catholic Church acknowledges the split and works with other Christians toward unity. Have your child read this feature, either silently or aloud. Help your child identify someone you know to interview.

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Write Prayer Poems Like Israel's Psalms (pages 6-7)** Read the introduction on page 6 together to learn about how Israel's prophets and poets write poetry. Begin with the example in the left column. Talk about how details build up and strengthen the descriptions. Then do the same with Psalm 23 in the right column. Introduce and read aloud the verses from Psalm 46. Ask your child to describe the effect the poet creates by building up details. *Even if earth, mountains, and sea rock, God is present.* Invite your child to complete bubble maps around two contrasting words in the psalm—refuge and fear. Compare the two maps.  
 On page 7, read aloud the verses from Job 12 and have your child follow the directions to mark repeated ideas and add another line. Read aloud the directions for "My Creation Psalm," and give your child time for the activity. If your child struggles with writing, you may wish to work together on this activity.
- **Catholic Leaders • Father Daniel Groody (page 8)** Ask your child to look at the photos, and read the text. **Ask:** Why does Fr. Groody empathize with immigrants? How is Jesus a migrant?  
 See Father Groody's quote in the right column. Which of the principles of Catholic social teachings apply to immigration? (See page 51 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook if you need a reminder.) **Answers:** *Each person is sacred, made in God's image, and social, in need of family and community. All people have rights and responsibilities. We care for people who are poor and vulnerable. Workers have rights; work has dignity. Solidarity is our call. We care for Creation. (They all do!)*  
 Direct your child's attention to the QR code, which links to the U.S. bishops' prayer for migrants. Encourage your family to keep migrants in your prayers.
- **Closing Prayer** Turn to page 54 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*, and pray together the Act of Faith. Like our creeds, this prayer expresses many of the beliefs shared by Christians.



## 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.