

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, James and John ask Jesus for special places in his kingdom. Jesus defines himself as one who serves, who gives his life to redeem all. This lesson can help your child recognize the good feelings that come from helping others.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Dear Jesus, guide us to carry your light in our hearts. Help us let our good actions shine on others. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Who Are the Helpers? (page 1)** Look at the cover picture together and have your child identify the helpers.
- Story • Touchdown! (page 2)** Ask: Who is the most important player on a football team? Explain that you are going to read a story about an important player. Invite your child to listen for who it is.

On Labor Day, the O'Leary and Rooney families always had a picnic. Jenny Rooney and her cousin Jason O'Leary wanted to play touch football against their little sisters and their aunt. Jenny was a fifth grader; Jason was in fourth. "Jenny and I will play against everybody else," said Jason. Aunt Jan joined the side with the little girls, Angela and Jessie. "We can try some of my special plays and maybe we can win," she told them. Their little sister, Stacy, wanted to play, but Jessie said, "You're too small." The game started. Jenny and Jason ran faster than their sisters and caught passes better. They ran for touchdowns. They figured out all of Aunt Jan's special plays. The score was 24 to 0 when Stacy nudged her way into the

huddle next to Jessie. "You can't play," said Jessie. "Maybe she can," said Aunt Jan, "I have an idea." She whispered the plan, and the team lined up. "Hut one, hut two," Aunt Jan called out. Stacy hiked the ball to Aunt Jan. Angela and Jessie took off running as fast as they could toward the garage, yelling, "Throw it to me!" Jason and Jenny ran after them. Aunt Jan put the ball in Stacy's arms and said, "Run to the back steps." And Stacy ran. By the time Jenny and Jason realized Stacy had the ball, she was way ahead of them. Stacy got to the steps and sat down on the bottom one. "Our first touchdown," Jessie yelled. "Hooray, Stacy!" said Angela.

Invite your child to turn to page 2 and read the picture story aloud to you. Ask: Who was a surprise helper?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

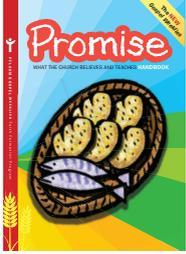
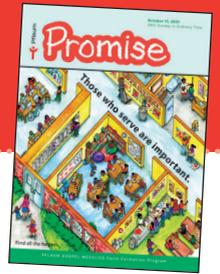
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Wants Us to Be Helpers** Tell your child Sunday's Gospel:

One day, James and John, two of Jesus' disciples, came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, will you do us a favor?" Jesus asked them what they wanted, and they answered, "When you come into your glory, please let one of us sit at your right side and the other at your left."

Jesus told them: "You don't really know what you're asking! Are you able to drink from the cup that I must soon drink from?" (Jesus was talking about how he would die for his friends.) "Yes, we are!" said James and John. Jesus said to them: "You will drink from the cup I must drink. But God

decides who will sit at my right and at my left in Heaven."

When the ten other disciples heard this, they were angry with James and John. But Jesus called them all together and said: "You know that some kings like to order their people around. And some leaders have lots of power over people. Don't act like them. If you want to be great, you must serve others. If you want to be first, you must be a servant to all people. I did not come to be a slave master, but a slave who will give up his life to save many people."



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 17. Read the top third of the page. **Ask:** What are some things you like about our parish? Print the name of your parish on a sheet of paper and have your child copy the name into the handbook. **Ask:** Who are some of the helpers in our parish? Explain that our Church needs lots of helpers. A very important helper is the parish priest. Help your child understand that the pastor takes care of the people of the parish. Read the middle third of the page. Print the name of your parish priest(s) and have your child copy the name into the handbook. Then read aloud the section about the Pope. Show your child a picture of our Pope. (You can find one online.) **Ask:** What is our Pope's name? Print his name and have your child copy it into the handbook. Encourage your child to listen for the Pope's name when you are at Mass. Explain that we always pray for him and for the whole Church at Mass.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, page 4.

- Word of the Week • pastor (page 4)** Help your child find the Word of the Week. Share this definition: A *pastor* is a priest who leads a parish.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • What makes me important? (pages 3-4)** For this medallion activity, you will need scissors, a paper punch, and some yarn. Begin by reading the question at the top of page 3. Read Jesus' words around the outside of the circle as your child follows along. Then read the sentences inside the circle. Invite your child to turn to page 4 and finish the "I am..." sentence. Have your child cut out the circle. Use a paper punch to make holes on the blue dots. Help your child string yarn through the holes, leaving extra yarn at the ends. Tie the two loose ends of yarn together so that your child can wear the medallion.

Direct your child to cut off the strip with the word *HELPER* on it. Make a bracelet by taping the strip around your child's wrist. Don't forget to keep the "scrap" from the top of page 4 to scan for extra resources.

- Closing Prayer** Have your child wear the medallion and bracelet. Say: "I am important (*point to self*). I help my family learn about Jesus." Invite your child to do the same: "I am important. I help (*your child can mention a way he or she helps*)."
Pray: "Dear Jesus, thank you for the people who help us. Teach us to be good helpers too. 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