

## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about ten maidens who go to a wedding. Five come prepared, wisely bringing extra oil for their lamps; the other five come empty-handed. In Jesus’ time, negotiating a dowry (money or property the bride’s family gives to the groom’s family) could make the groom’s arrival time unpredictable. Jesus teaches us to be prepared for his return at the end of time. We will be ready to meet Jesus if we make wise choices. A loving choice is a wise choice. An unloving choice is a sin. This week’s lesson provides opportunities to help your child consider choices, and the ways God helps us to make wise and loving decisions that can help us grow in wisdom.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray Together** “Loving God, we thank you for giving us life. Thank you for — (insert your child’s name and repeat with the names of your family members). Bless us today as we learn about Jesus. Amen.”
- Cover Activity (page 1)** **Ask:** How did you choose the clothes you are wearing today? Explain that many of the choices we make are about what we like best. Look together at the pictures on the cover of *Promise*. Identify each picture in the first row. Using crayons or a pencil, have your child circle the activity he or she likes best. Do the same with the other three rows. Summarize that all the choices are good choices.
- Story • Peyton and the Surprise Kitten (page 2)** Invite your child to look at the pictures as you read aloud the story of Peyton and the choices she makes:

Peyton could hardly wait. Her dad was coming home on Tuesday afternoon. Whenever he comes from a work trip, he brings Peyton a surprise.

When her dad pulled into the driveway, Peyton raced to greet him. “Hi, Dad, I missed you!” “I missed you, too,” Dad said. “Have you been good while I was gone?” Peyton nodded yes.

Her dad began to search in his coat. Peyton giggled and jumped on her tiptoes. He pulled out a yellow kitten. Peyton hugged her dad, then ran inside to show her mom. Her mother said Peyton would have to feed and water her kitten and brush its fur. For two days, Peyton took good care of her kitten. On Friday, Peyton had a playdate and didn’t think

about her kitten. On Saturday morning, she asked her mom, “Where’s my kitty?” “When did you last feed her?” asked Mom. Peyton hung her head and said, “I don’t remember.” Peyton ran outside, calling: “Here Kitty, Kitty. Here Kitty, Kitty.” She hunted up and down the street. She heard sounds coming from a neighbor’s yard. She looked around the side of the house. A boy and girl were playing with her kitten. “That is my kitty,” Peyton said. “We thought it was lost,” they said. “She was thirsty and sad, so we gave her water and played with her.” Peyton thanked them for taking care of her kitten. She carried her kitten home. “I found my kitty!” she told her mom. “I will take very good care of her from now on.” And she did.

**Ask:** What choices does Peyton make about taking care of her kitty on Wednesday and Thursday? On Friday and Saturday? What happened because of her choices?. Look at the pictures on page 2 and **ask:** Which of Peyton’s choices were happy and loving? Which choices were unloving?

- Word of the Week • neighbor (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: A **neighbor** is a person who lives near someone. Jesus said we should love our neighbor like we love ourselves. **Ask:** How did Peyton’s neighbors care for her lost kitten?



## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Ten Girls Go to a Wedding** Explain that wise means using good sense or good judgment. Foolish means not using good sense or good judgment. Share the Gospel with your child:

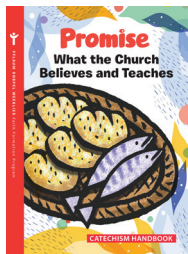
Jesus told this parable to his followers. He said: “The Kingdom of God will be like ten girls who took their lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of the girls were foolish. The other five were wise. The foolish girls did not bring extra oil for their lamps. The wise girls did.

“When the bridegroom was late, all the girls fell asleep. At midnight, they heard a shout: ‘Wake up! The bridegroom is here. Come and welcome him.’ The girls woke up and got ready to light their lamps. The foolish girls said to the wise

ones: ‘Let us have some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.’ But the wise girls said: ‘No, we do not have enough oil for all of us. Go and buy some oil for yourselves.’

“When the foolish girls were away buying oil, the groom came. The five wise girls went into the wedding feast. Then the door was closed. When the five foolish girls returned, they shouted, ‘Open the door!’ But the groom said, ‘I do not know you.’”

Jesus said: “Always be ready. You do not know on what day your Lord will come.”



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 8. Have your child do the activity on page 8. Invite your child to respond to each situation by smiling or frowning.

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

## Live the Gospel

- Story • The Little Red Hen** Find a version of the story of The Little Red Hen at the library, or choose one to share from YouTube. (Adjust story characters to match those shown on pages 3–4: pig, duck, and cat.) Share the story with your child. After the story, **ask**: What happened in the story? Invite your child to imagine how the hen felt eating her bread all by herself when her friends outside were hungry. **Ask**: Did that feel good to the hen? What would make her feel better? Summarize by saying that friends usually help friends when they can, and friends forgive friends and make up with them.
- Activity • Story Puppets (pages 3–4)** Cut out the puppet shapes on pages 3–4. Tape or staple the pieces together. You can leave a hole at the bottom to add a pencil or craft-stick handle if you want. Have your child tell the story to you or to other family members, if available.
- Closing Prayer** Share about something or someone you wish to pray for. Invite your child to do the same. Take turns if you have more needs to voice. After each concern, respond together: “Lord, hear our prayer.” Pray the Sign of the Cross.



## 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