

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus warns his friends about the Pharisees. Pharisees were the respected teachers of the Mosaic Law in Jesus' time. Jesus acknowledges their place in the Jewish community but criticizes them for not practicing the love and humility they preach.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together:** "Loving God, we thank you for people who teach about you and show us how to follow you. Help us show our love by helping others. Amen."
- Story • A Friend Helps (page 2)** **Ask:** What are friends for? *Friends are to play with, help, listen to you, go to school with, share treats with, and so on.* Have your child turn to page 2. Identify the two characters in the story—Tina and Jason. Read the story aloud. Have your child follow along by pointing at each word. Then **ask:** What kind of friends are Tina and Jason? *Tina trusts Jason with her fish. Jason listens to Tina and learns how to take care of the fish.* **Ask:** Do you think Jason will ask Tina to help him sometime?
- Activity • How Do You Help?** Help your child brainstorm general ways that children can help others—at home, in classrooms, school buses, playground, neighborhoods, etc. Write down your child's ideas. Then go over them one by one. Talk about whether your child already does this or might like to. Affirm and encourage your child's efforts and desire to help. Remind your child that no one is too young to be a helper!

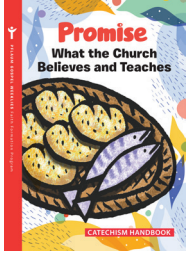
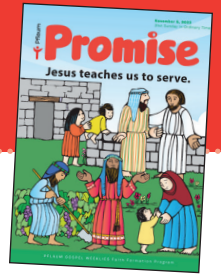
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus teaches us to serve (page 1)** Look at the cover together and read aloud the heading. Explain that serve is another word for help. Help your child identify Jesus. Invite your child to look at Jesus and the man he's talking to as you share the Gospel:

Jesus said: "There are many people in important jobs. Sometimes they make up so many rules that no one can keep them all. Remember that I am the real Teacher. I teach my

friends to help others. The people who are greatest in my eyes and in God's eyes are the ones who help one another and share with one another."

- Word of the Week • New Testament (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. It tells us about Jesus' life and teachings.* Explain that all the Gospels are from the New Testament. If you have access to a Bible, share it with your child and indicate which part is the New Testament.



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 30. Review the Sign of the Cross and other prayers your child has learned. Show your child the Short Prayer of Love at the bottom of the page. Explain that this is a prayer we can use anytime we want to tell Jesus we love him. Help your child memorize this prayer.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, page 3.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Our Father Booklet (Promise pages 3-4)** Explain that you will be making a prayer booklet of the Our Father together. Have your child make the horizontal cut on the dashed black line on page 3. If needed, help with folding the top piece on the dotted line so the words Our Father are on the top. Have your child fold the bottom piece so the foods are inside. Then have your child slip the pages together. Use page numbers to make sure the prayer follows in the correct order. Go through the booklet together, discussing the words and pictures. Give your child time to complete the activity on booklet page 7. Emphasize that this is the prayer Jesus taught all of his followers to pray. It is the prayer of God's family—in Heaven and on earth. Encourage your child to practice this prayer every day.
- **Closing Prayer** Read the Eucharist quote together on page 2. Then Pray the Our Father together with gestures. Have your child follow your words and actions:
 - Our Father... (stretch out and slightly raise arms)
 - Thy kingdom... (make circle with arms in front)
 - As it is in heaven... (stretch out arms wide)
 - Give us this day... (stretch out hands to receive)
 - Forgive us... (shake hands with each other)
 - Lead us not... (cross hands on chest)
 - But deliver us... (fold hands in prayer)
 - Amen! (lift arms high)



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