

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells about a king who keeps inviting guests to his son's wedding feast until he fills the hall. Matthew dwells on the fate of the guests who refuse the king's invitation. *Promise* stresses instead the desire of the king to share his happiness with everyone around him.

Share Experiences

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

Pray together "Jesus, you give us the Mass and Holy Communion so we can be part of you and you can be part of us. Thank you! Bless us today so we can learn more about you and become better members of your Church. Amen."

Cover • Jesus invites us to a holy meal. (pages 1 and 4) **Ask:** Can you remember some special events our family has been invited to celebrate? *Holidays, birthdays, weddings.* **Ask:** What happens at these celebrations? *Special food, games, prizes, gifts, clothes.* **Ask:** How do you feel when you are at these events? *Love, excitement, happiness.*

Invite your child to examine the photos on page 1 and tell you where they were taken. *In a church. At Mass. At a Baptism.* Remind your child that we are always invited to God's house and to Mass. Read aloud the page title. **Ask:** What is the holy meal that Jesus invites us to? *Mass, Holy Communion, the Eucharist.*

Now have your child open *Promise* so that the front and back (pages 1 and 4) lie flat and side by side. **Ask:** Which words and drawing go with each photo? Have your child point or draw lines from the words and drawings to the matching photos.

Story • Steve's Birthday Party. Tell the following story:

Steve's mom promised him that he could have a party on his seventh birthday and invite three friends. Steve helped his mom plan the food, games, and prizes. He made three invitations that said: "Come to my party this Saturday, 1 p.m." Steve gave one invitation to John, one to Pedro, and one to Mary.

On Tuesday at school, Mike and Terry said to Steve, "Are you having a birthday party? Can we come too?" Steve said, "Yes." That night he made two more invitations and gave them to Mike and Terry on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Mark and Samantha ran up to Steve on the playground. "Can we come to your party?" they asked. "OK," said Steve. He made two more invitations and gave them to

Mark and Samantha on Friday.

On Saturday morning, Steve helped get ready for the birthday party. He set eight places at the table. "Steve," said his mom, "you have set too many places." Steve looked at his mom and said, "Mark, Samantha, Mike, and Terry wanted to come too, so I invited them."

His mother laughed. "It's a good thing I baked a big cake and bought extra hats and prizes. We have room for all of your friends, Steve. Next time, please tell me how many guests you have invited." Then she gave Steve a big hug and said, "Happy Birthday!"

Ask: What kind of friend is Steve? Would you have invited all the children to your party? What kind of person is Steve's mother?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

Sunday Gospel • The Wedding Feast Explain that Jesus told a story about a king who wanted to give a wedding celebration and meal for his son.



Jesus said, “Listen to this parable about what God’s kingdom is like. Once there was a king whose son was getting married. The king decided to throw a big wedding feast. The king said to his messengers, ‘Go out and tell the people I invited that the feast is ready.’

“The messengers went out to share the message. They said, ‘Come and celebrate! Come to the king’s feast for his son who is getting married.’ But the people the king had invited would

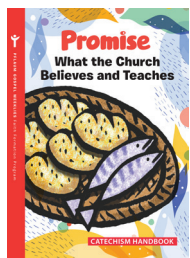
not come.

“The messengers went back to the king and said, ‘We went to the people you invited, but no one will come.’

“Then the king said, ‘The feast is ready. Go, invite everyone you see.’ The messengers went out and rounded up all kinds of people. They came to the feast to celebrate the wedding of the king’s son and his bride.”

Explain that the king is like Jesus’ Father in Heaven, who wants people to belong to the family of God and keeps inviting more and more guests. Point out that the children on the cover are at the big celebration of God’s people—the Mass.

- **Word of the Week • marriage (page 3)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week. Share this definition: *Marriage is when a man and a woman promise to love each other forever.* Explain that like Baptism, a wedding happens in a church because it is a special celebration of God’s love called a sacrament. The name of this sacrament is Matrimony.



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 16.** Read aloud the title. **Ask:** What is in the picture? Read aloud the words on the top half of the page and the directions in red. When your child has finished the tracing and coloring, **ask:** What is our church family’s special Sunday celebration called? *Mass.* *Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, pages 2-3.*

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • We celebrate with friends and food. (pages 2-3)** Open *Promise* to the inside pages. Read aloud the words and directions and invite your child to complete the activity.
- **Activity • God says, “Come to my house . . .” (page 4)** Help your child trace the letters with a crayon or pencil. Then read the words together. Remind your child that God invites us to a big celebration every week—Sunday Mass.
- **Closing Prayer** Take turns sharing names of people you celebrate Mass with. Mention the people who come with you and the people you see there, such as friends, classmates, your parish priest and/or deacon, etc. After each name, pray together, “Thank you, Jesus!” Finish with the Sign of the Cross.



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