

Sunday Gospel Background

The Pharisees in Sunday's Gospel want to trap Jesus into taking sides on the question of paying Roman taxes. They believe that accepting Roman rule in their country means they are not loyal to God and God's rules. Jesus' answer, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's," calls them and us to obey both civil and religious laws and to examine our allegiances when the two conflict. *Promise* focuses on belonging, building on experiences of belonging to a family, parish, team, and country. We become members of God's family through Baptism. Share photos and stories of your child's Baptism and talk about why you chose Baptism for your child.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, we are all safe in your hands. We know you love us all very much. We want to learn more about you and become better members of your family here on earth. Send your Holy Spirit to be with us today. Amen."
- Cover Activity (page 1)** **Ask:** What does it mean to belong? *Having people to do things with, people to care about you, friends to have fun with.* Invite your child to study the cover illustration closely. **Ask:** To what different groups does Jennifer belong? *Answers: Family, skating group, softball team, Brownies, dance group or class, USA, St. Mary's School, public library, parish/God's family.* Invite your child to name some of the groups to which he or she belongs.
- Story • A Home for Betsey** Tell your child that you know a story about a boy who didn't have a pet and a dog who didn't have a family.

Jacob was a happy boy. His family loved and cared for him. He belonged to St. Patrick's Church, where he and his family went to Mass every week. On his way home from school one day, Jacob saw a skinny dog. He tried to pet it, but it was scared and ran away.

Jacob walked home, and the dog followed him. The dog came into Jacob's yard and hid under the bushes. Jacob ran inside and told his mom about the dog. He set a dish of food and a bowl of water outside near the bushes, but the dog wouldn't come out. Jacob went inside and watched. The dog came and ate a little.

Day after day, Jacob put food and water out by the bushes

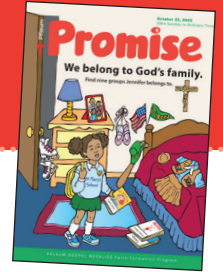
for the dog. One day, he stayed outside on the steps instead of going into the house. The dog looked at him but decided to come out and eat.

A few days later, Jacob stayed quietly next to the dishes of food and water. The dog came slowly toward Jacob and let him pet her head. "I'm going to name you Betsey," Jacob said. "You belong to our family now. You have a name and a home." Betsey wagged her tail and licked Jacob's nose.

Jacob took care of Betsey every day. His dad took care of Betsey when Jacob went to camp. His mother took care of Betsey when Jacob was at a friend's house. Betsey became a happy dog in her new family.

Discuss the story. **Ask:** How did Jacob show the dog that she belongs to their family? How did his parents help care for Betsey?

- Story • Carlos tells about a Baptism. (page 2)** **Ask:** How do we become members of God's family? *Baptism.* Read the story aloud together. **Ask:** What did Carlos see and hear at the Baptism? If your child has attended a baptism, share about it together. Or share what you remember about your child's Baptism. Conclude by saying that Maria's parents wanted her to be part of the Church and to follow Jesus.



Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • We Belong to God's Family** Ask: What do you know about taxes? What does the money we use to pay taxes look like? (*Show your child a dollar bill. Point out the person pictured.*) Then share the Gospel:

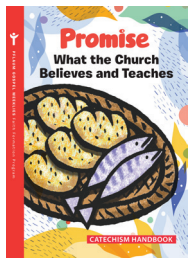
In Jesus' time, the people had to pay taxes to Caesar. He was the ruler. Some people thought that God's Law said they should not pay these taxes. The coins for paying the tax had a picture of Caesar on them.

A man said to Jesus: "We know that you are honest and say only what is right and true. Does God's Law say it is right to pay taxes to Caesar?"

Jesus answered, "Show me the coin that people use to pay the tax." One of them gave Jesus a small coin.

Jesus asked, "Whose face is on the coin?" The man answered, "Caesar's."

Jesus said: "If you have this coin, you should pay the taxes. Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God."



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 5. Read aloud the promises and questions, pausing to let your child mark answers with a pencil or crayon. Then turn to page 12. Explain that Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were the first people to follow our One God. Read about God's promise to Abraham. Invite your child to circle the stars in the picture. Read about God's promise to Moses. Ask: What does it mean to be God's people? How do God's people act?

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

- Word of the Week • Old Testament (page 3)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 3. Share this definition: *The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible. It tells the story of God's love for his people.* Explain that we learn about God's promises to Abraham and Moses from the Old Testament. If you have access to a Bible, invite your child to explore it. Show which part is the Old Testament.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • Our Family Prays Together Booklet (pages 3-4)** Have your child cut on the dashed cutting line. Show how to fold on the folding line so the title page is on top. Then fold the second piece so Morning Prayer is on top. Slip the Morning Prayer page inside the title page. Go through the booklet with your child and complete the activities. Keep the booklet handy so that you and your child can say the prayers together every day.
- Closing Prayer** Invite your child to repeat this prayer after you: I belong to God. / I belong to God's family. / I was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. / Thank you, God. 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