

Sunday Gospel Background

Once again this Sunday, Jesus uses a vineyard to represent the People of Israel for his audience. In Jesus' parable, the owner plants a vineyard and then looks for help to tend it. The people he hires rebel against him. Jesus is trying to convey to the religious leaders that they are tenants of God's vineyard, called to bear fruit by faithfully guiding his people. *Promise* does not use this part of the parable but concentrates on God's care for all Creation and our part in caring for it too.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your Creation. Help us to take good care of ourselves and your wonderful world. Amen."
- Cover Activity • God cares for all of Creation. (page 1)** Look at the cover together. **Ask:** What things did God create? *Children, apple tree, corn, squirrel, oak tree, oak seedling, plants.* Next, have your child turn to page 2 and place it faceup. Help your child fold and crease on the heavy black line at the bottom of the page. Turn the page over and show how to reverse the fold to show what is happening under the ground on the cover. Your child will now be able to identify the two green plants as potatoes and carrots.
- Story • Flowers aren't for walking on. (page 2)** Explain that you are going to tell a story about kids who took care of God's creation. Read the story below to your child.

Sister Maureen came to the first-grade room to teach science. "This is October," she said. "Now is the time to plant bulbs." She taught them that bulbs are different from seeds. Bulbs store food inside them so they can bloom early in spring without waiting for the ground to warm up and give them food.

Sister Maureen gave the first graders tulip bulbs to plant. Sheila and Danny helped dig up the ground by the front steps of the school. They made holes in the dirt for their bulbs, planted them, and covered them with dirt. They watered the ground so the bulbs could put down roots and store up food for blooming in the spring.

During the fall and winter, the tulip bulbs lay asleep in the ground. Snow covered the ground. Children from other grades walked over the place where the tulips were planted

when they came to school in the morning and after recess. Christmas came and went; then came spring rains and mud.

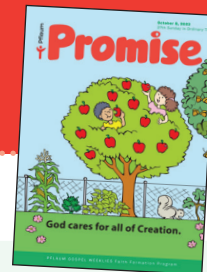
One day, the first graders came in from recess very upset. "Some of the big kids stepped on our flowers," Sheila said. Sister Maureen went outside with the first graders. There beside the school, the tulips were coming up. Two of the green spikes had been smashed by kids' feet. "We need a fence," said Danny. "And a sign," said Sheila.

The next day, Danny's father brought pieces of fence to school. The first graders made a sign that said, "Flowers Aren't for Walking On." They watched their tulips every day and watered them when the ground was dry. In April, their tulips bloomed for everyone in the school to enjoy.

Ask: Why did the first graders care so much about the flowers? *They had cared for them for a long time; they helped to plant and water them.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • A Man and His Vineyard** Tell this simplified adaptation of the Gospel:

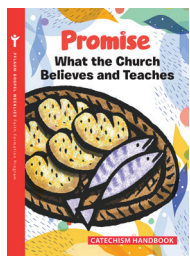


Jesus said, "Listen to this parable. A man owned a rocky hillside. The man loosened the rocks and dug up the dirt with his shovel. He dug holes in the dirt. In each hole, he planted a grapevine. The man planted a hedge like a fence around the vineyard. He built a watchtower, where he could look out for

robbers and animals. After all that work, the man felt tired and wanted to rent out his vineyard."

Jesus asked, "Who will care for the vineyard the way the owner did? He will rent it to people who will make sure the grapevines grow good fruit."

- Look at the *Promise* cover picture again and read aloud the words printed there. **Ask:** What are some examples of how God cares for you like the owner cared for his grapevines and the children cared for the tulips?



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 7. Introduce the page by explaining that when Jesus tells stories about God's vineyard, he means not just grapes but everything God created, including you and me. Read the rebus story together and have your child draw something God has made in the picture frame. Then read aloud the text at the bottom and have your child fill in his or her name on the lines.

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

- **Word of the Week • God (Promise, page 3)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 3. Share this definition: *God made the whole world. Everything God made is good. God made you and me.*

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Who is helping? (page 3)** **Ask:** What are the children doing here to make their yard beautiful? Invite your child to color the children who are helping or want to help.
- **Activity • We care for Creation. (page 4)** Turn back to page 2 and have your child cut out the four small pictures along the side and tape or glue them in the blank spaces on page 4. When the activity is completed, discuss how the children are caring for Creation.
- **Closing Prayer** Invite your child to stand with you and follow your gestures in this prayer:
Parent: Dear God, thank you for our beautiful world. (Hold hands out waist high)
Child: Thank you, God.
Parent: Dear God, thank you for our family and friends. (Raise palms to shoulder height)
Child: Thank you, God.
Parent: Dear God, thank you for loving us and caring for us. (Raise hands over your head)
Child: Thank you, God, thank you. Amen.
- **Family Corner (page 4)** Feel free to say the family prayer together every day this week. Use the Question of the Week as a conversation starter at dinner or while driving in the car.



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