



## 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 and leases the vineyard, and asks only to be given what is rightfully his. The tenants stone and kill the servants sent to collect the fruit and then kill the owner's son. 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. Jesus' reference to the cornerstone is a reference to himself. Jesus, not a physical stone, becomes the cornerstone of God's relationship to mankind. So, we see that we are called to bear fruit too.

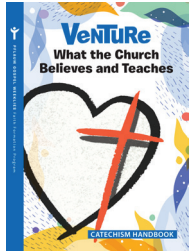
## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Thank you, Jesus, for gathering us here to learn more about you and follow you. Amen."
- Cover Activity • We Are a \_\_\_\_\_ (page 1)** Have your child complete the activity. Ask: Can you think of any groups you belong to that live by these eight sayings? *Teams, scouts, etc.*
- Story • Who's Perfect? (pages 2-3)** Some children are more comfortable talking to their teachers than being with their peers. Read this story aloud with your child, alternating the reading between you at each paragraph.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** The questions invite open-ended responses. *Answers: 1. Open-ended; he may be truly confident and unaware that his "perfect" behavior irritates others. Or he may be insecure and overcompensating for a poor self-image. 2. Adam may well be irritating; however, the other children are not being kind either. Open-ended; sometimes the best we can do is to separate from, or disengage with, people we find it hard to get along with. Treating a person who behaves as Adam does with kindness and patience are our best choices. 3. Open-ended. Hannah was honest with Adam without being unnecessarily mean, like the other children. We can hope that her words will help him.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

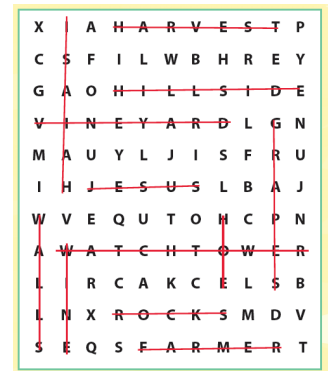
- Sunday Gospel • The Parable of the Renters (page 4)** Explain that you will hear another parable this week, this one also set in a vineyard. Divide the reading parts between you and your child. If they are available, invite other family members to read parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. The landowner expects the tenants to care for his vineyard and to give him the share of grapes they have agreed upon. Even though they didn't plant the vineyard, the tenants want all the grapes for themselves. They may think the owner is too far away to punish them. 2. Jesus wants the elders who oppose his teaching about God to know that God is indeed aware that they are not taking good care of his people and that they are resisting God's messenger, Jesus. 3. God expects us to be responsible for the human community and for the earth we have been given.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • The Church is God's Vineyard (page 4)** Read this feature aloud as a summary of the Gospel theme. If your child responds to journaling, use the first *Think* question as a journal prompt. Discuss the second question, and brainstorm ways your family can care for others and for the earth.



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 30. Read aloud section 2 on conscience. Explain that the word *conscience* has two parts: *con*, which means *with* and *science*, which means *knowledge*. Review the ways we form our conscience: taking time alone to think or pray, reading Scripture; seeking advice; and learning what the Church teaches.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to *VenTure*, page 5.

- **Our Catholic Faith • Vineyards Need Hard Work and Constant Care (page 5)** Look at the photo of the grapevine together and read the caption. If you have access to a Bible, help your child find Isaiah 5:1–7 and read it aloud together. **Ask:** How is this Old Testament reading like this Sunday's Gospel reading? Together, read aloud the article about the work that vineyards demand. **Ask:** Why is a vineyard a good Gospel metaphor? Have your child complete the word find.
- **Catholic Faith Word • Gospel (page 5)** Read aloud this week's definition. Remind your child that the vineyard parables are all part of Matthew's Gospel. **Ask:** Can you name all four Gospel writers? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*



## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Jesus Is the Cornerstone of Our Church (pages 6-7)** A key part of a parable is the lesson that is conveyed at the end. In this Sunday's Gospel, for example, Jesus warns the elders that by dismissing his message, they are rejecting the one who will become the foundation of the church, the cornerstone. Read aloud the introduction and Scripture at the top of page 6. Then invite your child to read the page silently and complete the time capsule activity on page 7. Your child might want to ask extended family members for items to include.
- **KidTalk • When has someone invited you into a group? How did it feel? (page 8)** Invite your child to choose three of the responses to read aloud. Take turns with your child sharing experiences of being invited to a group.
- **With My Family and Friends (page 8)** Invite your child to repeat the prayer throughout the week. Use the *Think* question as a journal prompt or family dinner discussion.
- **Closing Prayer • Pray the Rosary in October (page 7)** Read aloud the paragraphs about praying the Rosary. If you have a Rosary, pray the Joyful Mysteries together. If you do not have a Rosary, say the prayers on page 52 of *What the Church Believes and Teaches*.



## 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