



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. The Pharisees know that Jesus is honest. We follow Jesus when we are honest and tell the truth. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" is the Eighth Commandment. Bearing false witness means telling a lie. This story makes an excellent starting point for conversations with your child about honesty.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, we want to learn more about you and become better members of your family here on earth. Help us to follow Jesus to the truth. Amen."
- Cover Activity (page 1)** Ask: What decisions have you already made today? *Getting up when called, deciding which clothes to wear and what to eat for breakfast, etc.* Have your child mark his or her choices on the cover activity. For each scenario, ask: Which choice is honest? Which choice follows Jesus?
- Story • The Friend Decision (page 2)** Invite your child to guess from the story title and pictures what might be happening. Read the story aloud together.
- Activity (page 3)** Together, decide what the problem is in The Friend Decision story. *Kevin lied to Josh. Josh is hurt.* Invite your child to imagine and write down two things Kevin can do about the problem and what the consequences of these actions might be:
 - Kevin can: *say I'm sorry; say mean things to Josh; lie again and say his mom made him play with Max; ask Josh if it is OK if Max uses the bike path they made.*
 - Possible result: *Josh forgives Kevin for lying to him; all three boys bike together; Josh goes home mad; Max leaves; Kevin is mad at Josh and Max.*

After time for reflection and discussion, have your child fill in what Kevin should say. Ask: How do you think Kevin should respond the next time Josh calls? Note that decisions involving other people are harder than decisions about what to eat or wear.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

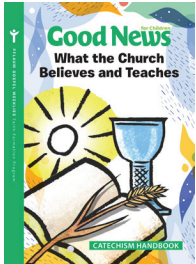
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is Honest and Fair (page 3)** Explain that in Jesus' time, the Romans ruled the area where Jesus lived. Jesus' people had to pay taxes to the Romans. They had to use a special coin with a picture of the Roman Emperor Caesar on it for the taxes. The coin in the Gospel drawing has Caesar's picture on it. Proclaim the Gospel by reading the four parts with your child. You might have to read more than one part. Or, read all of the parts yourself, pausing frequently and inviting your child to say or show how Jesus felt and acted as he listened to the Pharisees and answered them.

Explain that the Pharisees are trying to trap Jesus into taking sides on the question of paying Roman taxes. Pharisees thought that accepting Roman rule in their country and paying taxes to the Romans meant they were not loyal to God and God's rules.



These Pharisees are not interested in the truth. They want to trick Jesus into saying something that shows he doesn't honor God—and possibly get him in trouble with the Romans too.

- Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.** Refer back to the title of the Gospel and encourage your child to include honest and fair words and actions in answer to the first question.
- Catholic Faith Word • Pharisees (page 4)** Read the definition aloud. Explain that Jesus sometimes challenged the Pharisees and even called them hypocrites. This means that they may have looked like they were following God by obeying all God's laws, but they did not always let God into their hearts.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read together "We Tell the Truth." Explain that Jesus called himself "the way and *the truth* and the life" (John 14:6, italics added). Jesus asks all of his followers to value the truth and be honest.



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 9.** Explain that you've learned about God our Father and Creator. Here we'll read about Jesus, God's Son. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 9. **Ask:** What or who is the very best way to know God? *Jesus.* **Ask:** What does Jesus teach us about God? *God loves us.* Invite your child to draw a favorite story about Jesus. Discuss what the story tells us about God.
Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • Kinds of Lies (page 4)** Refer to the Eighth Commandment on page 4. Remind your child about the Third Commandment, which you learned about last week. **Ask:** What is the Third Commandment? *Keep the Lord's Day holy.* Explain that obeying the Third Commandment helps us have a good relationship with God. Keeping the Eighth Commandment helps us have good relationships with one another.

Read aloud the Kinds of Lies. **Ask:** What kind of lie did Kevin tell? *2. To not hurt someone's feelings.* **Ask:** Did Kevin's lie hurt anyone's feelings? Next, read aloud the introduction to the activity and do one of the lie sentences together. Then give your child some time to read the rest of the lies and make judgments independently. Make the possible consequences of the lies the focus of a discussion about them.

- Closing Prayer** "Loving God, help us to always be honest, fair, and kind to one another." Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.



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