



## Sunday Gospel Background

Jesus continues to use parables in this Sunday's Gospel, telling of a king who wants to share the joy of his son's wedding. Don't we all want to share good times with others? This parable, however, has a deeper meaning. Jesus invites us to share in the greatest celebration ever, the gift of the Holy Eucharist. This parable asks us what kind of guests we are. Do we ignore the invitation, or do we go with joy? Do we participate in Holy Mass, or are we like statues in the pews? Do we welcome everyone, remembering that God invites all people to the banquet table of the Eucharist on earth and to his heavenly banquet?

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Today we pray for children who regularly do not have enough to eat. We pray for hungry refugee children and children in shelters. We pray for children in... [invite your child to mention places where children are hungry]. We will carry these children in our hearts throughout the day. Jesus, we ask you to care for them and help us find ways to share with them. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Jesus Cares for Everyone (page 1)** Give your child time to work on the quiz, then discuss the answers together. *Answers: 1. A. True (worldhunger.org); 2. A; more than 60 percent of senior citizens who use food pantries report that they must choose between paying for groceries and medical care; nearly 5.5 million seniors in America face hunger (feedingamerica.org); 3. A; while access to nutritious, affordable food is a greater challenge in urban and rural areas, the number of hungry families is growing fastest in the suburbs (U.S. Department of Education, frontiergroup.org); 4. C; hunger and malnutrition make children more vulnerable to contracting diseases; they are also likely to be more adversely affected by disease (worldhunger.org, UNICEF); 5. C; 34 million Americans, including 9 million children, experience food insecurity (USDA, feedingamerica.org); 6. A. Though these items are commonly on their "wish lists," many food pantries publish lists of most needed items; 7. A (hungerfreeamerica.org)*
- Article • Cynthia's Kitchen (pages 2-3)** Explain that this story is really two stories in one. The first is the story of Mary's Meals, an organization that provides a good daily meal to two million children around the world. The other story is about Carlin and his friend Cynthia. Take turns reading each paragraph of the article aloud.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers. 1. This meal can remind us of what we have—and what others don't. It can teach gratitude and raise awareness. 2. Carlin was sad about his friend's death; it was the opportunity to raise money for Mary's Meals that made Carlin feel God was calling him. 3. Open-ended; this Sunday's Gospel is about Jesus inviting us to a feast. Discuss ways your child might use talents or interests to help others. 4. Open ended; prayer can give you the courage, guidance and strength to do something that might seem too big or too hard; it can open your heart to what God has in mind for you. 5. Open-ended. (You can find some ideas under the "Get Involved" tab at marysmeals.org.)*

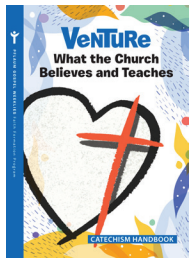
## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Invites Us to a Feast (page 4)** Read aloud the parts of Narrator, Jesus, and King with your child. You may have to take two parts, or invite other family members to participate, if available.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Refusing means that a person regards the invite as unimportant or that they don't care for the host or others who have been invited. The king wants to share his joy and have a full house. 2. Jesus uses parables to help people recognize their own poor choices. By not accepting Jesus as the Messiah, the chief priests and Pharisees are rejecting God's*



invitation. 3. A party, specifically a wedding, is a time to welcome people, share food with them, and make sure everyone has a good time. A party creates community. 4. He is the one who is not ready to accept God; he is unprepared. It's a warning to us, that we should live our lives in preparation for life with God.

- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • God Invites Everyone to His Feast (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine associated with this Sunday's Gospel.
- **Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; attending Mass, praying, and helping others are all ways we can respond positively to God's invitation. 2. Open-ended.*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 15.** Explain that this section presents Mass as a family reunion. After reading the page, share memories of family events such as wedding receptions or family reunions. Talk about what was most fun or memorable. Turn to page 21 and together, read the four paragraphs about Eucharist in the second column. Talk about how the Eucharist is about thanks and praise. Have your child silently read the rest of the section, to page 23.

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

- **Catholic Faith Word • Liturgy (page 5)** Introduce the *Our Catholic Faith* feature by reading the definition aloud.
- **Our Catholic Faith • Liturgy Is the Church's Public Worship (page 5)** Ask your child to identify the part of the Mass in each photo; then read this article on the two main parts of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. **Ask:** What are some ways the Mass is like a meal? *People gather to eat together; the altar is a table; the Body and Blood of Christ are food.* Have your child use the words from the column on the right to complete the activity. *Answers: 1. First and Second Readings, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Reading, Homily, Profession of Faith, Prayer of the Faithful; 2. Preparation of the Gifts, Eucharistic Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, Sign of Peace, Holy Communion.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Welcome! God's Banquet Is for Everyone (pages 6–7)** Together, read the first column on page 6 and the directions for the activity. Have your child take the lead, brainstorming ideas aloud or working alone and sharing ideas with you when finished. As an alternative to working in pairs, you might ask your child the questions listed in the activity.
- **Puzzle • Celebration Puzzle (page 8)** Invite your child to solve the puzzle. *Answers: Thanksgiving, Confirmation, homecoming, victory, shower, birthday, wedding, party*
- **Closing Prayer** Just as we do before sharing the Eucharist at Mass, join hands and pray the Lord's Prayer together.



## 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