



Sunday Gospel Background

Both the Gospel and the Old Testament readings this Sunday call us to share not only from our excess but from what we need to sustain us. In Sunday's Gospel, a poor widow gives all she has to the Temple treasury. Jesus calls attention to her because, unlike the wealthy people who contribute out of their abundance, she gives what little she has.

Share Experiences

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

- ☐ **Pray together** Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Invite your child to respond "Amen" to each statement: God is love. / God gives us love. / Love means that we share. / Love means that we care. / God is love.
- ☐ **Activity • The Giving Game (page 2)** Read aloud the game directions. If the coin lands on tails, players each choose *one* thing from your game board that you can give away. If the coin lands on heads, both players put game markers over *two* pictures of things you could give away.
- ☐ **Story • What Can I Give?** Tell this story about three children who wanted to give away some of their possessions.

When Father Martin told the children in *Promise* class that they could bring some of their toys for the Thanksgiving collection at church, Marcy, Michael, and Malay were excited. Marcy went home and looked at all the toys in her room. She couldn't decide if she should give the Candy Land game, her castle, or Raggedy Ann. "I know," said Marcy. "I will give my doll who has her own high chair. That will be a really special gift."

Michael went to his room and got out all the pieces of his

farm set. He had sheep and cows and pigs, a tractor and a barn, and lots of other pieces. "I know," said Michael. "I have a lot of farm animals. I will give one of every animal. One sheep, one pig, one cow, and one pony."

Malay went home to talk to Little Bear Blue, her only stuffed animal friend. "I love you, Bear Blue," Malay said, "but some little girl has never had a friend like you. You can go to the Thanksgiving collection. You can make someone else happy."

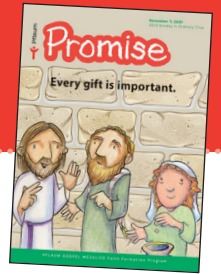
Ask: Which child probably found it easiest to give something away? Which child probably found it hardest? Take your time with this discussion. Its purpose is to help children understand it is usually harder to give away or share the only thing we have than it is to give away or share one among many things. Conclude the discussion by asking your child which of his or her toys is easiest or hardest to share with others.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

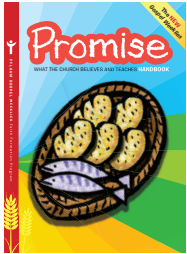
- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Every gift is important. (page 1)** Look at the cover picture with your child. **Ask:** Who do you see? Where do you think they are? Explain that they are in the Temple, the holiest place for Jewish people like Jesus. **Ask:** What do you think Jesus is saying to his friend about the woman? Explain that we will find out in the Gospel:

Jesus was sitting in the Temple near the offering jars and watching people put in their gifts. He noticed that many rich people were giving a lot of money. A poor widow came up and put in two coins that were worth only a few pennies.

Jesus told his disciples to gather around him. Then he said: "This poor widow has put in more than all the others. Everyone else gave their extra money. But she is very poor and gave everything she had to live on."



Ask: Why did Jesus say the poor widow put in more than the others? *She didn't just give extra money; she gave all the money she had even though it wasn't very much.* Point out that she was loving God with her whole heart, mind, and strength. She trusted that God would take care of her like he promised. Explain that she is probably a saint in Heaven even though we don't know her name. If we want to be saints in Heaven someday, we need to be generous and love God like the poor widow did. **Ask:** What gifts can you give to God? *Love, attention, prayer, kindness to others.* **Ask:** When do we give to God at Mass? *Offertory collection.* **Ask:** What is presented along with our gifts of money? *Bread and wine that will become Jesus' Body and Blood.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 24. If you have an image or statue of Mary or another saint, place it in the center of your learning space and share some background about the saint. Explain that a saint is a person who lived like Jesus and is now in Heaven. **Ask:** What saints have we learned about recently? *Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Katharine Drexel, the poor widow.* Remind your child about the celebration of All Saints' Day on November 1.

Take turns reading the top three paragraphs on page 24. Have your child complete the activity. **Answer:** *SAINTS.*

Help your child find page 19 in the handbook. Read the page and the directions. Give your child time to complete the activity. **Answers:** *Mary, All Saints, Elizabeth, Patrick, Peter and Paul, Therese, Nicholas.*

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, page 2.

- **Word of the Week • saint (page 2)** Print the word *saint* for your child to see. Share this definition: *A saint is a person who lived like Jesus and is now in Heaven.*

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • I Can Give (pages 3-4)** **Ask:** Do gifts always have to cost money? What kind of gifts can we give that don't cost money? Have your child cut out the gift certificate slips. On the back of each one, invite your child to draw or write a way to give to someone. Help to fold the "I Can Give" envelope by bringing the two parts of the heart together. Staple, glue, or tape the envelope where marked. Invite your child to complete the gift certificates, place them in the envelope, and decide who to give them to.

- **Closing Prayer** Lead your child in this simple adaptation of Psalm 148. After you read each line, your child responds, "Praise God!"

Sun and moon... / Snow and rain... / Mountains and forests... / Flowers and fruits... / Jungle animals and farm animals... / Birds and crawling things... / Girls and boys... / Everyone and everything... / 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