

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of a vineyard owner who needs workers. He pays workers hired for only an hour's work the same day's wage as those hired at dawn. This story is not really about wages. It's about God's love, which abounds for all of us.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, help us learn and grow together as your children. Amen."
- Story • Grandpa's Chair (page 2)** **Ask:** Who do you like to visit? What is fun about visiting that person? Tell your child that you know a story about a grandpa. Invite your child to listen to find out why his chair is special.

"Yay! Grandma and Grandpa's house!" Charley shouted. His dad pulled in the driveway. His mom unbuckled Charley's seatbelt and lifted him out. "Thank you," Charley said with a smile. "I want to be the first one in the Welcome Chair."

Charley ran to the front door where Grandma was waiting. "Hi, Grandma," Charley said and gave her a hug. Grandma hugged him back and laughed, "The Welcome Chair is waiting for you."

Charley ran down the hall past the kitchen to the family room. There sat Grandpa in the Welcome Chair. "Welcome, Charley, Number One Grandson," Grandpa said. "Climb up beside me." Charley climbed on Grandpa's lap. Grandpa hugged him and gave the handle on the chair a push. The chair went back, and Grandpa's feet went up. Charley laughed. "Can I push the button that makes the chair warm?" he asked. "Go ahead," said Grandpa. Charley wiggled in next to Grandpa. They felt the chair get warm.

Charley heard footsteps. His cousin Izzy came running in.

"Hi, Grandpa!" she said. "Can I come up too?" "You sure can, Miss Izzy," Grandpa said. "There's lots of room." Izzy climbed up. The Welcome Chair was big enough for Charley, Grandpa, and Izzy.

"Look, here's itty bitty Ike," Grandpa said. Izzy's mother walked into the room, carrying Ike. "Would you like to hold him?" she asked. "Set him on my lap," said Grandpa. Now Charley, Grandpa, Izzy, and Ike were all in the big Welcome Chair.

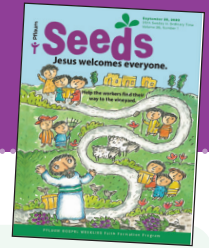
A bark made everyone look up. Two big white dogs bounded into the room. They tried to climb in the Welcome Chair too. "This is too much," Grandpa said, laughing. Grandpa handed Ike back to his mother. He set Izzy on the floor by the chair. "Charley, turn off the warm button, then hold on, we're going in for a landing." Grandpa pulled the lever. The chair and his feet both went down. Charley jumped off. Grandpa got up slowly.

"We can come back to the chair after lunch," Grandpa told Charley. "Just in time for the football game."

Ask: What made the chair the Welcome Chair? *Grandpa's love and happiness.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • God is generous.** Go to the cover of *Seeds* and look at Jesus together. **Ask:** What do you think Jesus is saying? Explain that Jesus often taught with stories like this one. Then read this Sunday's Gospel aloud:



Jesus told his followers this parable: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who owned a vineyard where grapes are grown. He went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He hired some workers and said he would pay them for a day’s work.

At nine o’clock, the man needed more workers. He told them: ‘Please go and work in my vineyard. I will pay you what is fair.’ The man went out again at noon, three o’clock, and five o’clock to hire more workers.

Soon evening came. The vineyard owner told his manager to pay the workers. He told him: ‘Begin by paying the ones I

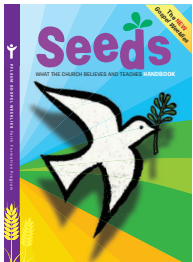
hired last. End with the ones I hired first.’

The workers who started working at the end of the day were paid for a whole day’s work. The ones who worked all day were paid the same. They were unhappy and grumbled. They said, ‘The last people you hired worked only one hour. You paid them the same as you paid us. We worked all day in the heat. It’s not fair!’

The man who owned the vineyard said: ‘I am not cheating you. You agreed to work for a day’s pay. Can’t I do what I want with my money? Are you upset because I am generous?’”

Jesus said, “The last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Explain that Jesus told this story to tell us how much God loves everyone. God is generous. We all get God’s love. Retell the story together, using the cover picture.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook and complete page 4 (We Make the Sign of the Cross) together. Explain that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are Three Persons in One God. We honor and praise God whenever we make the Sign of the Cross. Practice making the Sign of the Cross when you pray before meals and when your child goes to bed.

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

Live the Gospel

- Activity • Jesus welcomes me.** Turn to page 3 of *Seeds* and look at the drawing of Jesus. **Ask:** Does Jesus look angry or happy? Mean or friendly? Read the words aloud. Relate back to the story of Grandpa’s Chair to review what *welcome* means. Recall the vineyard owner in the Gospel and how *generous* he was. Invite your child to color the picture.
- Word of the Week • Creator** Have your child find **Creator** on page 3. **Say:** *We call God our Creator because he made our world and everything in it.*
- Offer help, if needed, to complete page 4. Sign and date the certificate.
- Conclude by praying the Family Prayer in the Family Corner on page 3 in the *Seeds* lesson.



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