

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the chief priests and elders a parable about a father who asks his two sons to work in his vineyard. The first son refuses, but later changes his mind. The second son says he will go, but he doesn't follow through. The vineyard here symbolizes the People of Israel. Jesus is challenging the religious leaders—and us—to do the Father's will and follow through like the first son by caring for all people, especially the poor and the sick.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, thank you for this time together. Bless our family and help us to make good choices. Amen."
- Story • Michael Makes Choices** A coloring page to accompany this story is available at gospelweeklies.com/lessonupdates. Tell your child you know a story about a boy named Michael who couldn't decide what to wear to visit his grandma. **Say:** Listen carefully to how Michael got ready:

Michael's family was getting ready to go to Grandma's house. Michael's mom was packing a picnic lunch. Michael's dad was checking the oil in the car engine. "Michael, where are you?" Mom called. "I'm here," Michael said. Mom looked up. There was Michael, looking like a roly-poly clown. He had so many clothes on that Mom could hardly tell who he was.

"What are you wearing, Michael?" Mom asked. Michael pointed to the logo on his jacket. "My Colorado Rockies jacket that Uncle Dave gave me," he said. "It might rain, and Uncle Dave said this jacket is waterproof." Michael unzipped the jacket. Underneath, he had on a Notre Dame sweatshirt. "This is the sweatshirt Dad won at church," Michael said. "I want to

show it to Grandma."

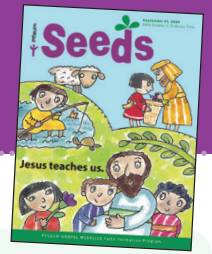
Mom pointed to the red cuffs peeking out of Michael's sleeve. "What is this?" Mom asked. Michael pulled up the sweatshirt to show Mom the red turtleneck with Groveland Cardinals written on it in white. "It's my t-ball shirt," Michael said. "Dad said we could practice in Grandma's yard." "I see one more shirt," said Mom. Michael pulled up the red turtleneck to show Mom a faded yellow T-shirt. "That's so I can play in Grandma's barn and get as dirty as I want," said Michael.

Mom laughed. "You've made a lot of choices, Michael. It looks like you're ready for everything. Dad and I are ready too. Let's go to Grandma's."

Ask: What shirts did Michael choose? How did you choose what shirt or shoes to wear today?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • The Story of Two Sons** Explain that every Sunday we hear a story from a long time ago about Jesus, or a story Jesus told his friends. When we listen to these stories, Jesus is teaching us now. Listen to hear what Jesus is teaching us in this Sunday's Gospel:



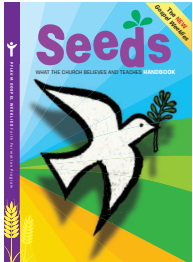
Jesus told this story: "What do you think about this? A father had two sons. One day, he came to the first son and said, 'Son, I need you to work in the vineyard today.' The son answered, 'No, I will not.' But later, the son changed his mind and went to work in the vineyard."

"The man went to his other son and said, 'Son, I want you to work in the vineyard today.' The second son said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But the son never went to the vineyard."

Jesus asked, "Which son did what the father asked?"

Ask: What do you think the answer is? This story teaches us that if we make not-so-good choices, we can change our minds and make better choices.

- Cover Activity • Jesus teaches us. (page 1)** Retell the Gospel story to each other using the picture. Explain that the first son helped his father, even though he said no at the beginning. The second son chose not to help.
- Activity • I can choose. (pages 2-3)** Look at the pictures together. Invite your child to describe what choices each child has in front of him or her. **Ask:** Which choice would you make? There is no right or wrong answer. Affirm your child's choices.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 6. **Ask:** Have you ever heard church bells? What do church bells tell us? Call your child's attention to the people entering the church. Explain that they heard the bells that call them to worship God. Have your child finish drawing the bells and then color them.
Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Seeds, page 2.

- Word of the Week • Mass (Seeds, page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: We gather at **Mass** to remember and thank Jesus.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • My Basket of Choices (page 4)** Refer to the choosing activities on pages 2–3. **Ask:** What were the choices for the girl who was choosing a snack? *Grapes, goldfish, cookies.* Which is the healthiest snack? *Grapes.* Invite your child to find the grapes in the basket on page 4 and color the fruit. When finished, show your child how to make the fold to open and close the basket: Place *Seeds* facedown. Bring the bottom of *Seeds* up until you see the dotted fold line. Fold. Turn *Seeds* over. Take your bottom fold up to the line near the top. Make a new fold when the bottom fold meets the top line.
- Closing Prayer** **Ask:** What or whom would you like our family to pray for today? Pray together silently for your child's intention.



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