

Sunday Gospel Background

Once again this Sunday, Jesus uses vineyard imagery. In Jesus' parable, a man cares lovingly for his vineyard and looks forward to a rich harvest of delicious fruit. We are God's vineyard, the object of God's care and the fruit of God's grace. *Seeds* puts the Gospel within young children's reach by concentrating the lesson on growing things, the care they take, and the care children can give. Your child will develop an image of Jesus as the one who wants us to prosper and grow. God takes care of us like the landowner took care of his vines.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Dear Jesus, I'm growing every day. Help me grow in love for you and others. Amen."
- Story • Leila Learns to Ride a Bike** **Ask:** How do you know your body is growing? *Getting taller, clothes don't fit, shoes too tight, can reach things.* Explain that as our bodies grow, our minds grow too. Tell the following story:

Every day, Leila asked her dad, "When will I be big enough to ride a bicycle?" Every day, her dad answered, "When your legs are long enough to reach the pedals." Once a week, Leila's dad measured her on the chart behind the kitchen door. Leila could tell she was growing. Her mom had to buy new shoes to fit her growing feet. Leila could get a drink at the park without anyone lifting her up. Best of all, she could run and play longer without getting tired. Leila hoped that soon she

would get a bicycle to ride.

One day, Leila's dad came home early from work. He asked Leila to go for a ride with him in the car. Leila was surprised when they stopped in front of the bike shop. "Leila, you're big enough for your own bicycle," said Dad. Leila was so excited! The store clerk measured her. He found a pretty blue bike that was just the right size. Dad helped Leila learn how to ride. In a few weeks, Leila could ride her bike all around the playground.

Discuss the story and your child's own experiences riding a bike. **Ask:** What are the signs that Leila was getting big enough for a bicycle?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

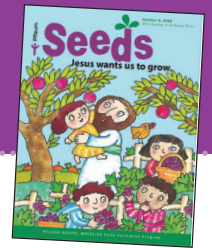
- Sunday Gospel • God's Vineyard. (page 1)** Read this adaptation of the Gospel:

Jesus said, "Listen to this parable. A man owned a rocky hillside. Nothing grew there, nothing at all. It was too rocky. The man loosened the rocks and dug up the dirt with his shovel. He used the rocks to make terraces, like stairs up the hillside. On the terraces, he dug deep holes. In each hole, he planted a grapevine. The man planted a hedge like a fence

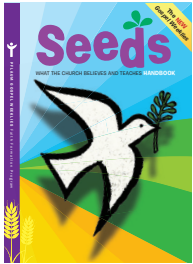
around the vineyard. He built a watchtower, where he could look out for robbers and animals. After all that work, the man felt tired and wanted to rent out his vineyard."

Jesus asked, "Who will care for the vineyard the way the owner did? He will rent it to people who will make sure the grapevines grow good fruit."

- Help your child retell the story. **Ask:** What did the landowner do to help the vines grow? *He built a wall to keep them safe from people and animals.* **Ask:** What did God do to help the vines grow? *Rain, sun, fertile soil.*



- **Talk** about the cover illustration with your child. **Ask:** Can you list all the things that are growing in the picture, including the children? Explain that in the same way that God takes care of the vineyard, God takes care of all the living things in our world. God also takes good care of us and helps us grow. Read the cover sentence. Explain that Jesus, who is God's Son, loves us and wants us to grow and get strong.
- **Word of the Week • God (page 3)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 3. Share this definition: God made the whole world. Everything that God made is good. God made you and me.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 20. Explain that God made the world and all that's in it. God alone creates something from nothing. Human beings can make plans and build bridges, write books and compose music. They can develop medicine to cure diseases. Yet all of these human creations are made from materials God made from nothing long ago. Invite your child to color the picture on pages 20-21.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Seeds, pages 2-3.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Growing, growing, growing! (Seeds pages 2-3)** Have your child open *Seeds* to pages 2-3. Invite your child to identify the three pictures across the top—the stages of growth of a pumpkin. Direct your child's attention to the three pictures at the bottom of the page. **Ask:** How are the children different in each picture? How do you know the child is growing?
- **Activity • What helps me grow? (page 4)** Have your child turn to page 4 and look at the four photos on the right. Read the words across the top. **Say:** Did you know that your job right now is to grow healthy and strong? Discuss each picture, asking if the object or activity is something that will help your child's mind and body grow. If it is, have your child put a big X in the box by that photo.
- **Activity • I am growing. (page 4)** Help your child fill in the blanks inside the picture of the growing child on page 4. Show how to cut with a safety scissors on the vertical line.

Have your child place the cut out figure facedown on the floor or workspace and follow your direction. Bring the bottom of the figure up to the top of the page. Fold the figure in half on the fold line. Fold under on the other fold line. Open the folds and turn the figure face up. Bring the bottom fold up to the top fold line. Make a third fold here. Open and close to show how to make the child grow. Display the cut figure in your home if you'd like.

- **Closing Prayer** "Thank you, God, for helping us to grow in our bodies and in our loving actions. Help us take good care of our bodies so that we can always love you and others. Amen."
- **Family Corner (page 3)** Feel free to say the family prayer together every day this week. Use the Question of the Week as a conversation starter at dinner or while driving in the car.



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