

## 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. This parable is especially poignant for us now, as we have spent so much time apart from those we love, unable to share in celebrations and large gatherings with friends and extended family. Jesus' parable, however, has even deeper meaning. He invites us to share in the greatest celebration ever, the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Now, with churches in different stages of reopening, the parable takes on new meaning. What kind of guests are we? Do we ignore Christ's invitation, or do we go with joy? Do we participate in the Mass, as we are able to do so? 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** "Dear Jesus, help us to be like you—kind to others and ready to share with everyone. Amen."
- ☐ **Story • Stephanie's Party** Ask: What can you tell me about a party you have been to? Then tell this story:

There was a little girl named Stephanie. She was almost four years old. Stephanie's birthday was coming up. She really wanted to have a party. She asked her mom, and her mom said yes.

"Since you will be four, you may invite four friends," Stephanie's mom said. Stephanie had lots of friends and finally decided which four to invite: Tammy, Karla, Joey, and Louann.

Stephanie was very excited because this was her first birthday party. Each day, she counted the days until her party. Two more days. One more day.

The morning of the party, Stephanie woke up early to help her mom get everything ready. As they were blowing up red and white balloons, the telephone rang. It was Tammy's mother. "Tammy got sick last night," she said. "She won't be able to come to the birthday party." Stephanie felt sad

because Tammy was a good friend.

Then the doorbell rang. When Stephanie opened the door, Karla was standing there. "I can't come to your party," Karla said. "My dad is taking us to see my grandma who is sick."

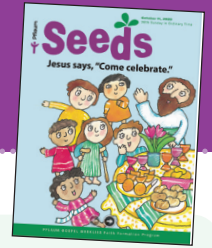
Just as Stephanie closed the door, the phone rang again. It was Joey's mother saying Joey had the chicken pox. Then Louann's parents stopped on their way to take Louann to the emergency room. She had fallen off the trampoline.

Stephanie was very sad that no one could come to her party. Her mom sat down and explained that these things can happen. They are called emergencies. But they could still have a party. They called Mary Ann, the lady across the street, and invited her and her grandson, Joshua. Then they called the twins, Maria and Mateo, who lived next door. They were three years old. They were all happy to come. They all had a fun time.

- ☐ **Activity • How do we celebrate? (page 4)** Show your child the back page of *Seeds*. Ask your child to color the pictures that help make a party and to draw an X on the things that don't.

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- ☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus says, "Come celebrate." (page 1)** Introduce the Gospel by explaining that Jesus liked to tell stories to his friends—like this one. Then read the story.



Jesus said, "Listen to this parable about what God's kingdom is like. Once there was a king whose son was getting married. The king decided to throw a big wedding feast. The king said to his messengers, 'Go out and tell the people I invited that the feast is ready.'

"The messengers went out to share the message. They said, 'Come and celebrate! Come to the king's feast for his son who is getting married.' But the people the king had invited would

not come.

"The messengers went back to the king and said, 'We went to the people you invited, but no one will come.'

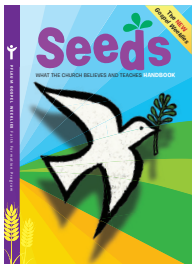
"Then the king said, 'The feast is ready. Go, invite everyone you see.' The messengers went out and rounded up all kinds of people. They came to the feast to celebrate the wedding of the king's son and his bride."

Here are some questions you can ask your child to help review the story:

- What was this story about?
- How did the king feel when no one would come?
- How did the king feel at the party?
- Did they have fun after all?

Invite your child to look at the cover of *Seeds*. Jesus is saying, "Come celebrate." He has food on the table and is inviting the children to come. **Ask:** How is Jesus like the king in the story? Are these children happy to come to Jesus' celebration? How does that make Jesus feel?

- ☐ **Word of the Week • marriage (page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: **Marriage** is when a man and a woman promise to love each other forever.



- ☐ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 25. Ask your child to find Jesus in the picture. Explain the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1-11) in your own words. Then set up a simple family party. You might gather at your family table. Give everyone a cup of juice and a small plate with a cookie or two. Have your child repeat the words of blessing after you: Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

## Live the Gospel

- ☐ **Activity • Who celebrates with Jesus? (Seeds pages 2-3)** Have your child open *Seeds* so that pages 2-3 are flat and facing up. Point to a house and say: This is your house, and you want to go to church. **Ask:** How do you get there? Do you walk? Do you go in a car? Invite your child to share how to go to church and how neighbors might go to church. **Say:** Take your finger and trace the car out of the garage and down the street to the parking lot. Park your car in the parking lot. Get out and walk. Look at all the people coming to church. **Ask:** What's the name of our church? **Say:** Jesus invites us to his celebration every Sunday at his house, the church. It is called the Mass.

- ☐ **Closing Prayer** Loving God, thank you for celebrations of love. Amen.



## 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