## Sunday Gospel Background

The Pharisees in Sunday's Gospel want to trap Jesus into taking sides on the question of paying Roman taxes. They believe that accepting Roman rule in their country means they are not loyal to God and God's rules. Jesus' answer, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's," calls them—and us—to obey both civil and religious laws and to examine our allegiances when the two conflict. *Seeds* focuses on Jesus' command to give to God what is God's and provides experiences of praising God. Provide frequent reminders to your child about the wonders God has created.

## Share Experiences

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

☐ **Pray together** "Dear God, you are with us in all that we do; when we laugh and talk; when we work and play. We love you, God. Thank you for loving us. Amen."

☐ **Story • Michael's Surprise Job** A coloring page to accompany this story is available at gospelweeklies.com/lessonupdates. Show your child the picture on page 2. **Ask:** Can you guess what today's story is about? Then read or tell this story:

Michael was busy pushing his toy car down a building-block ramp when his mom came in the room.

"Michael, I'd like you to be my helper today. I have a very important job and could really use your help," Mom said. "What's the job?" Michael asked. "I'll keep it a secret for a little while," said Mom. "We have to drive there. I'll give you clues as we get ready and go on our way. We'll see if you can guess." "OK!" said Michael, full of excitement. "Let's go!" "First, put on your old shoes while I get some tools from the garage," Mom said. She went out of the kitchen and into the garage.
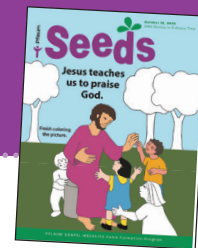
Michael found his old muddy shoes by the garage door. He saw his mom putting a brown bag and some tools into the back of the truck. "Do you have a hammer in there?" Michael asked as he tried to peek into the truck. "So we can pound stuff?" "No hammer," was all that Mom would say. "Do you have a screwdriver?" Michael asked. Mom shook her head no as she and Michael got into the truck and drove away.

"We're going to a big, big house that has a big yard," Mom said. "Can you guess?" "Yeah, we're going to Felipe's house!" Michael squealed with excitement. "No, this house is bigger and even more special than Felipe's house," Mom said. "Are we going to Grandpa's farm?" Michael asked. "No, not to Grandpa's farm," Mom answered. Michael was beginning to get tired of the guessing game and said, "Mom, I can't guess. Just tell me."

"We're here," Mom said as she stopped the car. Michael looked out the window. "Here?" he asked. "But this is our church." "That's right," Mom said. "The church is God's house. We're going to plant tulip bulbs in the yard. The tulips will rest in the ground all winter. In the spring, beautiful flowers will bloom. This is one way we can praise God and show our love." "Did God ask us to plant flowers by the church?" Michael asked. His mom answered, "God wants each of us to make our world the best place it can be. We'll plant our tulip bulbs to make the church yard more beautiful. Everyone can enjoy the pretty flowers when they come to visit God's house."

☐ **Activity • Find the hidden tulips. (page 2)** Invite your child to find and circle the eight hidden tulips on page 2.

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

☐ **Sunday Gospel • Jesus tells us to give to God.** Read this adaptation of the Gospel or tell it in your own words:

In Jesus' time, the people had to pay taxes to Caesar. He was the ruler. Some people thought that God's Law said they should not pay these taxes. The coins for paying the tax had a picture of Caesar on them.
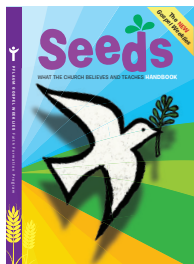
A man said to Jesus: "We know that you are honest and say only what is right and true. Does God's Law say it is right to pay taxes to Caesar?"

Jesus answered, "Show me the coin that people use to pay the tax." One of them gave Jesus a small coin.

Jesus asked, "Whose face is on the coin?" The man answered, "Caesar's."

Jesus said: "If you have this coin, you should pay the taxes. Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God."

☐ **Gospel Activity • Jesus teaches us to praise God. (page 1)** Invite your child to look at the cover of *Seeds*. Read the sentence to your child. **Ask:** What is Jesus telling the children in the picture? What are some ways we can praise God? *Praying, singing, being respectful and thoughtful, showing love, caring for Creation.* Have your child finish coloring the picture.

☐ **Word of the Week • Ten Commandments (page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: The **Ten Commandments** are laws from God that tell us how to live good lives.

☐ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 33. Call your child's attention to the prayer at the top. Invite your child to point to each word as you say the prayer.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to* Seeds, *pages 3-4.*

## Live the Gospel

☐ **Activity • My Book of Praise (pages 3–4)** Open *Seeds* and lay it flat in front of you. Show your child how to cut on the line that divides the page vertically. Be sure not to cut on the dotted line. Offer assistance with cutting if needed. Now fold on the dotted lines and put the booklet together according to the page numbers. Your child can draw a picture of your family on the last page and add color to any of the other pages. Keep the praise book in your child's room as a reminder to praise God every day.

☐ **Closing Prayer** Invite your child to open the praise booklet and look at the pictures as you pray the Glory Be aloud. Invite your child to repeat each line after you.

☐ **Family Corner (page 2)** 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.