

Sunday Gospel Background

The Pharisees' question in Sunday's Gospel asks Jesus to sift through the 613 laws of the Law of Moses and identify the most important one. Jesus answers with the Great Commandment: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. When we keep the Great Commandment, we also keep all the other commandments. Children of *Seeds* age can understand that there are family rules everyone must keep. This Sunday's Gospel provides an opportunity to review your family rules with your child and to talk about which rules show love for God and which show love for one another.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Jesus, thank you for our family. Teach us how to love God and how to love one another. Thank you, Jesus, for being our teacher and friend. Amen."
- Activity • Everyone Needs Rules** Use a puppet, action figure, or doll to ask your child the following questions: What are some of your family's rules? Why are rules important? Help your child understand that rules help us stay safe and help us love one another. Next ask: What are some rules you have when you play with your friends? Ask: What happens when people don't keep rules? *They can get hurt or quarrel and act mean toward one another.*
- Activity • What's wrong? (page 2)** Invite your child to open *Seeds* to page 2. Explain that the picture has lots of things wrong with it. Have your child put an X on each thing that's wrong. Give your child some time to enjoy the illustration, then discuss what your child has found. Some of the things that are wrong are just silly. Ask: What are the silly things? Others are wrong because the children are not keeping family rules. Ask: What are pictures of someone breaking a rule?

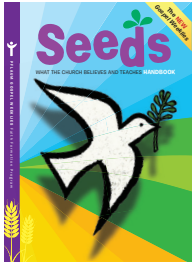
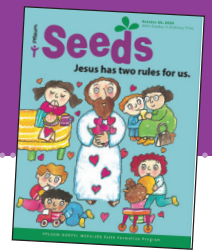
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus has two rules for us. (page 1)** Explain that in today's Gospel, Jesus tells his friends two important rules they must follow:

A person asked Jesus, "Which of God's laws is the most important one?" Jesus answered: "The greatest and first commandment is this: Love God with all your heart and soul and mind. The second is like it: Love your neighbor the same way you love yourself."

Show your child the cover of *Seeds*. Ask your child to describe what is happening in the cover illustration. Read the first sentence of the Gospel again. Ask: What are the two rules? *Love God and love one another*. Decide which rule is being followed in each small illustration.

- Word of the Week • neighbor (page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. You can also write it on a sheet of paper or white board if you have one. Share this definition: A **neighbor** is a person who lives near someone. Jesus said we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 15. **Ask:** What do you see in the first row of pictures? How many swings are there? How many children are there? How many children may want to swing? How will each child get a chance to swing? *Take turns.* Allow time for your child to follow the directions. For the second row, **ask:** How many apples do you see? How many children do you see? How many children may want to eat an apple? Is there an apple for each child? Allow time for your child to follow the directions. For the third row, **ask:** How many children do you see? How many children do you think may want a turn? Allow time for your child to follow the directions.

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

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • What should I do? (Seeds page 3)** Point out the school picture at the top of page 3. Then, point out the two circles to the left of the school. **Ask:** What are the girls on the top circle doing? *Fighting.* What are the girls on the bottom circle doing? *Sharing.* Using a crayon or pencil, have your child draw a line to join the girls who are following the school rules to the picture of the school. Do the same thing with the image of the home.
- **Activity • Our Family Prayer (page 4)** Have your child cut on the black vertical line on page 4. Invite your child to turn the heart faceup and listen as you read the words. Read them again and have your child point to one of the hearts each time you say love. Explain that this will be a card your family will keep handy to remind everyone of Jesus' two rules: Love God and love one another.

Cut around the dark heavy line around the top of the heart. Then show your child how to make the folds. Tape the bottom flaps together.

- **Family Corner (page 2)** Say the prayer throughout the week, perhaps at meals or first thing in the morning. Brainstorm ways your child can take the suggested action this week.
- **Closing Prayer** Have the puppet you used earlier praise your child for following family rules today. Invite your child to follow the words as you read the Family Prayer in the cutout.



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