

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about ten maidens who go to a wedding. Five come prepared, wisely bringing extra oil for their lamps; the other five come empty-handed. In Jesus' time, negotiating a dowry (money or property the bride's family gives to the groom's family) could make the groom's arrival time unpredictable. Jesus teaches us to be prepared for his return at the end of time. This week's lesson provides opportunities to help your child consider choices, and the ways God helps us to make loving decisions that can help us grow in wisdom.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray Together** "Dear God, please show us how to be thankful today. Amen."
- Story • Anaya's Bad Day (page 2)** Read or tell the following story:

For no particular reason, Anaya didn't want to put on her shoes. "Anaya," Mom said, "it's a beautiful day. The sun is shining. The squirrel is running up and down the tree. Put on your shoes so you can go outside and play."

Anaya replied, "I don't want to put on my shoes." When Mom asked, "Why?" Anaya said, "Just because." Mom said, "I'll help you with your shoes." But Anaya answered, "I don't want you to help me." Finally, Mom left Anaya alone in her room.

Anaya sat on the floor by her shoes. A bird was singing a song for her baby birds in the tree outside Anaya's window. But Anaya couldn't see the nest unless she went outside. Anaya counted the toes on her left foot: "One, two, three, four, five." She counted the toes on her right foot: "One, two, three, four, five."

Just as Anaya was starting to count the toes on her left foot again, she heard music. It was the ice-cream truck! Toby, the dog from next door, was running to the truck. "If I put on my shoes, I can get an ice-cream cone," said Anaya. But as she was trying to make up her mind if she should get chocolate or strawberry ice cream, the truck drove away. Anaya was still in her room with her shoes beside her.

Anaya was very bored. She slipped her hands into her shoes

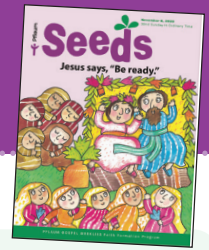
and clapped the bottoms together. Clap! Clap! Clap! Her mom heard the clapping and came to the door. "Are you ready to put your shoes on, Anaya?" her mother asked. "No," said Anaya. "I don't want to."

Anaya's mom brought her a sandwich and milk for lunch. Anaya read her books and played her CD of marching songs. Then she heard children talking and laughing. Anaya looked out the window. It was Abdul and Iris with Toby. Anaya knew they were going to the park because they had a ball. "If I put on my shoes, I could go play with my friends," Anaya said. She slipped her left shoe on her left foot. Then she slipped her right shoe on her right foot.

That's when Anaya's mom walked into the room. "Anaya," her mom said, "since you have your shoes on, would you like to go to the park for a picnic supper?" Anaya jumped up and gave her mom a hug. "Yes!" Anaya said. "I missed watching the squirrel play, and I missed the baby birds in the tree, and I missed the ice-cream truck, and I missed playing with Abdul and Iris and Toby. I don't want to miss the picnic!" Anaya combed her hair and said, "I am ready." They went to the park and had a great time.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus says, "Be ready." (page 1)** Share experiences of being a wedding guest. Explain that Jesus went to weddings of his friends and relatives too. One day, he told his friends this story about a wedding:



Jesus told this parable to his followers. He said: "The Kingdom of God will be like ten girls who took their lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of the girls were foolish. The other five were wise. The foolish girls did not bring extra oil for their lamps. The wise girls did. When the bridegroom was late, all the girls fell asleep. At midnight, they heard a shout: 'Wake up! The bridegroom is here. Come and welcome him.' The girls woke up and got ready to light their lamps. The foolish girls said to the wise ones: 'Let us have

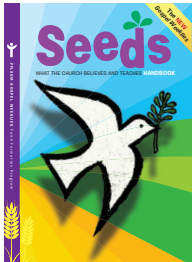
some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.' But the wise girls said: 'No, we do not have enough oil for all of us. Go and buy some oil for yourselves.'

"When the foolish girls were away buying oil, the groom came. The five wise girls went into the wedding feast. Then the door was closed. When the five foolish girls returned, they shouted, 'Open the door!' But the groom said, 'I do not know you.'"

Jesus said: "Always be ready. You do not know on what day your Lord will come."

Ask: What kinds of choices does a foolish person make? What is an example of a foolish choice? What kinds of choices does a wise person make? What is an example of a wise choice?

- Word of the Week • Jesus (page 4)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 4. Share this definition: **Jesus** is God's Son. He is true God. He is also human like us. Jesus' Father is God in Heaven.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 31. Find the words *fair* and *share*. Read the text next to the words. **Ask:** Can you think of a time when you have been fair and have shared with others? Explain that when we are fair and share with others, we are getting ready for Jesus.

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

Live the Gospel

- Activity • Anaya's Better Day (page 3)** Invite your child to study the picture on page 3. Picture squares at the bottom of the page show a dog, bird, squirrel, and Anaya. These are missing from the picture above. Show your child how to cut out the four picture squares and glue them in place to complete the big picture.
- Activity • How do we get ready? (page 4)** Turn to the last page and have your child draw a line to match each child with the activity he or she is getting ready for.
- Closing Prayer** Have your child repeat each line of the following prayer after you: "Loving God, thank you for all the gifts you give us. / Thank you for our family and our friends. / Thank you for birds and pets. (Name any pets you wish.) / Thank you for hands and arms that hug us and do good things for us. Amen."



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