



## Sunday Gospel Background

In the Beatitudes, Jesus counters the idea that wealth, abundance, laughter, and social acceptance are signs of God's blessings and that their opposites—poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution—are signs of being outside God's care. Jesus teaches that poor, hungry, sorrowing, and persecuted people have a place in God's kingdom.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, you want everyone to be happy and included. Help us to treat others the way we want to be treated. Amen."
- Cover Activity • What Makes Me Happy? (page 1)** Invite your child to study the cover picture. **Ask:** Who is happy? Which of these activities makes you happy? What other activities make you happy?
- Story • So Many Friends (page 2)** Read aloud the title at the top of page 2 and invite your child to identify the pictures across the top. Read aloud the story once and have your child follow the words and pictures line by line. The second time through, invite your child to read aloud with you. **Ask:** What do you think of Lily's mom's solution?

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Wants Everyone to Be Happy** Tell your child that in the Bible, sometimes the word *blessed* is used. **Ask:** Can you think of a prayer that includes the word *blessed*? *The Hail Mary*. **Ask:** What does it mean to say someone is blessed? *They are special to God*. Being special to God makes us happy. In today's Gospel story, Jesus uses the word *blessed*. Every time he says *blessed*, think *happy*.

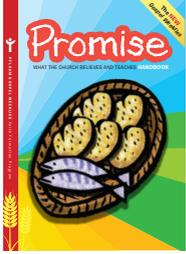
Jesus had climbed a big hill where he had prayed and chose the Twelve Apostles. When he came down from the hill, his disciples and a crowd of people from all over were waiting for him. He looked at the people and said: "Blessed are you who are poor; the kingdom of God is yours! Blessed are you who

are hungry; you will be filled! Blessed are you who weep; you will laugh! Blessed are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and say bad things about you because you are a follower of mine! Be glad when that happens and dance for joy because you will have a great reward in Heaven."

God wants all people to be happy. There is room for everyone in God's family. God cares about people who are poor, lonely, or sad. God wants hungry people to have food and lonely people to have friends. God wants people who are sad to laugh again. Jesus wants us to love everyone and not leave anyone out. Then we will all be happy together.

**Ask:** Do you know other people who bring happiness? How do they do that? How can you bring happiness to our family and to your friends?

- Word of the Week • Beatitudes (page 3)** Print the word *Beatitudes* for your child to read. Share this definition: *The Beatitudes are Jesus' list of attitudes and actions that will help his followers find real happiness.*



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 7. Read the rebus story aloud, pausing to allow your child to add the pictured words. Continue reading through *Holy Spirit*.  
**Ask:** What do we call God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit? *The Blessed Trinity*.

After your child has drawn a picture in the box, invite your child to share something about it.

Read aloud the left column under the drawing. Invite your child to print his or her name in the space. **Say:** "God made (*your child's name*) with love. You are wonderful and good."

Read aloud the right column. Invite your child to underline the sentence that includes the word *happy*. Read that sentence again for emphasis.

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

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Following Jesus makes me happy. (page 3)** **Ask:** Did you ever get something you thought would make you happy, but the happiness didn't last very long? **Ask:** Do you know what will make you happy in a way that will last all your life? *Following Jesus will help you get to Heaven where you will be happy forever!* Have your child follow the directions for drawing and tracing on page three. Then have your child read aloud the words.
- **Activity • Jesus wants everyone to be included. (page 4)** **Ask:** Does it make you happy to be left out of a game? When you aren't invited to a party? When someone doesn't like you because you're different from them? Discuss how some people are left out because of skin color, how they dress, or because they are shy or loud or tall or short or heavy or skinny or... (Mention other reasons, perhaps from your own experience.)

Explore who Jesus includes in his family of followers. **Ask:** Does Jesus want someone to be left out because they wear glasses or because their hair is curly? Would Jesus leave out someone who is new in our country and doesn't know English yet? Jesus doesn't want anyone to be left out. God made everyone out of love, and every person is good and special in God's eyes.

Direct your child's attention to the picture of Jesus on page 4. His arms and hands are open to welcome everyone into his love. Have your child cut out the four shapes at the bottom of the page and glue them in the matching areas. Now these children are included with Jesus and the other children.

- **Closing Prayer** Invite your child to repeat each line after you: Thank you, God / for making each of us good and special. / Thank you / for our bodies and senses / that help us experience / your Creation. / Help us to follow you. / 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