

Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares himself to good shepherds who care for and protect their sheep. Jesus assures his friends that no one will snatch his sheep—his followers—from him. Jesus promises us eternal life with him and the Father.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Loving God, thank you for the Good News of Easter. Thank you for the new life we see in nature. Thank you for the new life in us as we learn and grow. Amen. Alleluia!"
- Story • Quacker** This animal story can help your child think about experiences of caring for a pet or other animals.

Jason lived in a house by a lake. One summer, Jason met a special friend at the lake. Jason was sitting on the dock when a mother duck swam by. Behind her swam nine little ducklings. Jason ran to get cracked corn to feed them. He saw that one of the ducklings was smaller than the others. It was always last in line to eat. It was the last duckling to get in the water to swim behind the mother duck.

Jason named the duckling Quacker. He always threw extra corn her way. All summer, the ducks came to Jason's dock to get corn. He watched them grow bigger. Even Quacker got bigger and stronger.

One day, Jason noticed flocks of ducks flying overhead. Fall was coming, and ducks were going someplace warmer. "Will Quacker leave when she can fly?" Jason asked Mom. "I think so," Mom said. One day, Jason watched the ducklings try to fly. He knew that soon they would get it right, and off they would go.

Jason visited Grandma at the end of August. When he came home, he ran to the dock. He looked for Quacker and the other ducklings but didn't see any of them. "I guess they're gone," Jason thought. Then Jason heard, "Quack! Quack! Quack!" It was Quacker! Jason spread some corn on the ground. Quacker swam to shore and walked over to the corn. Then Jason heard flapping wings. It was the other ducklings. They all could fly now.

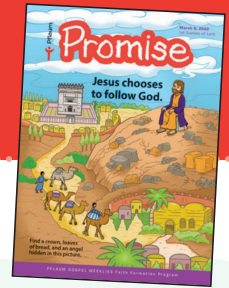
For the rest of the summer, Jason fed Quacker. Sometimes she came alone, and sometimes the other ducklings were with her. Every day, Jason saw more ducks flying south. Quacker was practicing flying around the lake. Jason knew that Quacker would leave soon.

"When Quacker goes south, do you think she'll remember how to get back here?" Jason asked Mom. "I'm sure she will," Mom answered.

- Cover Activity • A Shepherd Takes Care of Sheep (page 1)** Invite your child to look at the shepherd on the cover of *Promise*. **Ask:** How do shepherds take care of their sheep? How did Jason take care of Quacker? Talk about who and what your child takes care of: pets, siblings, toys, etc.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus is our Good Shepherd. (page 1)** Invite your child look at the cover as you share this Gospel:



One day, Jesus was in the Temple. People gathered around him and said, "Please tell us if you are the Messiah."

Jesus said: "I told you before, but you did not believe me. The good works I do in God my Father's name show you who I am. But you do not believe because you are not my sheep."

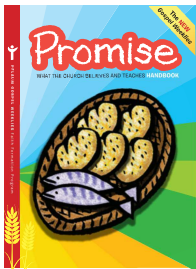
The people asked, "What do you mean?"

Jesus answered: "My sheep hear my voice. I know them,

and they follow me. I will give them life in Heaven where they will live forever. No one can take my sheep away from me."

Jesus loves us even more than shepherds love their sheep. Jesus watches over us, protects us from harm, and wants us to be happy.

- Activity • Safe or Scatter? (pages 2-3)** Have your child open *Promise* to the game in the center. The object is to get your sheep marker from the bottom of the page to the sheep pen at the top. Have your child cut out the sheep game markers. Play the game with your child. You can roll a die or flip a penny to move ahead. Move the number the die indicates. With a penny, heads is two moves, tails is one. When a player's sheep marker lands on an up arrow, the marker moves up. When a player lands on a down arrow, the marker moves down. **Ask:** What did you learn about taking care of sheep from playing the game? From what dangers does a shepherd protect the sheep?



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 30. Review the Sign of the Cross. Then help your child find the Glory Be to the Father at the top of page 30. Your child can follow along with a finger as you read the prayer aloud. Go through the prayer line by line, inviting your child to repeat each line after you. Help your child practice this prayer frequently. You might have your child review or learn all of the prayers on pages 29 and 30 over the summer. Your child can color in the star next to each prayer after memorizing it.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, page 4.

- Word of the Week • creed (page 4)** Help your child find the Word of the Week. Share this definition: A **creed** is a prayer that tells what members of the Church believe. Point out that our belief in the Trinity is a very important part of our Creed.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • God gives us all we need. (page 4)** Read the title. Invite your child to look at the first word on the left side and the illustration that pictures the word. Invite your child to guess the next word and the picture that matches it. Complete the rest.
- Activity • We Are Jesus' Sheep (page 1)** Help your child complete the certificate to remember your *Promise* work this year. Invite family members to sign or print their names on the other sheep.
- Closing Prayer** "LORD, you are our shepherd. You lead us along the right paths. Your kindness and love will always be with us each day of our lives, and we will live forever in your house, LORD" (based on Psalm 23). Your child can respond, "Amen. Alleluia!"



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