



## Teaching This Week's Lesson

### Share Experiences

**Objectives** • The children will:

- Recognize the importance of the parish community.
- Begin to recognize common Christian symbols.

 Gather in a prayer circle. Play and sing "Saying Yes" (CD-1, #17).

**Gathering Prayer** Pray: "Loving God, we gather today in your presence. Hear our prayers and bless the people and situations we bring to you. (*Voice special concerns.*) We know you love us and hear us. Thank you for the time we have today to learn how we can be like your Son, Jesus." The children respond, "Amen."

**Story • Prayer Buddies (page 2)** Gather the children in the story circle. Let them take turns reading aloud the letters between Alisa and Mrs. Howell.

 **Discuss the Know questions related to the story.** Some children in your class may have experienced this kind of relationship and might be able to tell the others about it. Impress upon the children that the sacraments—like Alisa's First Communion—are celebrations of the parish community. Other parishioners care about the children in the parish and want to help them grow closer to Jesus through the Mass and sacraments.

**Activity • Signs and Symbols** Play a simple game with the children to get them thinking about signs and symbols. This will help prepare them for learning about the sacraments later in the lesson. Tell the children to put on their Church thinking caps since all the symbols you name have answers related to our beliefs as Catholics and Christians.

Ask: What do you think of when you see a \_\_\_\_\_? Fill in the blank with the following words. The answer follows each word in parentheses. You may wish to draw the symbols on the board as a visual aid. heart (*love*) / dove (*Holy Spirit*) / candle (*Jesus is our light*) / stone tablets (*Ten Commandments, Moses*) / cross (*Jesus*) / triangle (*Trinity*) / rainbow (*God's promise to Noah*) / fish (*Christian*) / butterfly (*Easter, Resurrection*) / lamb (*Jesus*)

Explain that Catholics use a lot of symbols to remind us of what we believe. We also do some actions that have special meaning to us. Examples: making the Sign of the Cross, sharing the Sign of Peace at Mass, genuflecting toward Christ's presence in the tabernacle. Later in this lesson, they will be learning more about special celebrations called *sacraments*. The sacraments use many symbols.

**Activity • Stretch and Sing** Lead the children in the actions as you play and sing "God's Love Is..." (CD-2, #6).

### Discover Gospel and Doctrine

**Objectives** • The children will:

- Recognize the miracle Jesus performed at Cana.
- Recognize the words and actions of the sacraments.
- Recognize Jesus' active role in all the sacraments.

 Play and sing "Gospel Acclamation" (CD-2, #24) to prepare the children for the proclamation of the Gospel.

**Sunday Gospel • Jesus Helps at a Wedding (page 3)** During the Sundays of Ordinary Time, Cycle C, we read primarily from the Gospel of Luke. This Sunday, however, we hear about Jesus' first miracle according to John. In John's Gospel, Jesus' miracles are called *signs*. They show us what Jesus came to do and often point toward later actions in his life.

Direct the children's attention to the illustration. Ask: Where is Jesus? *At the left end of the table in the background.*

Invite the children to proclaim the Gospel in drama form.

 **Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.**

1. Mary noticed what was wrong and told Jesus.
2. Jesus took action to help make the wedding celebration a happy time for everyone, especially the bride and groom.
3. At Mass, Jesus gives himself to us. He gathers us together to listen to his Word, pray together, remember how much he loves us and what he did for us, and share a meal—his Body and Blood. We who receive Christ's Body and Blood become Christ's Body in the world.

**Activity • We Celebrate Seven Sacraments (page 1)** Move to the work area. This activity will help you assess where the children in your *Good News* group are in their understanding of the Sacraments. Ask: What is happening in each of the illustrations? *Clockwise from top right: boy confesses to a priest (Sacrament of Reconciliation), bishop ordains a priest (Holy Orders), couple exchanges rings (Matrimony); priest anoints sick person (Anointing of the Sick); girl receives Holy Communion (Eucharist); baby is baptized (Baptism), bishop anoints girl (Confirmation).* Ask: Which sacraments have you celebrated or witnessed?

Distribute pencils. Direct the children to complete the activity as a group or in pairs. Answers: *I baptize you. . . = Baptism, The Body of Christ = Eucharist, Be sealed. . . = Confirmation, I am sorry. . . = Reconciliation, May God restore you. . . = Anointing of the Sick, Receive this ring. . . = Matrimony, Carry out the ministry. . . = Holy Orders.*

**Catholic Faith Word • Sacraments (page 3)** Read this definition as a summary of the cover activity. Ask: Who can name the Seven Sacraments? Invite them to refer back to page 1 for clues.



**Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)**

Read “Jesus Acts in the Sacraments.” Direct the children to underline the words *power*, *actions*, and *doing*. Ask: Whose power? *Jesus*’. What actions (and words)? Refer back to the pictures and words on page 1. Explain that the words and actions of the bishop, priest, deacon, and bride and groom are symbols of what Jesus is *doing* in our lives. Ask: What is Jesus doing? *Giving us God’s love and grace*.



**Distribute the children’s *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbooks.**



**What the Church Believes and Teaches**

**Sacraments (page 21)  
Liturgy (page 24)**

**Direct** the children to turn to page 21 in their Catechism handbooks. Invite a volunteer to read the first two sentences under “The Sacraments.” Emphasize two important words: *actions* and *grace*. Explain that the sacraments involve outside words and *actions*—pouring of water, anointing with oil, exchange of vows, etc.—that symbolize what is happening inside the person(s). Through the sacraments, God shares his life with us (*grace*).

**Invite** a volunteer to read the first two sentences of the second paragraph. Go through each of the Seven Sacraments and ask: What is Jesus doing for us? (There are answers for two of the sacraments within that paragraph.) Read aloud the final sentence of the second paragraph. Relate the word *power* to *action*.

**Ask:** Why do we praise and thank God? List their responses on the board. Challenge them to come up with a long list.

**Write** the word *liturgy* on the board. Invite the children to say it aloud. Direct the children to turn to page 24 in their handbooks. Read the first paragraph aloud, with a different child reading each sentence. Emphasize that liturgy is praising and thanking God as a whole Church, not just as individuals. The sacraments are important liturgies of the parish community.

**Have the children close the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbooks and return to *Good News*, page 4.**

**Live the Gospel**

**Objective** The children will expand their understanding of the Seven Sacraments.

**Activity • The Seven Sacraments (page 4)** Direct the children to spread out their copies of *Good News* with pages 1 and 4 showing. Distribute crayons. Read the title on page 1 again. As a group, read the seven sections on page 4, one at a time. Give them time to do the activity that goes with each sacrament.

Encourage informal sharing during this activity. Some children may have been confirmed at Baptism. Some may have witnessed an Anointing of the Sick. Encourage the children to show their parents how much they know about the sacraments.

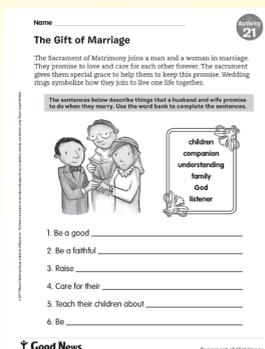
**Closing Prayer** Gather in a prayer circle and pray: “Dear Jesus, we thank you for giving us the sacraments to celebrate and grow in your love and grace.” The children respond, “Amen.”

**Bring your prayer and session to a close by playing and singing “Yes, Lord, I Believe” (CD-2, #26).**

**Family Corner**

Remind the children to share their *Gospel Weeklies* with their families and to do the *Family Corner* activities and prayer together.

**Lesson Wrap-Up**



Visit [gospelweeklies.com/catechists-teachers](http://gospelweeklies.com/catechists-teachers) to download this week’s lesson review.

Use Activity #21 from the *Good News Activity Book* as a take-home activity or lesson wrap-up.