

Teaching This Week's Lesson

Share Experiences

Objectives • The children will:

- Identify ways they bring joy.
- Recognize the promises and symbols of Matrimony.

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

Gathering Prayer Pray: "Loving God, we are here to learn about your Son, Jesus, who came to our world to show us how much you love us. Help us learn to be like him." The children respond, "Amen."

Story • **Michael brings joy. (page 4)** Ask: Who has been to a wedding? What do you remember? Give each child a chance to speak. Distribute *Promise*. Direct the children to put their copies with the cover facedown. Identify each of the illustrations at page top. Explain that in a rebus story, pictures take the place of some of the words.

Read the story together, giving each child a chance to say one or more of the rebus picture-words. When you have finished, ask the questions. Conclude with the children reading the story together in pairs.

Activity • **Creative Drama** Invite the children to pretend that your Gospel area is the front of the church where a wedding will take place. Assign each child a role. Adjust the following to fit a typical wedding in your area. Assign a boy as priest or deacon, who waits with the groom and groomsmen. Michael, the ringbearer, and a flower girl lead the procession. Then come bridesmaids. Each pairs with a groomsman to form a semicircle on either side of the priest/deacon. The bride processes in with her father (and mother). If your class is short of boys or girls, remember that this is pretend, so they can take nearly any part. Be sure to assign one girl and one boy in the roles of bride and groom.

Ask: What questions do the bride and groom answer? *Do they freely choose to marry? Will they make a lifelong commitment to love each other? Will they welcome children and bring them up as Catholics?*

Ask: What promises do the man and woman make to each other? *To be faithful in good times and bad, in sickness and health, to love and honor the other always.*

Ask: What do the bride and groom give each other as a sign of commitment? *Rings.* Note the words as rings are shared: "N., receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of

the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Ask: When do we say or hear that last part? *Baptism, Sign of the Cross.*

In Hispanic cultures, the bride and groom may also share *arras* (coins) as a sign of the good gifts they will share. There may also be a *lazo* (wedding garland or veil) placed over the head of the wife and shoulders of the husband as a sign of the bond that unites them.

Activity • **Stretch and Sing** Invite the children to move their bodies and make gestures to accompany the song "God's Love Is . ." (CD-2, #6).

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

Objectives • The children will recognize that:

- Jesus' first miracle shows God's love for families.
- They should do as Jesus says.

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

Sunday Gospel • **Jesus shows God's love. (page 1)** Tell the children that Jesus went to weddings too. Invite them to listen to Sunday's Gospel:

One day, Jesus, his mother, and some of his friends went to a wedding in the town of Cana. Mary noticed that the wine was running out. She said to Jesus, "They have run out of wine." Jesus said, "What do you want me to do about it?" Mary told a servant to do whatever Jesus told him to do.

Jesus told the servant, "Fill these six large jars with water. Then take some to the headwaiter." The servant filled the jars and then took a drink to the headwater.

The headwaiter said, "This is very good wine!" He asked the groom, "Why did you save the best wine until the end of the party?" The groom said, "I don't know where this wine came from."

Only the servants who did as Jesus had asked knew where the wine had come from. This was Jesus' first miracle. His friends saw what he had done and believed in him.

Explain that the Gospel writer (Evangelist) John calls Jesus' miracles *signs*. Jesus adds to the joy of the wedding by turning water into wine. Ask: Who does Jesus want to be full of joy? Who is with Jesus? Who asks him to provide more wine? Jesus did this special miracle to show God loves us and wants us to listen to Jesus.

Invite the children to look at *Promise*, page 1. Invite them to point out the people in the story and review its details with you. Direct them to use the pictures to help them take turns sharing the Gospel story with a partner.

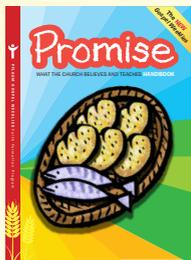
Activity • Creative Drama (pages 1 and 4) Invite the group to participate as one to re-enact the Gospel. Direct all the children to show with their bodies and faces:

- How Jesus and Mary and their friends felt
- How the bride and groom felt when the wine ran out
- How Mary felt when she saw the bride and groom were sad
- How Jesus felt when Mary asked him to help
- How the servants felt when they saw the water turn to wine
- How the bride and groom felt when Jesus made more wine

Move to the work area and show the children how to open *Promise* so the two wedding stories (pages 1 and 4) are side by side. Direct the children to retell the Gospel story to a partner.



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



What the Church Believes and Teaches

Do What Jesus Says (page 23)

Tell the children that Jesus' mother, Mary, can help us be good followers of Jesus. Refer to the Gospel story. Ask: Who did what Mary said? *Jesus. Mary was Jesus' mother, so he did what she asked him to do.* Ask: Who did what Jesus said? *The servants.*

Help the children find page 23 in their handbooks. Distribute pencils or crayons and read the directions. Give the children time to complete the activity. Talk about each example and invite the children to signal their responses with a thumbs-up or thumbs-down gesture.

Gather in a circle. Invite each the person (including you) to tell about a time when they did what Jesus tells us to do. The others respond to each sharing with thumbs-up!

Have the children close the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbooks and return to *Promise*, page 2.

Live the Gospel

Objectives • The children will recognize that:

- Jesus is Good News.
- They are good news.

Activity • Jesus is Good News. (page 2) Distribute crayons and guide the children in completing the following activities:

- **Color the Stars** Color the spaces with stars to find the hidden word. They may also color the spaces with dots. Stories about Jesus are found in the Bible in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). *Gospel* means "good news." The stories about Jesus are Good News for us.
- **Matching Water Jars** Count the water jars. Ask: How many water jars did Jesus have the servants fill at the wedding? *Six.* Ask: What did Jesus do to the water in these jars? *Turned it into good wine.* Invite the children to find the six jars that are alike and color them purple.

Activity • I am good news too. (page 3) Guide the children in completing the following activities:

- **Letter Trail** Demonstrate how to count to three and highlight or circle every third letter. When they have them all, direct the children to print the letters in order in the boxes to make a sentence. *Answer: I can act in loving ways.*
- **Follow the Dots** When the children have completed this activity ask: Who is the girl writing to? *God.* Why? *To thank him.* Ask: What are you thankful to God for? Thanking God shows him love and respect.

Closing Prayer Gather in a circle and pray: "Dear Jesus, thank you for our families. Please bless us and help us follow you every day." Invite the children to each name a family member they are thankful for. After each child shares, the group responds, "Thank you, God." Close your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

 Bring your prayer and session to a close by playing and singing "Mary, Our Mother" (CD-2, #11).

Extending Activities (gospelweeklies.com/catechists-teachers)

Lesson Wrap-Up

Visit gospelweeklies.com/catechists-teachers to download *Promise* Weekly Review template.

Use Activity #22 from the *Promise Activity Book* as a take-home activity or lesson wrap-up.