

WORD of LIFE

Chapter 9

Lesson Enhancement Video: Bread from Heaven

- **Start with events recorded in Scripture:** *What is the name of the city that Joseph and Mary traveled to and where Jesus was born? (Bethlehem.)*
 - *What does the name Bethlehem mean? ("House of bread.")*
 - *Once Jesus was born, what was He placed in? (A manger.)*
 - *What is a manger? (It is where the animals' food is placed.)*
- **Develop the teaching point of the video:** These details of Jesus' Birth are very important and reveal what He came to do. *Who gave us the Eucharist? (Jesus.)*
 - *And what is the Eucharist? (Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.)*
 - *What does the Eucharist look like? (Bread.)*
 - Draw the connection that Jesus, who is truly present in the Eucharist that looks like bread, was born in a city that means "house of bread."
 - *What do we do with the Eucharist? (We eat it.)*
 - Draw the connection that Jesus being placed in a manger was a sign that one day we would eat His Body and Blood in the Eucharist.
- **Make the video more personal:** *When Jesus was born, did many people recognize that He was the promised Savior? (No.)* Only some shepherds and the wise men recognized Him, and there was no room for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in the inn.
 - In a similar way, many people do not recognize Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. *Do you believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist and gives you Himself to consume? (Yes.)*
 - Challenge the students to make room for Jesus in their hearts when they consume the Eucharist at Mass.

Gabriel's Quest for Chapter 9: The Empty Manger

Lesson Link: Jesus fulfills all God's promises to His people. The Nativity was a foreshadowing of the Eucharist. Jesus' humble Birth reveals to us what His mission on earth will be—to give Himself to take away our sins and to give Himself to us in the Eucharist, out of love.

- *Why would Gabriel ask, "What good is all this praying?" (Answers may include because he was scared for his dad, he didn't see an answer right away, and he didn't see God doing anything.)*
- *Have you or someone you know asked this question? (Answers may vary.)*
- *How did Mr. Norm answer Gabriel's question about praying? (Answers may include seeing that God answers all prayers in Jesus, it is good and makes a difference to pray, and all God's answers are from love even when they are not what we want.)*
- **Optional:** Have students use their journal pages to reflect on this question: *How would you respond to someone who asked you, "What good is all this praying?"* Journal pages are available on the teacher and student portals.