



Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

Ask: *What qualities make someone a good listener? (patience, respect, attentiveness) Why do we need good listeners in our lives? Why is it important for priests to be good listeners? (Priests listen to the needs and concerns of parishioners.)* Read aloud the unit title on page 22. **Say:** *This unit helps us learn what Jesus teaches about God's love and forgiveness. It begins by telling us about a priest who was a very good listener.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint John Baptiste Vianney.

Ask: *What can you tell about Saint John Baptiste Vianney based on this picture? (He was a prayerful person.)*

Say: *Saint John Baptiste Vianney showed care for others by listening to their concerns.* **Ask:** *Who are some people who show care for you by listening to your concerns? (parents, friends, teachers, priests)*

Have your child read aloud the top half of the page. **Say:** *Saint John Baptiste Vianney practiced virtues in his life.* **Ask:** *What are some ways that he helped others? (He was kind to those who were poor and sick; he established an orphanage; he took time to listen to his parishioners.)*

Say: *Saint John Baptiste Vianney's life is an example of our Church's mission to care for those in need.* **Ask:** *What can we do to be more like him? (be a good listener, be kind to others)*

With your child add John Baptiste Vianney's feast day, August 4, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint John Baptiste Vianney.

Jesus' Law of Love

Engage: Page 22

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is the Golden Rule? (Treat others as you want to be treated.)* Together discuss times when it might be difficult to follow the Golden Rule.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response.
Say: *In this session we will learn about the new commandment we have received from Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about why we follow the Golden Rule. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 23–24

- ▶ Review the Ten Commandments. **Ask:** *What do the Ten Commandments help us do? (love God and love one another.)*
- ▶ Read aloud The New Commandment on page 23. **Ask:** *What is the Torah? (the Law revealed by God in the Old Testament) What is the main idea of Jesus' new commandment? (The Law we have received from God calls us to love God and to love others.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know ...? feature. **Ask:** *What are two definitions for the word Torah? (the Law revealed by God and the first five books of the Bible)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and first paragraph on page 24. **Ask:** *What is fortitude? (the virtue that gives us the strength to follow Jesus) What other virtues help us follow Jesus? (charity, patience, self-control)* **Say:** *When we practice the virtues, we build up the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Following Jesus' New Commandment and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we pray a prayer of intercession, we pray on behalf of someone else. The Prayer of the Faithful is sometimes called the Universal Prayer. Together read aloud the Prayer of the Faithful from a recent Mass.*

Art Exploration: Page 174

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Vincent de Paul.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe Saint Vincent de Paul in detail, including the scroll he is holding and the way his name appears.



- ▶ **Say:** *Saint Vincent de Paul lived out Jesus' new commandment by caring for people who were sick and people who were poor.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 174. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What did Vincent de Paul do when he faced challenges in his work? (He prayed to the Holy Spirit, and he practiced the virtues.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Care for Others. Have your child finish the activity and discuss his or her picture.
- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine you are walking down the street and having a conversation with Saint Vincent de Paul.* **Ask:** *What do you say to him? What does he say to you?* Give your child time to pray to Saint Vincent de Paul, thanking him for giving us an example of how to live out Jesus' new commandment.

Reflect: Page 25

- ▶ Together look at page 25. **Say:** *Just as the people in the picture show their love for each other, we show our love for God through our prayers.*
- ▶ Have your child prepare for prayer by getting comfortable. Read aloud the first paragraph. Pray together the Act of Love. Read aloud the paragraph after it. Allow time for your child to pray silently. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Acting with Love. Help your child think of the people he or she sees every day. Have your child complete the activity. **Say:** *Showing kindness to others is one way to live out Jesus' new commandment.*

Respond: Page 26

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways that he or she can serve others and follow Jesus' new commandment.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

The Beatitudes

Engage: Page 27

- ▶ With your child discuss why people use recipes. **Say:** *In the Bible, Jesus has given us recipes for living a happy life. An example of this is the new commandment.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *Why is it important to help others? (By helping them, we follow Jesus' example.)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn another recipe for happiness that Jesus has given us—the Beatitudes.*
- ▶ Ask your child to write his or her own recipe for living a happy life that includes attitudes and behaviors that will help build up the Kingdom of God. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 27–28

- ▶ Take turns completing this sentence with your child: *We can build up the Kingdom of God by . . .* (following God's plan for us, practicing the virtues)
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph of Jesus Fulfills the Law. **Say:** *Living the Beatitudes can lead to a happy life.* Read aloud the Scripture passage, pausing after each Beatitude to explain its meaning. **Ask:** *Do you think it will be easy to live out the Beatitudes? Why or why not?*
- ▶ Read aloud Living the Beatitudes on page 28. Complete the activity together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *During the Sign of Peace, we commit ourselves to being peacemakers and to building up the Kingdom of God. We express our willingness and desire to live in peace with one another.*

Art Exploration: Page 175

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a man removing a thorn from a lion's paw.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the man is doing to help the lion.
- ▶ **Say:** *We are called to be Jesus' followers and to build up God's kingdom by making good choices.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 175. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first three paragraphs. **Ask:** *What is Saint Jerome an example of? (someone who chose to practice the Beatitudes)*

- ▶ Read aloud Practice the Beatitudes. Have your child complete the activity. Discuss how Jerome showed mercy to the lion.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *We have clean hearts when we choose to worship God and to follow his plan for us.*
- ▶ Together retell the story of Jerome and the lion. Begin with this story starter: *Long ago there lived a man named Jerome. As you add sentences, pantomime actions that illustrate what you are saying. After the story is complete, say: We can practice the Beatitudes by following Saint Jerome's example.*

Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ Together look at page 29. **Ask:** *What can you tell about the person in the picture? (Animals are drawn to him, he appears to be a peaceful person.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis. Give your child time to ask God to help him or her be a peacemaker. Close the prayer by offering a sign of peace to your child.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Serving the Needs of Others. **Say:** *As you think about what you might draw, let's think about what Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Jerome did to live out the Beatitudes. Then let's think of one way God is calling you to live out the Beatitudes in your life.* Discuss your child's ideas and then invite your child to discuss the picture when it is finished.

Respond: Page 30

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can speak up for people who are being treated unfairly.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

Jesus Our Redeemer

Engage: Page 31

- ▶ With your child share a story from your life about a time someone helped you with something. Include how you showed gratitude to that person for his or her help.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *How could the girl in the picture express gratitude? (say "thank you," hold the ladder for the boy) In what ways does God help us? (God listens to our prayers.)* **Say:** *In this session we'll learn about how God has helped us through Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about ways we can show God our gratitude. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 31–32

- ▶ Together make a time line of Jesus' life. Invite your child to explain what happened at each event. **Say:** *Jesus taught us how to live throughout his life.*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus, Son of God on page 31. **Ask:** What happened after Jesus' Crucifixion? (God raised Jesus from the dead.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud On the Cross. **Ask:** *Why did Jesus tell one of the men crucified next to him that "This day you will be with me in paradise"?* (He will be saved because of his faith in Jesus.)
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Died for Our Sins on page 32. **Ask:** *Why do we call Jesus our Redeemer?* (He offered his Death to free us from our sins.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *In the Mystery of Faith, we proclaim our belief in the Paschal Mystery—Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.*

Art Exploration: Page 176

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the disciples looking into the sky, watching Jesus' Ascension.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the crowd is watching and how they might be feeling.
- ▶ **Say:** *After the Resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven. From there he shares his new life with us through the Holy Spirit.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 176. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus' Ascension. **Ask:** *How long did Jesus stay on earth before he was taken up to Heaven? (40 days)* **Say:** *Jesus' Ascension is so important that we celebrate the event on the Feast of the Ascension, which is one of the Holy Days of Obligation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Report the News and give your child time to complete the activity. Invite your child to read aloud his or her news story.
- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine that you are on the Mount of Olives with the other disciples, watching Jesus ascend into Heaven.* **Ask:** *What are you thinking as you watch this happen? What do you feel?* **Say:** *Imagine that you are having a conversation with the disciples after the Ascension.* **Ask:** *What do you say to them? What do they say to you?* Conclude the reflection by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.

Reflect: Page 33

- ▶ Together look at page 33. **Say:** *The boy is outside, thinking about something. It is important to think about the meaning of the words you pray. Be aware that the Holy Spirit is with us to support us in our faith.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Point out that a creed can be any statement of faith in which we express our beliefs. Pray together the Sign of the Cross and the Apostles' Creed. Pause between each line to give your child time to reflect on the meaning of the prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud What We Believe. Reread the Apostles' Creed and discuss the meaning of the lines. Have your child use crayons or markers to design his or her stained-glass window.

Respond: Page 34

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive others.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

Jesus Sends the Spirit

Engage: Page 35

- ▶ Together with your child look through newspapers for articles about people in need. **Ask:** *What are the needs of the people in these stories?* **Say:** *When we help people in need, we build up the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Say:** *In this session we will reflect on how we can continue Jesus' mission in the world by caring for other people's needs.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she could help the people in the newspaper articles. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Review what happened on Pentecost by reading together Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4 from the Bible. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus and his Father, was descending on the apostles to give them strength and courage to continue Jesus' Word.*
- ▶ Read aloud Following Jesus' Example. **Ask:** *How was Peter able to preach in Jesus' name? (through the direction of the Holy Spirit)* **Say:** *We also have been given the strength of the Holy Spirit, which helps us carry on Jesus' work in the world today.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 36. **Say:** *The Works of Mercy help us think of ways we can take care of others.* Define the meaning of each Spiritual Work of Mercy. **Ask:** *How might we practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy? (teach someone a new skill, forgive someone who hurt us)*
- ▶ Read aloud Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *These are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We can rely on these gifts to carry on Jesus' work in the world today.*

Art Exploration: Page 177

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people receiving a meal.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the people are doing and how they are dressed.
- ▶ **Say:** *As Jesus' followers we are called to help people regardless of their circumstances.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 177. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first four paragraphs. **Ask:** *For what is Blessed Teresa of Calcutta remembered?* (all she did to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Care for Those in Need. Together brainstorm ideas before your child finishes the activity.
- ▶ Together find more information about Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in books or on the Internet. Have your child make a poster about her life, including pictures with captions. Display the poster in your home. As a family reflect on how your actions can serve others as did those of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

Reflect: Page 37

- ▶ Together look at page 37. **Say:** *One of the symbols of the Holy Spirit in the Bible is wind or breath. The Holy Spirit is as close to us as our breath.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Saint Augustine's teachings are so important that he has been named a Doctor of the Church.* Pray together the Holy Spirit Prayer of Saint Augustine. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Sharing Mercy. **Ask:** *Who are some of the other saints and holy people we have learned about who practiced the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy?* (Saint Teresa of Ávila, Saint Peter Canisius, Saint John Baptiste Vianney, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta)
- ▶ Give your child time to complete the activity. You may wish to write your own prayer and then exchange prayers with your child and read them aloud.

Respond: Page 38

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can share time and talents with others.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 39

- ▶ With your child talk about special events that you prepare for. **Ask:** *Why do we prepare for these events? How do we prepare? How do we feel as we prepare?* (excitement, anticipation)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *What do we do during Advent? (We prepare our church, our home, and our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth.) What two feasts of Mary do we celebrate during Advent? (the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe)*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Advent by thinking about what the season means to him or her. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 40

- ▶ Help your child make an Advent calendar by cutting out of a sheet of paper with a folding door for each day of Advent. Glue the sheet with the doors that open and close to another sheet of paper. Help your child to write his or her ideas for preparing for Christmas behind each door.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What are some examples of good moral choices we can make?* (follow the new commandment, live out the Beatitudes, practice the virtues) Have your child read Prepare the Way and write a prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Why is this an appropriate passage for Advent?* (During Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.) **Say:** *One way we can prepare the way of the Lord is by making good moral choices.*

Reflect: Page 41

- ▶ Display a Bible. **Ask:** *What do we call the four books in the New Testament where we learn about Jesus?* (the Gospels) **Say:** *Reflecting on Jesus' teaching in the Gospels is another way to decide if we're making good moral choices.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. **Say:** *John the Baptist was the son of Elizabeth, Mary's cousin. John the Baptist told people to get ready to hear Jesus' message.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sections What We Experience and Praying to Mary. **Say:** *The Angelus is a prayer of devotion that honors Mary for the yes she gave to God.* Find the Angelus on page 143 in the back of your child's book. Pray together the prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know . . . ? feature. **Say:** *The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete, or Rejoice, Sunday, marks approximately the halfway point of Advent. In addition to lighting the pink candle, the priest may wear pink vestments.*

Art Exploration: Page 178

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a *Las Posadas* procession.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *Las Posadas is one tradition that can help us prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 178. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What are some Advent traditions?* (Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, Jesse trees, Saint Nicholas Day celebrations)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Las Posadas. What happens at each place except the last one?* (The pilgrims are denied lodging.) **Say:** *When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay. This is why Jesus was born in a stable. It was the only place left for them.*
- ▶ Read aloud Prepare to Welcome Jesus and share ideas your family has followed in the past. Give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine himself or herself as one of the people in the *Las Posadas* procession. **Ask:** *What are you thinking and feeling as you process from place to place and are denied entry? How do you feel when you are finally allowed to enter someone's home?* **Say:** *Take a moment to talk with Jesus. Ask him to help you be a welcoming person.*

Respond: Page 42

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can make good choices.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.