



# God, Our Creator and Father

## Begin

**Say:** *The title of this book is Finding God. Ask: Who is God? (our Father and Creator) Where do we find him? Discuss with your child where you each find God in your everyday life. Tell your child that you find God in him or her and in your love for him or her. Read aloud the unit title. Say: Let's begin this book together by talking about God as our Father and Creator. God created everything that is. His creation shows his love for us.*

## Introduce the Saint

Have your child turn to page 1. Read aloud the saint's name and the sentence below it.

Turn to page 2. Discuss the picture of Saint Francis of Assisi. **Ask:** *What else do you see in the picture? (animals) What kind of clothing is Saint Francis wearing? (a brown robe) Is his clothing fancy? (No.) Do you think Saint Francis was a rich man? (No.)*

Read aloud the page. **Ask:** *How would you feel if you saw a person talking to a wild animal such as a wolf? (Possible answers: scared, nervous, curious) How did the wolf react to Saint Francis? (It was calm and gentle.) Say: Saint Francis loved everything God created. He loved the animals as if they were his brothers and sisters. He treated them kindly. We are going to learn how God makes everything and how prayer helps us show our love for all creation.*

With your child add Francis's feast day, October 4, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love that Saint Francis had for animals.

## God Makes Everything

### Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Invite your child to take a nature walk with you around your neighborhood. Collect small treasures from God's creation—leaves, rocks, dandelions. **Say:** *God made all things to show us how much he loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's answer. **Ask:** *What's happening in this picture?* (The happy girl is holding a flower that God made.) **Say:** *In this session we're going to learn that God is good to all of us!*
- ▶ Display your nature-walk treasures and talk about all the beautiful things God has made. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ Look out a window of your home with your child. Together draw pictures of things that you see that God has created.
- ▶ Read aloud page 4. Point out the vocabulary words, *God* and *Creator*. **Ask:** *Who is God?* (God is the Creator because he makes everything.) *What do you see in each picture?* (a tree, a happy child, flowers) Discuss how we want to remember to thank God in our hearts whenever we see something he made for us.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph on page 5. Point out the photo. **Ask:** *Why are these children recycling?* (They want to take care of God's world.) Read aloud the last two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What does Amen mean?* (We pray Amen to show we really mean the words we pray.) **Say:** *A saint is a person who shows love for God in a special way. Saint Francis showed his love for God by caring for God's creatures.*
- ▶ Discuss ways to take care of God's creations. Make a recycling plan for your home.

### Art Exploration: Page 213

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Vincent de Paul helping people who are sick.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the actions of Saint Vincent de Paul.
- ▶ **Say:** *Saint Vincent de Paul helped people who were poor and in need. This is how he showed God his love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 213. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. Talk about different organizations that help people in need, such as Habitat for Humanity. Explain that some parishes

have a St. Vincent de Paul Society of volunteers who help those in need. **Ask:** *Why do you think the organization is called the St. Vincent de Paul Society? (It helps people in need, as Saint Vincent de Paul did.)*

- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Together find clothes in your closet that you could donate to a St. Vincent de Paul center or a similar organization in your area.
- ▶ With your child use watercolor paints, crayons, markers, or colored pencils to make get-well cards for future use. Help your child write *Get Well Soon!* on the cards and sign his or her artwork. When a family member or neighbor becomes ill, have your child choose a card to show he or she cares.

### Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Say:** *We will learn a prayer that reminds us that we belong to God. It's called the Sign of the Cross.*
- ▶ Face your child as you demonstrate the gestures for the Sign of the Cross. Then turn your back and use exaggerated movements, making sure your child can see where you're placing your hands. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 6. Pray the Sign of the Cross together. Read aloud the second paragraph. Pause to allow your child to talk to God silently.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and verse on page 7. **Ask:** *Why do you think God said, "It is very good?" (All that comes from God is good.) What are some of your favorite things that God has made?*
- ▶ Read aloud the next paragraph and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud Reading God's Word. **Ask:** *How can we let God know we're grateful for all he has made? (by thanking him in our prayers, by taking care of the earth)*

### Respond: Page 8

- ▶ 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 another way to show that he or she loves God's world.
- ▶ 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.

## God Cares for Us

### Engage: Page 9

- ▶ Discuss what it feels like to be a part of your family. **Ask:** *How do we as a family show that we care about one another?* (help with chores, play together, hug family members)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *What would you do to help someone new feel welcome?* (say hello, include him or her in a game) **Say:** *In this session we'll learn how much God loves us and how we can show his love to others.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she cares for other people. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 10–11

- ▶ Together draw a picture of your church. **Say:** *A church is a special place where we celebrate Mass together.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 10 and point out the two vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What do you think is going on in these pictures?* (People are praying and singing.) *What do we do at Mass?* (hear stories about God, pray, sing) Explain that the liturgy is a prayer that we pray with other people.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What can we do to enjoy the good things God has given us?* (take walks outside, recycle, take care of flowers and animals)
- ▶ Read aloud page 11. **Say:** *The Mass is an example of a liturgy. We can praise and thank God at Mass.* **Ask:** *How do we celebrate God's love?* (We sing and pray together at Mass.)
- ▶ Discuss your favorite part of the Mass. Invite your child to draw a picture of his or her favorite part of the Mass. Ask your child why this is his or her favorite part.

### Art Exploration: Page 214

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a playground full of children playing together.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of the children toward one another.
- ▶ **Say:** *When someone is kind to us or when we see someone being kind, it can make us think about being kind too.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 214. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *How do people around us feel when we are kind? (loved, cared for)* **Say:** *This is how we show God's love to one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and complete the activity together. Discuss times when you and your child showed love at home.
- ▶ With your child use watercolor paints to make a scene of a playground full of children. After the artwork dries, help your child add a caption to the painting to describe what is happening.

### Reflect: Pages 12–13

- ▶ Together look at page 12. **Ask:** *What is the boy in the picture doing? (praying) How is he holding his hands? (folded together)* Remind your child that he or she can pray anytime or anyplace he or she likes.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to say the special words of praise with you. Read aloud the last two paragraphs. Invite your child to spend a few moments in silence to thank God. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading, verse, and the following line on page 13. **Ask:** *What kinds of good things does God give us? (food, friends, water)* **Say:** *God takes good care of us by giving us everything we need.*
- ▶ Read the directions for the activity. Invite your child to name the good things in the picture and then color the picture. At your next meal together, discuss the good things God has given your family.

### Respond: Page 14

- ▶ 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 to show he or she cares for family, friends, and neighbors.
- ▶ 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.

## God Is Our Father

### Engage: Page 15

- ▶ Invite your child to plan a birthday celebration for a family member or pet. Make a list of different things your child can do to make it a really special day.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What are the people doing?* (having a party) **Say:** *This family is sending a message of love to one another by celebrating with the birthday child.* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about God's special message to us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of ways to show love to his or her family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 16–17

- ▶ On a sheet of paper, write a special message to each other such as *God loves us* or *I love you so much*. Leave out a few letters and fill them in together as you read them.
- ▶ Help your child read aloud the heading and the first two sentences on page 16. Read the card aloud. **Ask:** *Why did Dad write a message to Ben?* (It is Ben's birthday.) Read aloud the questions and discuss them.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 17. Point out the vocabulary words. Show your child a Bible. **Say:** *The Bible contains the story of God's promise to care for us.* **Ask:** *Who is Jesus?* (God's Son) **Say:** *The Bible tells us all about Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child connect the dots to finish the picture. Invite your child to take time to look through your Bible and ask questions about it.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *At Mass what kinds of stories do you hear from the Bible?* (stories about God and Jesus)

### Art Exploration: Page 215

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus being welcomed by a large group of children.
- ▶ **Say:** *Whom do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the emotions that show on the faces of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus is with us wherever we are. He is friendly and he loves us. Jesus makes us feel happy with his presence.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 215. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *Jesus teaches us that God is our Father. That's why we often refer to God as our Father in our prayers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the passage from the Bible. **Ask:** *Who is God's wonderful Son? (Jesus)* **Say:** *You can tell from God's words that he loves his Son, Jesus, very much.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Discuss how much God loves all of us.
- ▶ With your child use construction paper, markers, crayons, and scissors to make a Hosanna banner to decorate his or her room. Use bright colors and help your child write the word *Hosanna*.

### Reflect: Pages 18–19

- ▶ Together look at page 18. **Ask:** *Where is the boy sitting? (in a field)* **Say:** *Jesus is always with you wherever you might be and loves spending time with you in prayer.*
- ▶ Read aloud the page in a prayerful manner. Pause between sentences, giving your child time to reflect. **Say:** *Now take a few moments to tell Jesus anything you like.* Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 19. Discuss the questions. **Ask:** *Does everyone live in a home like ours?* Discuss different kinds of homes and explain that all people should have a place to live.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she would like best about Jesus visiting your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *When you love Jesus, God loves you.*

### Respond: Page 20

- ▶ 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 God's message of love.
- ▶ 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.

## God Gives Us Peace

### Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Invite your child to play a game that he or she enjoys playing with friends, such as hide-and-seek or checkers. Discuss how being with friends can make us feel good.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Ask:** *If you feel sad, how can your friends help cheer you up?* (visit, play a game with you) **Say:** *In this session we will learn about God's wonderful gift of peace.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how friends help one another feel happy and peaceful just as God does every day. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Ask your child to write a sentence on a slip of paper about how he or she can help someone in your family or neighborhood. Suggest that your child give the gift of his or her time or help with a chore. Put the paper in a small box and wrap it. Encourage your child to present the gift to the person at the end of this session or to use it as a reminder to help that person.
- ▶ Read aloud page 22 and discuss the picture. **Ask:** *Whom do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening?* (Jesus is telling his friends that the Holy Spirit is with them.) Then invite your child to breathe in and out. Point out the words *Holy Spirit*. Explain that God's Holy Spirit is as close as your own breath.
- ▶ Read aloud page 23. Point to the word *Trinity*. **Ask:** *Who are the three Persons of the Trinity?* (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit)
- ▶ Have your child look at page 23 to answer these questions: *Which Person of the Trinity made us?* (the Father) *Which Person of the Trinity brings us God's love?* (the Son) *Which person of the Trinity brings us God's peace?* (the Holy Spirit)

### Art Exploration: Page 216

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a dove holding an olive branch.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the olive branch being held by the dove.
- ▶ **Say:** *The dove in this artwork holds an olive branch, which also stands for peace. People all over the world want peace and pray to God to help them find it.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 216. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *When might we pray for peace?* (when we are arguing, when we hear a sad story on the news)
- ▶ **Say:** *Everyone can pass along peace simply by smiling.* **Ask:** *How else can you pass along peace?* (treat others with kindness, say I'm sorry when making a mistake, forgive others)
- ▶ Take turns smiling into a mirror. Then read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Together read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *If we listen to God's messages and believe them, we will have peace.*
- ▶ Together with your child cut out dove silhouettes from sheets of white paper. Then complete the following sentence on each dove cutout: *I can bring peace by \_\_\_\_\_.* Decorate the other side of the doves with white feathers and glitter. Suspend them from string to decorate your home.

### Reflect: Pages 24–25

- ▶ Together look at page 24. **Ask:** *What do you think the girl in the picture is thinking about?* **Say:** *When you talk to Jesus in your heart, you can use any words you want because he always understands.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sentence above the prayer. Invite your child to read aloud the Glory Be to the Father with you. Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow your child time to pray silently and then Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the paragraph at the top of page 25. Invite your child to color the picture. Read the word *Trinity* together. **Ask:** *How many Persons are there in the Trinity?* (three)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature emphasizing peace and goodness. **Ask:** *What are other ways we can be peacemakers?* (by being good listeners, by making friends with people different from us)

### 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 other ways to share to bring God's love to 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 Ordinary Time

### Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Together with your child, look at or make a calendar for the week. **Ask:** *Why do people use calendars?* (to record important events, to know when to complete tasks, to understand how much time has passed) List some of your family's activities on the calendar.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. Point out the vocabulary words. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate both periods of Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *In this session we'll learn about Ordinary Time—a time to grow closer to God and give thanks for the gifts God gives us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to look at your calendar and discuss the family activities for which he or she is grateful. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 28

- ▶ Set a timer for one minute. Then ask your child to complete this sentence with as many responses as possible during the time limit: *I am grateful for \_\_\_\_\_.* Record his or her ideas and then read them aloud.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. **Say:** *We grow closer to God by being aware of and grateful for his many gifts.*
- ▶ Discuss the gifts in the children's drawings. **Ask:** *What gifts has God given you?* Read aloud the activity directions. **Say:** *God has given me the gift of friends, so I am going to draw a picture of my friends.* Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *When you pray, what do you thank God for?*

### Art Exploration: Page 217

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a seedling growing from the ground.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the sprout, the soil, and the sun.
- ▶ **Say:** *Ordinary Time is a time to be thankful for everyday miracles, like this sprout growing from a seed into a plant.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 217. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What are some things that grow?* (trees, grass, flowers, pets, people) **Say:** *During Ordinary Time, God asks us to grow in our faith and in our love for him.*
- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some ways we can grow closer to God?* (praying, attending Mass, showing God's love to others, being grateful for his gifts)
- ▶ Discuss joyful events that happened to both of you recently. Read aloud the directions and help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Together with your child, try yoga poses patterned after God's gifts of animals. Ahead of time, use the Internet to find and learn easy animal yoga poses, such as cat pose, cobra pose, and butterfly pose. Demonstrate each pose for your child and try the poses together. Invite your child to make up poses that conjure the spirit of an animal or a natural object.

### Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ Together brainstorm a list of items created by God and make a list. Discuss various items found in church that are created by God, such as flowers and plants, and by people, such as an altar, pictures, and statues.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first sentence. **Say:** *Creation means "all the things made, or created, by God."*
- ▶ Read aloud the next two sentences. **Ask:** *What does God's creation include?* (everything, such as people, the earth, the sun)
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The gifts of Bread and Wine are offered at every Mass. During Ordinary Time we think about these gifts as a reminder that Jesus is with us and helps us grow.*
- ▶ Read aloud God's Special Gifts and invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Green is a symbol that shows growth, life, and hope.* **Ask:** *What are some green items you have seen in church?*

### 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 help out a family member.
- ▶ 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 Lord and Savior

## Begin

**Say:** Let's review what we've learned so far. God loves us very much, and he gave us our wonderful world. **Ask:** What are you thankful for? Share with your child what you are thankful for. Read aloud the unit title on page 31. **Say:** Our new unit will help us understand that Jesus cares for us. He wants us all to be part of God's family.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 31. **Ask:** Who do you think this man is? (Saint Joseph) Read aloud the text and **say:** Joseph loved God, and God knew Joseph was someone special.

Turn to page 32. Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** What is a carpenter? (a person who builds with wood) **Say:** Joseph worked very hard to provide for his family. Saint Joseph is the patron saint of workers. Read aloud the second and third paragraphs. **Say:** An angel is a messenger from God. **Ask:** How do you think Joseph felt when the angel spoke to him? (scared, excited, surprised)

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** Since Jesus' Father was in Heaven, Jesus was blessed to have his foster father, Joseph, who loved him and took care of him here on earth.

With your child add Joseph's feast days, March 19 and May 1, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor Saint Joseph.

## God Sends Jesus

### Engage: Page 33

- ▶ Together with your child, look at family baby pictures. Discuss how families prepare for a new baby. **Ask:** *How would you feel about having a new baby sister or brother?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss the picture.  
**Ask:** *How do you think the children in the picture feel? (happy)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about God's wonderful gift to us of his Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about his or her family members and reflect on how good it feels to be part of God's family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 34–35

- ▶ Look at photos that show your family celebrating or playing together. Share stories about the occasions shown in the photos.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is Born on page 34. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *Who is in this picture? (Joseph, Mary, Jesus, shepherds) How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they found out they had no place to stay? (tired, scared, lonely) How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw and heard the angels? (surprised, happy)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Jesus was born to save us and tell us how much God loves us.* **Ask:** *Whose name means "God saves"?* (Jesus')
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first three paragraphs on page 35. **Say:** *Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are the Holy Family. Families take care of one another and learn from one another.* **Ask:** *What can we, your family, learn from you?*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for My Family Loves Me. Have your child complete the activity and discuss what he or she drew in the picture.

### Art Exploration: Page 218

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus in a manger surrounded by Mary, Joseph, and shepherds.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including naming the people they see in the picture.
- ▶ **Say:** *God sent us Jesus because he loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 218. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *Where was Jesus born? (in a stable)* **Say:** *A stable was not a fancy place for Jesus to be born, but it didn't matter. When we remember that Jesus was born in a simple place, we know that he is with us no matter where we are.*
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** *What were the shepherds like? (regular people)* **Say:** *God honored the shepherds by choosing them, just regular people like us, to be the first to see Jesus.* Then read aloud the directions for the activity and give your child time to complete it.
- ▶ Read aloud Reading God's Word. **Ask:** *How do you think Mary felt that night? (happy, excited)* *How do you think the shepherds felt? (happy)* **Say:** *The shepherds were thankful that they had been chosen to hear the news of Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Provide your child with a shoe box, craft supplies, and modeling clay. Invite him or her to decorate the shoe box to resemble a stable. Have your child use modeling clay to make the Holy Family, shepherds, and animals. After the diorama is finished, pray together, thanking God for the gift of his Son, Jesus.

### Reflect: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Together look at page 36. **Ask:** *Where is the boy in the picture? (in a wheat field)* Ask your child to use his or her imagination to describe what it would be like to be in the field with the boy.
- ▶ Read aloud page 36 in a prayerful manner. Pause between sentences, giving your child time to reflect. Close the quiet time by praying the Sign of the Cross. Tell your child that if he or she wants to talk to Jesus again, he or she can do so anytime.
- ▶ Ask your child to close his or eyes and picture the Holy Family while you read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 37. Then have your child open his or her eyes while you read aloud the activity directions. Help your child complete the activity. **Say:** *The Holy Family was a happy family who loved one another and learned many things from one another.*

### 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 to show that he or she loves and obeys his or her parents.
- ▶ 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 Teaches Us

### Engage: Page 39

- ▶ Ask your child to help you with a small chore. After you're done, **say:** *I'm glad I had your help. Being kind to others is doing God's will.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's answers. **Ask:** *Why didn't Emma's dad wake her and let her walk? (He is taking care of his daughter. He loves her.)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn how God cares for us this same way. He helps us and gives us what we need.*
- ▶ Ask your child to name ways he or she can help other family members. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 40–41

- ▶ Play a listening game with your child. **Say:** *I'm going to say the first part of a sentence, and I'd like for you to finish the sentence. Thank you God for .* Have your child repeat the sentence and then add a word of his or her choice. Continue adding words and repeating the sentence, saying the list of words until it gets too long to remember.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 40. **Ask:** *What do you think Jesus is doing in the picture? (talking, listening, sharing with his friends.)* Point to the word *prayer*. **Say:** *Prayer is both talking to and listening to God.* **Ask:** *When can we pray to God? (anytime)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What do you think Jesus might have been saying to God? (Jesus needed help with a decision. He loved God. He wanted to thank God.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 41. Then read aloud the lines of the prayer and the explanations to the right. Point out the vocabulary word *Heaven*. **Ask:** *What does Heaven mean? (life with God)* Reread aloud the first half of the Lord's Prayer. Tell your child that he or she will learn the rest of the prayer soon.

### Art Exploration: Page 219

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people picking cherries from trees.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the mood of the scene and the actions of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we practice kindness and bring peace, we are serving the Kingdom of God.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 219. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Have your child find the term *Kingdom of God* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. **Say:** *When we practice kindness and bring peace, we are serving the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child draw a picture for each sentence. Discuss the finished pictures. **Say:** *God wants us to be kind to one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Show your child how to cross his or her arms and place the hands on opposite shoulders as an alternative for folding hands when in prayer. **Say:** *Long ago, people twisted the shape of pretzels to resemble the way a person's arms were held during prayer. That's why children were given pretzels when they learned prayers.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of acts of kindness that he or she could do for your family. Have your child write the ideas on large red construction-paper circles that represent cherries. Place the "cherries" in a pie tin and invite family members to pick a cherry and perform the task written on it to help out another family member.

### Reflect: Pages 42–43

- ▶ Together look at page 42. **Ask:** *What is the girl in the picture doing?* (praying) **Say:** *Trust that God will always be with you, loving you, and helping you.*
- ▶ Explain that there are different ways to pray. **Say:** *One way to pray is with your arms crossed over your chest. Another way is called the orans position.* Bend your arms at the elbow and hold your hands, palms up, at shoulder height, for the *orans* position. Demonstrate both ways and let your child choose the way he or she likes. Pray aloud the Lord's Prayer and read aloud the last paragraph on page 42. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Discuss what is happening in each picture on page 43. Read aloud the text. Have your child complete the activity. **Ask:** *What are other ways to serve the Kingdom of God?* (saying "please" and "thank you," offering to set the dinner table, bringing in the mail)

### Respond: Page 44

- ▶ 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 ask Jesus for help with prayers.
- ▶ 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.

## Trust in God

### Engage: Page 45

- ▶ Ask your child to think of something he or she would wish to give to someone. Explain that the wish can be for anything. **Ask:** *If your wish came true, how would it affect that person?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's answers. **Ask:** *What are some things we need?* (food, water, clothing, a home, air to breathe, love) *What are some things that we want or wish we had?* (TV, toys, games) **Say:** *In this session we will learn how to trust God for what we need.*
- ▶ Ask your child to change his or her wish so that it is something the person needs instead of wants. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 46–47

- ▶ Remind your child that he or she learned the beginning of a beautiful prayer in the last session. **Ask:** *What was it called?* (the Lord's Prayer) **Say:** *Jesus gave this prayer to us. He wants us to pray it when we gather together with family or friends.*
- ▶ **Say:** *The more we pray the Lord's Prayer, the closer we'll feel to God.* Read aloud the first sentence on page 46. Then pray aloud the first part of the prayer together. Read aloud the last sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud page 47. Pause after every line and discuss its meaning. Point out the two vocabulary words. **Ask:** *Why should we forgive those who trespass against us, or hurt us?* (God wants us to forgive others as he forgives us.) Explain that temptation is something that could lead us to disobey God. Discuss examples of times your child might be tempted to do something. Then together pray aloud the entire prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When you go to Mass, listen for this prayer and pray it with our parish community.*

### Art Exploration: Page 220

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a parent giving a kiss to his or her child.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail.
- ▶ **Say:** *God will always forgive us, and because of that, we are able to forgive others.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 220. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What can you say when you want to be forgiven? (I'm sorry.) When someone says "I'm sorry" after hurting you, what should you say? (I forgive you.)* **Say:** *It's good to forgive the person. That's what God does.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Role-play the two children in the cartoon.
- ▶ Ask your child to use markers, crayons, or colored pencils to draw a portrait of two family members showing each other forgiveness. Explain that one of the people in the picture can be your child. Then ask him or her write a caption on the bottom of the portrait. Display the picture in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Together look at page 48. **Say:** *This boy is praying. Sometimes we use our own words when we pray, and sometimes we use special words.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sentence above the prayer. Invite your child to pray the Lord's Prayer with you. Read aloud the last paragraph and give your child time to speak to God in his or her heart. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 49. Discuss the question. Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *What other things do you really need?* Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God shares his kingdom with us because he wants us to have what we need.*

### Respond: Page 50

- ▶ 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 to ask God for only the things he or she truly needs.
- ▶ 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 Rises from the Dead

### Engage: Page 51

- ▶ Invite your child to discuss something that he or she lost. Share a similar story. Discuss how it feels to lose something important.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the first paragraph in the blue box. **Ask:** *How do you think Amy felt when she couldn't find her puppy? (scared, sad)* Then read aloud the second paragraph and discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *When something is special to us, we're sad to lose it and happy to find it. In this session we will learn how Jesus' friends felt when they saw Jesus again after they thought he was gone.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how they he or she feels knowing that we are never lost because Jesus is always here. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 52–53

- ▶ Invite your child to use sidewalk chalk to draw joyful on the sidewalk messages and pictures that remind him or her that Jesus is alive.
- ▶ Read aloud page 52 and discuss the picture. **Say:** *When Jesus died, he was buried above ground in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to protect it.* **Ask:** *Why were the women so surprised? (Jesus was not in the tomb; they found out Jesus was alive.)* Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Christ is the name given to Jesus after he rose from the dead.*
- ▶ Read aloud the two paragraphs on page 53. **Ask:** *Why do you think the women felt excited to see Jesus? (They thought Jesus was dead; they realized he was alive.)* **Say:** *Jesus is alive! The women in this story were overjoyed to be with their friend Jesus again.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus reminds us that when we remember him and his teachings, he will always be with us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 221

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the risen Jesus Christ surrounded by his friends.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including all the people who surround Jesus Christ.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus rose from the dead for everyone. He is with us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 221. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. Point out the word *Resurrection*. **Say:** *We call Jesus Christ's rising from the dead the Resurrection.* **Ask:** *Why did Jesus' friends pray?* (Praying brought them closer to Jesus.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child read aloud the words in the word box. Help your child complete the sentences. Discuss other times when Jesus is with us.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *The Resurrection is a time of joy and celebration for us. People everywhere have traditions for celebrating Easter.*
- ▶ Have your child paint on black construction paper his or her own version of *The Risen Lord*. Invite your child to draw friends and family members around Jesus, similar to the disciples that surround Jesus in the original painting. Display your child's artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 54–55

- ▶ Together look at page 54. **Ask:** *Why do you think the girl in the picture looks so calm?* Remind your child that he or she can rest with Jesus, knowing how much he loves us.
- ▶ Ask your child to close his or her eyes. Read aloud the first two paragraphs, pausing after each sentence. Then read aloud the last paragraph. Pause for a moment to allow your child to be with Jesus. Have your child open his or her eyes and pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud Finding Jesus on page 55. **Say:** *Let's help the women find the tomb.* Point to the tomb. **Say:** *Then let's help them find Jesus Christ.* Have your child complete the activity. Talk about ways you and your family can give someone a happy surprise like the one Jesus gave to the women.

### Respond: Page 56

- ▶ 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 talk to Jesus.
- ▶ 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 57

- ▶ Sing a well-known Christmas carol together. **Say:** *During the few weeks before Christmas, I enjoy singing Christmas carols.* **Ask:** *What do you like to do? (bake Christmas cookies, buy gifts, decorate the tree)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Point out the vocabulary words. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate the season of Advent on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *Advent is the time of year when we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. In this session we will discuss ways we celebrate.*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Advent by thinking about ways he or she can show love to friends and family during this season. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 58

- ▶ Make or purchase an Advent calendar to mark the days of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Display it prominently in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph. Have your child read aloud the directions for the activity. **Say:** *In the "I Pray" heart, I might draw a picture of myself praying in bed before I go to sleep.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Then read the verse aloud with your child. **Say:** *What else has God given us to show his love? (family, friends, nature)*

### Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Display an Advent wreath or show a picture of one. **Ask:** *What is this?* Explain that your child may see an Advent wreath like this one during Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. It means Advent is half over and we are getting close to Christmas.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section What We Experience. Point out the vocabulary term. Discuss why Jesus is the Light of the World. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Gloria is what the angels sang to the shepherds when Jesus was born. We wait until Christmas Mass to sing it in celebration of Jesus' birth.*

### Art Exploration: Page 222

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem before Jesus' birth.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people and the surroundings.
- ▶ **Say:** *Advent reminds us that Jesus' birth lights the world with truth and love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 222. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What event are we preparing for during Advent? (Jesus' birth)* **Say:** *Each candle is like the light of God's love. When the last candle is lit, we know Jesus will come soon.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and help your child write sentences. Share your own ideas with your child about how you would welcome Jesus into your home.
- ▶ Give your child several strips of construction paper. Invite him or her to write on each strip words of preparation for Advent, such as *pray, penance, church, and kindness*. Guide your child to make loops from the strips and attach the loops to form a chain. Hang the paper chain as a garland to decorate your home.

### Respond: Page 60

- ▶ 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 love and welcome 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.



# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

**Ask:** What do you like to do with your good friends? What do you think makes someone a good friend? What makes you a good friend to someone else? Read aloud the unit title on page 61. **Say:** Our new unit will help us understand that Jesus gives us the Church as a sign of his love for us and for the whole world. We will learn how Jesus chose a good friend to help him lead his people.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 61. Read aloud the saint's name. **Ask:** Why do you think Jesus and Peter were good friends? (Possible answers: They trusted each other; they traveled together; they both wanted to help people.)

Turn to page 62. Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** Fishing was a good business for Peter. He was able to make a living from it. He would spend every day going out to sea in his boat and bringing in his catch at the end of the day. Imagine what it was like for Peter to leave his work and follow Jesus.

**Ask:** Do you think it was easy? (No.)

Read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** How did Peter feel about his friend Jesus? (Peter loved Jesus. He trusted Jesus.) What did Jesus do when Peter didn't do the right thing? (Jesus forgave Peter.) Why should we forgive others? (We want to be like Jesus.)

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** Jesus knew Peter would be a strong leader for his people.

With your child add Peter's feast day, June 29, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor the work of Saint Peter.

## Following Jesus

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ With your child talk about activities and games you like to play. **Ask:** *Do you prefer playing outside or inside? Do you prefer playing with a small group or a large group?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. **Ask:** *What is important to do when you are playing?* (to share and listen) **Say:** *Friends make us happy.* **Ask:** *How does a person act when he or she is a good friend?* (kind, caring, and fun to be around) **Say:** *In this session we will learn how to be a good friend to others.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she could be a better friend. Remind your child that Peter and Jesus were good friends. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do we do at Mass?* (hear stories about God, pray, sing) **Say:** *We have talked about how the Mass is a special kind of liturgy. Liturgy is prayer that we pray with Jesus' friends.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 64. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Jesus' followers all over the world, including us, make up the Church.* Explain to your child that Church, with a capital C, is a community of people who follow Jesus. Church, with a lowercase c, refers to a special building in which we pray and celebrate Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph at the top of page 65. **Ask:** *Have you ever heard of a guardian angel?* Explain that even though we can't see our angel, the angel is with us all the time.
- ▶ Read aloud My Guardian Angel. Invite your child to draw a picture of what he or she imagines his or her guardian angel might look like. Point out the Guardian Angel Prayer on page 192.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Say:** *Saint Michael is an archangel, one of the chief angels. We can also ask Saint Michael to protect us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 223

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus calling Andrew and Peter to follow him.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the jobs of Andrew and Peter.



- ▶ **Say:** *To be good followers of Jesus, we must be willing to follow him even when times get difficult.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 223. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Asks Friends to Follow. **Ask:** *What are some things you can do to follow Jesus?* (care for others, be respectful, learn more about Jesus, attend Mass, obey parents)
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Asks Us to Follow. Allow time for your child to draw his or her picture.
- ▶ Using a washable ink pad, have your child make horizontal fingerprints on drawing paper. After the painting dries, help your child turn the fingerprints into fish by adding fins, gills, and eyes, using a thin black marker. Help your child write this caption under his or her picture: *Fishermen follow Jesus. I follow Jesus too!* Display the art in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Say:** *The girl in the picture looks ready to pray. Try to have quiet and peaceful feet, fingers, and eyes before you begin to pray.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph softly. Pause to allow your child time to think about his or her response. Encourage your child to talk to Jesus in his or her heart and to listen for what Jesus wants us to know about God's love for us. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to focus on the drawing on page 67. **Ask:** *Who are some of the people in your Church?* (priests, deacons, catechists, families) Read aloud the directions and give your child time to color the picture. Tell your child that once he or she adds other people, it will be a Church with a capital C.

### Respond: Page 68

- ▶ 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 help and be nice to people.
- ▶ 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 Holy Spirit

### Engage: Page 69

- ▶ Surprise your child by making him or her a special treat or card. **Ask:** *How does it feel to receive a good surprise?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Sometimes the nicest things come as surprises. In this session we will learn more about the Holy Spirit, who appeared to the disciples as a special surprise from God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of surprises or good deeds he or she can give to others. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 70–71

- ▶ Have a race with your child, using drinking straws to blow cotton balls across a table. **Say:** *Our breath can't be seen, but it moves the cotton balls. The Holy Spirit can't be seen, but he is always with us.*
- ▶ Call attention to the photos on pages 70 and 71. **Ask:** *What is happening in each photo?* (People are helping one another and celebrating Mass together.) Read aloud The Holy Spirit Is with Us on page 70. Ask your child to pray the Sign of the Cross with you, saying the words *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* **Say:** *Just like God and Jesus, the Holy Spirit is always with us.*
- ▶ Together look up the definition for *parish* in the Glossary. **Say:** *We belong to a parish.* **Ask:** *What is the name of our parish?*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit is invisible but strong.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 71. Allow time for your child to color the words.

### Art Exploration: Page 224

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus' friends receiving the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including symbols and what the symbols represent.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Holy Spirit strengthens us as he strengthened Jesus' friends. We can have courage because we know that the Holy Spirit is with us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 224. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud The Holy Spirit Comes and The Holy Spirit Brings Courage. **Say:** *Pentecost is the special day when the Holy Spirit first came to Jesus' friends.* **Ask:** *What does the word courage mean? (brave, not showing fear).* **Say:** *The Holy Spirit brought courage to Jesus' friends. He came to each of us when we were baptized. The Holy Spirit strengthens us too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to color the Holy Spirit symbols.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *It is the Holy Spirit that helps us be loving and kind toward one another.*
- ▶ Help your child tear red, orange, and yellow construction paper into small pieces. Have him or her arrange and glue the pieces on black construction paper to make the shape of a large flame. Help your child use white chalk to write this caption below the picture: *Jesus' friends saw flames when the Holy Spirit came.*

### Reflect: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Together look at page 72. **Say:** *The boy might be thinking about how the Holy Spirit is always with us. Remember to be very still as you prepare to pray.*
- ▶ Read aloud the page, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to pray. **Say:** *Now take some time to speak to the Holy Spirit in your heart.* Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud page 73. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends as wind and as flames of fire. Jesus' friends were surprised, but they no longer felt afraid to talk about Jesus. The Holy Spirit brought them peace.* Point out the words in the word bank. Tell your child that the picture at the beginning of each sentence is a clue to the word that belongs in the blank.
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to read aloud the completed sentences.

### Respond: Page 74

- ▶ 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 help others without being asked.
- ▶ 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 Teaches Us to Share

### Engage: Page 75

- ▶ Give your child a sheet of drawing paper while you hold a crayon in your hand.  
**Say:** *Let's draw a picture of a garden.* Wait a few seconds and **ask:** *What's wrong? What can we do so that we can both draw? (share)* Work together to share the crayon and paper to draw the picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *In this session we will learn that when we share, we show love, care, concern, and kindness.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about ways he or she can share this week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ Cut out four flames from red construction paper. Have your child write these Gifts of the Holy Spirit on each flame: *love, kindness, peace, caring.* Discuss each gift and display the flames in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud Sharing with Others on page 76. **Ask:** *Why did more and more people become followers of Jesus? (Jesus' followers shared, and they took good care of one another.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit helps us be happy and share our happiness with others.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first three paragraphs on page 77. **Ask:** *What is the special name for Jesus' friends? (Christians) What Church do we belong to? (Catholic)*  
**Say:** *When we celebrate Mass, there is a special way to show love to one another.* Demonstrate the Sign of Peace with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph and have your child complete the activity.

### Art Exploration: Page 225

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a group of people working together, riding the subway, or playing at a park.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the people are the same and how they are different.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus tells us that everyone is our neighbor. God wants us to love our neighbors.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 225. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *Whom does God want us to love? (our families, one another, our neighbors, everyone)* **Say:** *Let's try to be kinder to our neighbors. We can smile and say hello.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to complete the sentences and the drawing. Invite him or her to share them with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to think of a person whom he or she likes to spend time with. Have your child draw a picture of the two of them taking a ride on some sort of transportation. Help your child complete this caption on his or her artwork: *I like to share time with [name of person]. It doesn't matter where we go!*

### Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Say:** *The girl in the picture looks happy to be alone with Jesus. Be still and open your heart to Jesus when you pray.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Today's prayer was written by Saint Richard, who lived long ago.* Pray the prayer aloud while your child prays with you in the quiet of his or her heart. Read aloud the last paragraph and allow time for your child to be with Jesus. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What's one thing you'd like a friend to share with you?* Discuss your child's response. Read aloud page 79. Give your child crayons or markers and have him or her complete the activity. Discuss the responses and encourage your child to try to share these things this week with others.

### Respond: Page 80

- ▶ 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 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.

## God Chooses Mary

### Engage: Page 81

- ▶ Invite your child to make an “I Love God” booklet. Fold a large sheet of light-colored construction paper in half. On each of the four pages, ask your child to draw a picture of something he or she can do to show love for God.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child’s response. **Say:** *Even though Tina was shy, she knew saying hello was the right thing to do. It was a way for her to show her love for God. In this session we will learn how Mary said yes to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about things he or she may not want to do but needs to do to learn and grow. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Discuss things that make you and your child happy. **Say:** *Happiness can be found in many different ways. A hug, a smile, or a kind word all have the power to make us happy.*
- ▶ Read aloud God Loves Mary on page 82. Have your child find the word *grace* in the Glossary and read aloud the definition. **Ask:** *Who gave Mary the gift of grace? (God)* **Say:** *Grace is a gift from God that fills us with God’s life and makes us his friends. God gives us grace because he loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. **Say:** *Mary was blessed because God chose her to be Jesus’ mother.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Mother of God on page 83. **Ask:** *What are some things you notice about this beautiful picture of Mary?* **Say:** *Mary loved Jesus, and she became the first and greatest of all of Jesus’ followers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Statues of Mary are very important to Catholics. Let’s look for one in our church the next time we are there.*

### Art Exploration: Page 226

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the angel Gabriel visiting Mary.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the angel looks and acts toward Mary.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Holy Spirit comes to us to guide us and help us. The Holy Spirit was there to help Mary when she said yes to God.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 226. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the Scripture passage. **Ask:** *How do you think Mary felt after Gabriel gave her the message?* (happy, special, blessed) **Say:** *Mary's love for God was strong. She knew she could trust him, and she wanted to please God. That's why she was happy to do what God wanted.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete it. Remind your child to say yes to God as Mary did.
- ▶ Cut a large rectangular shape out of black construction paper to resemble a window frame. Give your child a sheet of wax paper that fits in the frame. Ask your child to use crayons to draw and color on the wax paper. Help him or her tape the black frame to the wax paper. Hang the "stained-glass window" against your window at home and think of the wonderful Bible stories you know whenever you look at the artwork.

### Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Say:** *We are going to learn a special prayer called the Hail Mary.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to fold his or her hands. Then pray aloud the Hail Mary. When you are finished, **say:** *Speak with Mary in your heart and tell her how glad you are that she said yes to God.* Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud Mary Answers God on page 85. Give your child crayons or markers to complete the activity. When your child is finished, **ask:** *What did Mary say to God?* (Yes!) *What do we say to God?* (Yes!)

### Respond: Page 86

- ▶ 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 say yes to God.
- ▶ 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 Christmas

### Engage: Page 87

- ▶ **Ask:** *When do we celebrate Jesus' birth? (at Christmas) Together imagine visiting Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Talk about how you would feel when you see the baby Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Point out the vocabulary word. Discuss the picture. **Say:** *The Christmas season includes a visit from the Wise Men on January 6 and ends with the baptism of Jesus. In this session we will learn more about Christmas, the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 88

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some Christmas decorations you see in stores or in our neighborhood? (Santa, snowmen, wreaths, trees) Describe a Nativity scene and explain that many people decorate their homes with Nativity scenes to remind them of Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate During Christmas. Point out the vocabulary term. Have your child complete the Son of God Word Search.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How is Jesus, the Son of God, part of your life? (I say my prayers to Jesus; we have a picture of him in our house; he is always with me.)*

### Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ **Ask:** *Would the Christmas season feel the same to you if we had no trees, wreaths, or lights? How would it feel the same? How would it feel different?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Christmas. Read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The celebrant is the priest or bishop who leads people in praying the Mass. The special clothes that the priest or bishop wears during Mass are called vestments.* **Ask:** *Why does the priest wear different color vestments at different times of the year? (to show which season or feast we are celebrating in the liturgical calendar)*
- ▶ Read aloud My Christmas Tree and have your child use markers or crayons to decorate the tree.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *Can you name some of the people and animals present at Jesus' birth that would be included in a live Nativity scene? (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, donkeys, sheep, cows)*

### Art Exploration: Page 227

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, and animals.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including symbols such as halos and a star.
- ▶ **Say:** *The first Sunday following Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family. That feast day is an opportunity to honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, as well as our own family.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 227. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Christmas on page 227. **Ask:** *How did the tradition of gift giving begin?* (the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus) **Say:** *Jesus, through his example and God's Word, taught people to take care of one another, to love, and to be peaceful. He reminded people to pray and to think every day about how much God loves them. Before Jesus came, many people believed the only important things were money and power. Jesus brought the message that those things make us forget the importance of God's message.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Gift of Jesus and allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ Give your child a star of Bethlehem template on yellow cardstock. Instruct him or her to decorate the star with glitter and sequins to make it shine for all to see. Punch a hole at the top of the star. Help your child loop a piece of yarn through the hole and hang it from a high place in your home.

### Respond: Page 90

- ▶ 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 Christmas joy.
- ▶ 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.



# Sacraments, Our Way of Life

## Begin

**Ask:** What does it mean to say yes? (that you like something, that you agree to do something) How does it feel when someone says yes to you? (good, exciting) Read aloud the unit title on page 91. **Say:** We have talked about how Mary said yes to God. In this session we will learn about a saint who also said yes to God. Everything she did was to please God. Let's begin by learning about Saint Thérèse.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 91. Read aloud the saint's name and look at her picture. **Ask:** What did Thérèse want to do for God? (She wanted to do everything for God.) **Say:** We can always try to do our best in all we do.

Turn to page 92. Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. **Say:** Thérèse wanted to please God every day. Even as a young child, everything Thérèse said and did was to please God.

Read aloud the second paragraph. **Say:** We can show how much we love God by doing little things. **Ask:** What are some things you can do to please God? (share my toys, do my chores, be a good friend)

**Say:** Thérèse gives us a wonderful example to follow. Remember that even the littlest things we do can honor God.

With your child add Thérèse's feast day, October 1, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor the ways of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

## Jesus in Our Lives

### Engage: Page 93

- ▶ With your child, talk about times when you've felt especially loved, such as when you were sick and someone took care of you. **Say:** *A smile and a kind word can make others happy.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *We are so fortunate to be loved by our families and friends. In this session we will learn how showing love to others is something God wants us to do.*
- ▶ Have your child share ways of giving himself or herself as a gift to someone. **Ask:** *What can you do to make someone's life easier today?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 94–95

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some signs we use to show our love?* (hug, smile, card, kind words) **Say:** *The signs of Jesus' love are so special we celebrate them at church.*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Loves Us on page 94. **Ask:** *How do the sacraments help us?* (They help us live as God wants us to; they bring us closer to Jesus.) **Say:** *Grace is a gift that God gives us because he loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *We are signs of Jesus' love in this world when we are kind.*
- ▶ Read aloud Caring for Our Spirit on page 95 and point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Priests share sacraments, signs of Jesus' love, with us.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God loves you very much. He will always protect you. He is always with you.*

### Art Exploration: Page 228

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus surrounded by children.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of Jesus and the children.
- ▶ **Say:** *When Jesus asked for the children, he showed everyone how important he thinks children are.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 228. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the Bible passage. **Say:** *When Jesus asked for the children, he showed everyone how important he thinks children are. Jesus treated children with kindness. Treating others with kindness is one of the greatest signs of love.* Remind your child that Jesus gives us signs of his love through the sacraments.
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow time for your child to write his or her answer and color the picture. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Help your child fold a sheet of white paper into thirds. In the left panel, have your child write the word *Jesus*. In the center panel, have your child write the word *Loves*. In the right panel, have your child write the word *Me*. Guide him or her to illustrate each word, using crayons or markers. On the back have your child draw a picture of himself or herself with Jesus.

### Reflect: Pages 96–97

- ▶ Together look at page 96. **Say:** *Like the boy in the picture, use your imagination in prayer. Imagine what you see, feel, hear, touch, and smell.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph softly. Pause to allow your child time to think about his or her response. Encourage your child to imagine that Jesus is right beside him or her. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Special Time with Jesus on page 97. Have your child complete the activity.

### Respond: Page 98

- ▶ 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 show signs of love for Jesus.
- ▶ 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.

## Joining God's Family

### Engage: Page 99

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine you are in a hot desert without any water. How do you feel? Give your child a glass of water. Ask:* *How does the water taste to you now?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *Can flowers live without water? Can animals? Can people? (No.) Say:* *All these things need water to live and grow. In this session we will learn why water is also important for us in the Church.*
- ▶ Ask your child to look outside and talk about all the things he or she sees that need water to live. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ **Say:** *Water is an important sign for members of our Church. Ask:* *What is a sacrament in which water is very important? (Sacrament of Baptism) Find photos of your child's Baptism and discuss that day.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 100. **Say:** *Through Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit. Holy water is kept in a holy-water font. Ask:* *What do we do when we enter the church and pass the holy-water font? (dip fingertips in the holy water and pray the Sign of the Cross)*
- ▶ Read aloud Godparents Are Special People on page 101. **Say:** *Godparents are special people who promise to help their godchildren grow in God's family. Ask:* *How do godparents show they care? (going with us to church, remembering us on special days)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Who do you think said these words? (Jesus) Say:* *Jesus wants everyone to be part of God's family. Ask:* *How do we do this? (through Baptism, being baptized)*

### Art Exploration: Page 229

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Peter.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the object that Saint Peter is holding.
- ▶ **Say:** *In Baptism we join God's family and become followers of Jesus'.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 229. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud Followers of Jesus. **Ask:** *What two things did Peter say the people should do to follow Jesus? (Love God and join his family.)* **Say:** *When we love God and one another, we show that we are Jesus' followers.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Are Invited and have your child color the picture.
- ▶ Using poster board and art supplies, ask your child to make a poster that illustrates any of the following: *Love God, Follow Jesus, God's Family, Jesus Loves Me, or I Love Jesus.* Ask him or her to write the caption on the poster and explain the drawing. Display the poster in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Together look at page 102. **Ask:** *What do you think the girl in the picture is doing? (making the Sign of the Cross)* **Say:** *She knows that God is our Father and that we are all brothers and sister with Jesus, his Son.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Then demonstrate how to dip your right hand into holy water and pray the Sign of the Cross. Ask your child to do it with you. **Say:** *We are all part of God's family.*
- ▶ Read aloud What Is the Word? on page 103. Allow time for your child to write his or her answers and then go over them together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *When we enter and exit the church, we dip our hand into the holy water. Then we pray the Sign of the Cross, which reminds us that we are baptized and part of God's family.*

### Respond: Page 104

- ▶ 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 let people know about the Church.
- ▶ 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 Jesus

### Engage: Page 105

- ▶ With your child share stories about special non-holiday meals you have shared together with your family. **Say:** *No matter what a special meal celebrates, it's always important to share food and prayer together.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *What makes a meal special?* (the people, the occasion, the place, the food) **Say:** *In this session we are going to learn about a special meal to which all of God's family is invited.*
- ▶ Together look in your pantry and find a nonperishable food item that both of you can bring to church or to a food pantry to help others have special meals together. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is your favorite dinner to have together?* Discuss dishes that you and your child eat at different celebrations. **Say:** *Jesus had a special meal with his friends.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 106. **Say:** *Sharing Jesus' special meal shows him that we remember him and know he is with us.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Last Supper on page 107. **Say:** *The Last Supper was the last meal Jesus ate with his friends. Soon after the meal he died, but then he rose from the dead.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *During Mass the priest repeats the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper, the special meal Jesus shared with his friends. The Bread and Wine truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.*

### Art Exploration: Page 230

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of many people walking to church for Mass.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the building to which the people are walking.
- ▶ **Say:** *In celebrating the Mass, we remember what Jesus has done for us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 230. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs of Mass, Our Special Meal. **Ask:** *What do you think the priest means when he says to glorify God?* (We should pray; we should attend Mass; we should love one another.)



- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow time for your child to color the picture. Remind your child that Mass is a celebration with our friends, who are followers of Jesus'.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *No matter what we do, we should do it to show God that we love him.*
- ▶ Invite your child to make a collage by cutting out pictures from magazines of people sharing a meal or pictures of favorite foods and people who are special to him or her. Ask your child to glue these pictures to a sheet of construction paper. Encourage your child to add to the collage by labeling the pictures and adding his or her own drawings.

### Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **Ask:** *Where is the girl in the picture? Why is she holding hands with the person next to her?* Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Before each meal we ask God to bless us and the food we are about to eat.*
- ▶ Read aloud the page. Then invite your child to pray each prayer with you a second time. **Say:** *Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together to end our prayer time.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 109. Discuss the questions and then have your child use crayons or markers to complete the activity.

### Respond: Page 110

- ▶ 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 make others feel special.
- ▶ 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.

## Listening to Our Father

### Engage: Page 111

- ▶ **Ask:** Do you ever think of a special place you'd like to go? Is it a real place or an imaginary place? Share a place that you enjoy, such as a garden or a beach.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** Why do you think it is easier to think when you are in a quiet place? **Say:** In this session we will learn that quiet places and quieting ourselves can help us listen to Jesus. Together find a special, comfortable, quiet place in your home. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 112–113

- ▶ Together look at the pictures on pages 112 and 113. **Say:** Today we're going to learn about a man named Elijah. Elijah's special place is a cave where he goes to be quiet and listen for God. God told Elijah he would be passing by Elijah's cave.
- ▶ Read aloud page 112. **Ask:** Why do you think Elijah couldn't hear God? (There was too much noise.)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 113. **Ask:** How do you think Elijah felt when he heard God's voice after the wind, earthquake, and fire? (happy, relieved) **Say:** This story reminds us that sometimes it is hard to hear God with all the noise in our lives. But if we listen closely, we will hear God.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** Jesus asks us to listen. Do you think listening is an important part of learning? Discuss your child's response.

### Art Exploration: Page 231

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of happy people dancing and singing while they're praying.
- ▶ **Ask:** What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the people might be feeling.
- ▶ **Say:** There are many different ways to pray.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 231. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the question in each paragraph and have your child read the sentences below it. Together look up the word *gestures* in the Glossary. Demonstrate gestures for prayer. **Say:** If our words, songs, and gestures help us talk to God, then they are prayers.



- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we gather at Mass on Sunday, we pray with our family and friends.*
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine being present in the scene in the picture. Encourage your child to show with his or her body and voice how he or she would be moving, speaking, or singing. Remind your child that when we pray, we praise God, thank him, ask for help, and tell him we're sorry.

### Reflect: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Together look at page 114. **Ask:** *What sounds do you think the people in the picture can hear?* Remind your child that it is important to make time for silence so that he or she can both talk to and listen to God.
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph, pausing after each one to give your child time to reflect. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 115. **Say:** *God is always talking to us, but we have to be quiet so that we can listen to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud Quiet Places. Ask your child to describe his or her quiet place and then draw a picture of it.

### Respond: Page 116

- ▶ 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 find time to listen to God each day.
- ▶ 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 Lent and Holy Week

### Engage: Page 117

- ▶ Display an Easter basket or a picture of one. **Ask:** *What is this?* **Say:** *Easter is a special time of year in our Church. On Easter Sunday we celebrate with Easter baskets filled with eggs or gifts. The days leading up to Easter Sunday are called Lent and Holy Week.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *Can you name any of the special days celebrated during Holy Week? (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)* **Say:** *In this session we'll learn about Lent and Holy Week. During this time of year, we learn to care for others as Jesus does.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family celebrates Lent and Holy Week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 118

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some ways that we can grow closer to someone? (spend time with him or her, call him or her, help someone in need)* **Say:** *When we grow closer to someone, that person becomes our friend.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of Growing Closer to God. **Say:** *When we are like Jesus, we grow closer to God.* Discuss the questions together and have your child write the answers.
- ▶ Read aloud Ash Wednesday. Invite your child to use the words in the word box to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What is one thing you did today to show love for God?* Discuss your child's response.

### Reflect: Page 119

- ▶ Discuss what Mass is like during Lent and Holy Week. **Ask:** *Is there a special color that stands out? (purple) Are there many songs or only a few songs? (only a few)*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. **Say:** *Throughout the liturgical year, the Mass changes as we celebrate different seasons.*
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Talk about what your child will and will not see during Lent.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud My Parish Priest. Help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Share pretzels with your child. **Say:** *During Lent long ago, people fasted from milk, butter, eggs, cheese, cream, and meat. They shaped flour, water, and salt to look like arms crossed in prayer and baked the small breads that we now call pretzels. Pretzels are a reminder that Lent is a time for special prayer.*



### Art Exploration: Page 232

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus on the cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how seeing Jesus on the cross makes him or her feel.
- ▶ **Say:** *Lent is a time to prepare. By being more like Jesus, we get our hearts ready for Easter.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 232. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 232. **Ask:** *How can we care for people in need?* (Share money in the church collection. Pray for them.) *How do we pray?* (We can pray anytime we sit quietly, or we can pray with our church family.) *How can we share God's message?* (by living like Jesus and showing others how to make good choices)
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph and allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ Give your child paper, a paintbrush, and watercolor paint. Ask your child to paint his or her own version of the crucifix. Encourage your child to use bold strokes and unusual colors. Remind your child that God is always there for us.

### Respond: Page 120

- ▶ 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 do nice things for 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.



# Morality, Our Lived Faith

## Begin

**Ask:** What are some rules in our home? What are some rules you have at school? What would the world be like without any rules? Read aloud the unit title on page 121. **Say:** We are going to learn about God's rules, the most important rules of all. God's rules help us live happy, peaceful lives. Saint Ignatius of Loyola was an important saint who lived by God's rules.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 121. Read aloud the saint's name and look at his picture. Read aloud the sentence. **Say:** We can see God's love everywhere too: in our parents, in the people who teach us about God, in priests, and in our friends and family members.

Turn to page 122. Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph.

**Ask:** Was Ignatius born a saint? (No) Read aloud the second paragraph.

**Ask:** What happened to Ignatius? (He was hurt in battle.) As he healed, what began to happen? (He changed.)

Read aloud the third paragraph. **Ask:** What did Ignatius decide? (He decided to live like Jesus.) Whom did Ignatius put first in his life? (God) **Say:** Ignatius cared so much for others. He gave his clothes to those who were poor.

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** Following God was the most important decision in Ignatius's life. Let's try to follow his example and put God first in our lives.

With your child add Ignatius's feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor the teachings of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

## Making Good Decisions

### Engage: Page 123

- ▶ **Ask:** *What kinds of signs do you see every day? (stop signs, street signs, signs in stores) What do signs tell us? (what to do, how to act, the rules)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *A rule tells us how we should act; it is something we are expected to do.*
- ▶ Have your child name family rules, school rules, and traffic rules. **Ask:** *What would happen if one of these rules did not exist?* Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about special rules that God gave to us. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

### Explore: Pages 124–125

- ▶ **Say:** *God gives us rules too.* **Ask:** *What do you think of when I say the word commandment? Commandment is a special word for one of God's rules.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 124. **Say:** *We find God's commandments in the Bible.* Turn to pages 200–201 for a complete list of the Ten Commandments. Discuss each commandment. Ask your child to explain what it means to him or her.
- ▶ Read aloud Decisions on page 125 and discuss each question. **Say:** *Tell me which of the commandments we're talking about.* When you are finished, **say:** *God knows it can be hard to do what's right. God gave us his commandments so that we know what he wants us to do.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Grace helps us follow God's commandments.*

### Art Exploration: Page 233

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of someone serving food to people in need.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including how the person is helping all the people gathered.
- ▶ **Say:** *If we remember to love God and love our neighbor in everything we do, we will be following God's commandments.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 233. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the three questions of Good Decisions. **Say:** *Why is it important to think through decisions before making them? (to be sure it is what God wants us to do, that we will not hurt anyone, and that the decision is a good one)*



- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to write his or her answer and share the response with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What did Jesus mean when he said we should love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves? (We should treat others the way we want to be treated.)* **Say:** *Jesus summed up all the commandments into two simple ones. If we remember to love God and love our neighbor in everything we do, we will be following God's commandments.* **Ask:** *What are some things you can do to love your neighbor? (Be kind, share, and help others.)*
- ▶ Invite your child to cut out magazine pictures to show a meal that he or she might like to serve to a person who is hungry. Have your child glue the cutouts to paper plates and draw utensils. Staple the plate to a sheet of poster board titled *Feeding the Hungry Is a Good Decision*.

### Reflect: Pages 126–127

- ▶ Together look at page 126. **Say:** *The boy in the picture is beginning the day with a prayer to God. By praying the Morning Prayer, we ask God's help in making good decisions all day long.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. Ask your child to pray the prayer with you. Read aloud the third and fourth paragraphs. Pause for a few deep breaths to give your child time to talk to God in his or her heart. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions on page 127, pointing to the faces in the circles. Read aloud each situation and **ask:** *Is this a good decision or a bad decision?* After your child completes the activity, discuss the correct answers.

### Respond: Page 128

- ▶ 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 to treat others the way he or she likes to be treated.
- ▶ 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 Cares for Us

### Engage: Page 129

- ▶ **Ask:** What are some examples of bad decisions people make? (saying hurtful things, not allowing someone to play, not listening to parents)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *We all make bad decisions sometimes. In this session we will learn that there are always things we can do to make a wrong decision right. We'll also learn that God cares for us no matter what we do.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about bad decisions he or she has made toward other family members. **Ask:** *How did it make you feel?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 130–131

- ▶ **Ask:** *Do you feel good or yucky when you do something wrong? Maybe you told a lie or hurt someone's feelings.* **Say:** *When we do something wrong, it is called a sin.*
- ▶ Read aloud God Always Forgives on page 130 and point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *When we sin, we hurt our friendships with God and with others. What are some sins that hurt our friendship with God? (using God's name in ways that are not nice, forgetting how important God is to us) What are some sins that hurt our friendships with others? (taking things, not telling the truth)*
- ▶ Read aloud Avoid Sin and have your child complete each sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 131 and point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *God will always forgive us when we are sorry for doing or saying hurtful things. All we have to do is tell him we are sorry.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *We can be like Jesus and forgive others with the help of God's gift of grace.*

### Art Exploration: Page 234

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Jesus is doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus cares for us as a shepherd cares for his sheep.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 234. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the Scripture passage. **Ask:** *How do you think the shepherd felt when he lost one of his sheep? (worried, frightened)* **Say:** *God is worried when we don't follow him or do what he asks of us. He is happy when we say we are sorry and follow him again.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete the maze.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a lamb from air-dry clay. Have your child add small balls of clay to represent wool and use plastic utensils or small art tools to add details. **Say:** *Share your sheep with the rest of our family. Tell the story of the lost sheep. Describe how Jesus is our shepherd.*

### Reflect: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Together look at page 132. **Say:** *Whenever you feel lost or sad because you've done something wrong, Jesus is watching over you and is ready to forgive, no matter what. Always take time to say you are sorry.*
- ▶ Read aloud Pray for Forgiveness. Pause after each sentence and question to give your child time to imagine what you are describing and how he or she would respond. When you are finished, **say:** *Now is your time to talk to Jesus.* Count silently to 10, then invite your child to pray *Amen* with you.
- ▶ Read aloud A Caring Shepherd on page 133. Allow time for your child to use the words in the word box to complete each sentence. Read the sentences aloud together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Who is the Good Shepherd? (Jesus)* **Say:** *Like the Good Shepherd, God protects us, keeps us safe, and always forgives us.*

### Respond: Page 134

- ▶ 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 to forgive others the way Jesus forgives us.
- ▶ 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 Loves Families

### Engage: Page 135

- ▶ Review family rules with your child. **Ask:** *Why do we ask you to obey these rules?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *It's not always easy to obey your parents. Remember that we have rules for you because we love you. In this session we will learn how those rules help us grow into healthy, happy people.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she feels when he or she disobeys you. Ask them to think about how it makes you feel. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you think Jesus was like when he was your age? What kinds of chores and rules do you think his parents had for him to follow?*
- ▶ Read aloud page 136. **Ask:** *Why did Mary and Joseph become so worried about Jesus? (They didn't know where he was.)* **Say:** *Even though it is difficult sometimes, obeying our parents keeps us safe and happy.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 137 and point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *You were a special gift to me.* **Ask:** *What special commandment is about your parents? (Obey your parents.)* **Say:** *We honor people when we give them the respect they deserve. By obeying your parents, you are honoring us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 235

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a family spending time together outside.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the parents.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we obey our parents and listen to them, we show God that we are obeying him and listening to him.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 235. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *Why is God happy when we obey our parents? (We are following one of the commandments that God gave us.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to draw a picture and share it with you.

- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Jesus obeyed his parents. You can be like Jesus when you follow this commandment.*
- ▶ Find a family photo that you don't mind cutting up. Tell your child to cut each family member's face out of the photo. Have your child glue the photo faces to a sheet of paper and draw around them to add bodies and make a family portrait. Invite your child to show your family holding hands or eating dinner together. Display the family portrait in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is ending her day with the Evening Prayer. Let's try to spend time alone with God in both the morning and the evening.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Then pray the prayer, pausing after each sentence. Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** *Now you may take a few moments to talk to Jesus in your heart. If you'd like, you can ask him to bless the members of our family. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.*
- ▶ Read aloud Show You Care on page 139. **Say:** *It makes me happy when you honor, love, obey, and help me. These four words are hidden in the word search. Look for each word. When you find it, circle it.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *All that we've learned today about obeying our parents is in the Bible.*

### Respond: Page 140

- ▶ 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 to love, honor, obey, and help his or her parents.
- ▶ 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.

## God Loves the World

### Engage: Page 141

- ▶ **Ask:** What do you think the world would be like without trees or oceans or animals? Where did all the amazing things in the world come from?
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** In this session we will learn that God created everything in the world. God creates people, so something made by people, like a shovel, is really created by God.
- ▶ Ask your child to think about why God created all that he did. **Say:** He did it to give us everything. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 142–143

- ▶ **Ask:** What is one of your favorite things in God's world? **Say:** God is so good to give us all these wonderful things!
- ▶ Point out the pictures on page 142. Read aloud Caring for Our World. **Say:** Neighbors are the people all around us. **Ask:** What are some things we can do to care for the world God gave us? (care for animals and plants, recycle, feed the birds, not litter, not waste water)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** If we protect forests, we will protect the people and animals God created.
- ▶ Read aloud page 143. **Ask:** What are some ways we can show we care about wild animals? (return them to where they belong, treat them with respect, leave them be) **Say:** You should always be careful around unfamiliar animals. Make sure to ask me or another adult for help around them.

### Art Exploration: Page 236

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the Garden of Eden from the Bible.
- ▶ **Ask:** What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the animals.
- ▶ **Say:** God wants us to care for the world he created.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 236. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the passage from Genesis. **Say:** Dear God, we thank you for the wonderful world you have created and for the creatures in it.



- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child write a sentence to share with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God truly does bless us with the wonderful world he created! Every day let's think about our blessings and thank God for them.*
- ▶ Take turns selecting an animal and pretending to be that animal while the other person guesses what the animal is. After each performance, thank God for something about that animal. An example is *I thank God for the tiger because of its beautiful striped fur.*

### Reflect: Pages 144–145

- ▶ Together look at page 144. **Say:** *The boy in the picture looks happy to be outside. We can thank God every day for his beautiful creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph, pausing to give your child time to thank God for all the amazing things he created. Pray *Amen* together.
- ▶ Read aloud What Can You Do? on page 145 and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the drawing and the sentence with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can help the world stay beautiful? (don't litter, plant new flowers and trees)* **Say:** *When we take care of all the gifts God gives us, such as plants, animals, and clean air, we are showing our love for God's world.*

### Respond: Page 146

- ▶ 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 to care for God's world.
- ▶ 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 Easter

### Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Display an Easter lily or a look at a picture of one. **Ask:** Have you ever seen a lily like this at Mass? **Say:** On Easter, Jesus Christ rose from the dead, giving all of us new life. The lilies we see at Easter time are a symbol of our new life with God.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** When does the Easter season begin? (at the Easter Vigil) **Say:** The Easter Vigil is the Mass that begins the Easter season with a celebration of light. In this session we'll learn more about Easter, the time of year when we rejoice knowing that Jesus is with us always.
- ▶ Together find the date of Easter on a calendar and mark off the next 50 days to identify the season. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Ask:** Why is Easter a special time? (because Jesus rose from the dead) **Say:** The snow melts, trees begin to bud, and baby animals are born in the springtime. Springtime is also when we celebrate Easter. Just as there is new life in God's creation, we celebrate the new life we share with Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate During Easter, stopping before the activity directions. **Say:** Easter is a time to rejoice and remember that Jesus died for each one of us. We celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter and every Sunday of the year.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Review the color key, making sure your child understands which number goes with which color. Then color one piece of the window together. Invite your child to complete the activity. Together read the hidden word.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** God gives us peace. How can you share peace with others? (by helping a friend, being kind, obeying parents)

### Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ **Ask:** Have you heard the word Alleluia before? Where have you heard it? The word Alleluia means "praise the Lord." We sing Alleluia to praise God and to rejoice in the new life Jesus has given us.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. Sing aloud the Alleluia melody used in your parish. **Ask:** How does this song make you feel?
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Discuss the symbols of Easter. Invite your child to complete the Easter lily activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** The White House has had this tradition since 1878. The event now involves thousands of families.

### Art Exploration: Page 237

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the risen Jesus Christ and the women who went to the tomb on Easter morning.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how it makes him or her feel.
- ▶ **Say:** *Easter is a time to celebrate how Jesus saves us all.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 237. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs of Celebrating Easter. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate on Easter Sunday? (Jesus' rising from the dead) What is one of the ways that we celebrate? (singing and praying Alleluia)*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and allow time for your child to complete the picture. **Say:** *We can meet Jesus when we are with our families, at Mass, or anywhere.*
- ▶ Have your child trace his or her hand on white construction paper. Show your child how to make a lily. Cut out the tracings and wrap the fingers around a pencil to curl them slightly. Cut a yellow craft stem into three equal pieces and twist together to form the stamen, then twist the stamen onto a green craft stem. Wrap the paper hand around the craft stem until the thumb touches the pinky finger. Glue and tie a ribbon around the base of the flower.

### Respond: Page 150

- ▶ 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 to give of himself or herself to help 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.