



# 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

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Isidore the Farmer.

**Ask:** *What was Saint Isidore's job? (farming)*

Have your child read aloud page 1. **Say:** *A saint is a person who has lived a life of special faith and goodness. The Church has honored many saints. Saint Isidore was a man who loved God and showed special care to the earth and its creatures.*

Turn to page 2. Read aloud the first paragraph. **Ask:** *Where did Saint Isidore live? (Spain) What did Saint Isidore do while he was farming the land? (pray)*

**Say:** *God wants us to take care of the earth. Saint Isidore can teach us about loving the earth.*

Read aloud the last two paragraphs. **Say:** *A patron saint watches over special groups of people, places, or animals. Ask: Which groups does Saint Isidore watch over? (farmers, farm animals, farming communities, and picnickers)*

With your child add Isidore's feast day, May 15, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint Isidore.



## God Creates Us

### Engage: Page 3

- ▶ With your child think of someone in your family or neighborhood who could use a "Thinking of You" card. Encourage your child to make a card for that person by using construction paper, markers, or crayons. Have your child write this sentence inside the card: *God is good and wonderful, and so are you.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What's happening in this picture?* (The girl feels happy because she is loved.) **Say:** *In this session we will learn what God makes and why he makes those things.*
- ▶ Encourage your child to give the card to its recipient. Point out that God creates things out of love for us, just as your child made the card. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ Cut out paper hearts. Ask your child to write the names of people he or she loves on the hearts. Then ask your child to write a way to show his or her love. Display the hearts in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud page 4. **Ask:** *Who is our Creator?* (God) *What does he create?* (Heaven, earth, people, animals, plants) *Who are the three Persons of the Trinity?* (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) Point out the picture of the three rings. **Ask:** *How is this design like the Trinity?* (It has three parts, and they're connected to form one object.) **Say:** *This is just as the Holy Trinity is three Persons in one.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Discuss examples of the good things God creates.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 5. Point out the vocabulary words in dark type. **Ask:** *What is one way to be holy?* (to love all God's creation)
- ▶ Read aloud Caring for God's Creation. Have your child complete the sentence. Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Sacraments give us the grace we need to live holy lives.*

### Art Exploration: Page 235

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of God's creatures of the air, land, and sea.



- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the shining sun, trees and flowers blooming, and animals in nature.
- ▶ **Say:** *God shows his love for us by creating the world where we live.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 235. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the adapted Scripture story. **Say:** *We take good care of the earth because it is a gift from God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Taking Care of God's Earth. Discuss the question. Ask your child to write how he or she takes care of the earth and what your child sees others do.
- ▶ Ask your child to study the picture. **Say:** *Imagine that God has invited you into this scene. Ask your child to use his or her senses while walking through the scene, appreciating what he or she sees, hears, touches, tastes, and smells. Say: Take a moment to speak heart-to-heart with God and share with him the things you like most about all that he created.*

### Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Ask:** *What is the boy in the picture doing? What do you see in the background?* **Say:** *We can talk with God about everything in our lives.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Pray aloud the prayer and have your child repeat it. Slowly read aloud the last paragraph. Give your child time to reflect and then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph on page 7. **Say:** *To give glory to someone means to give him or her the highest praise.*
- ▶ Read aloud God's Creation Shows His Love. Invite your child to use markers or crayons to complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God's creation and explain his or her drawing.

### 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 specific ways he or she can show love 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.



## God Gives Us Jesus

### Engage: Page 9

- ▶ **Ask:** *How does it feel to receive a gift?* Discuss examples of “gifts of themselves,” such as reading a book aloud to a little sister, helping with chores, or playing a game with a grandmother. Invite your child to write the names of family members or neighbors on squares of construction paper. On the other side, have your child draw a picture of a gift of himself or herself to give each person.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child’s responses. **Ask:** *What gifts does God give us?* (our family and friends, animals, beaches, forests) **Say:** *In this session we will find out about God’s most precious gift of all.*
- ▶ Have your child give the gifts to the intended recipients. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 10–11

- ▶ Have your child draw a picture of his or her favorite possession and place it in a sealed envelope addressed to a loved one. **Say:** *Now imagine that sending the picture of your favorite possession was equal to giving it away.* **Ask:** *How would it feel to give this precious gift away?*
- ▶ Read aloud page 10. **Ask:** *To whom did God give his Son?* (everyone in the world) *Who is God’s Son who became man?* (Jesus) **Say:** *Imagine what it will be like to live with God in Heaven.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two sentences on page 11. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *When something is consecrated, it is made to be special to God through prayer.*
- ▶ Read aloud the rest of the paragraph. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What does it mean to honor someone?* (to show respect) Discuss the picture of the tabernacle. **Say:** *The Blessed Sacrament is kept in the tabernacle after Mass.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Genuflect. Demonstrate how to genuflect and have your child practice. Have your child write his or her response to the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *Preparing to receive these sacraments is a joyful, challenging, and exciting journey.*

### Art Exploration: Page 236

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the Holy Family.



- ▶ **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 his parents.
- ▶ **Say:** *God's greatest gift to us is his Son, born into a special family here on earth.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 236. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Story of Joseph. **Ask:** *Why did Joseph name the child Jesus?* (an angel told him in a dream) Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *The name Jesus was chosen because Jesus is our Savior.*
- ▶ Read aloud Families Are Special. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with family members.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *These words tell us that Jesus promises to be with us always.*
- ▶ Ask your child to use watercolor paints or markers to make his or her own version of the Holy Family. Remind your child to sign his or her artwork. Discuss the ideas that your child has about the painting as well as how he or she thinks Joseph and Mary cared for Jesus.

### Reflect: Pages 12–13

- ▶ Together look at page 12. **Ask:** *What do you think the girl in the picture is thinking about?* **Say:** *Jesus is always with you and loves to spend time with you.*
- ▶ Slowly read aloud the first paragraph. Continue reading, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray *Amen* and join your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Talk about the meaning of your child's name. Then read aloud page 13. **Ask:** *What does the name Emmanuel mean?* ("God with us") *What does the word Savior mean?* ("one who saves")
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for Names for Jesus. Help your child complete the activity. Discuss names and nicknames of family members. Remind your child that there are many names for Jesus.

### 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 he or she can show love to a friend today.
- ▶ 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 help you plan a meal for your family to show that you care. Make each person a special place mat, using construction paper and markers.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *Who do you think gave this girl her bowl of food? Why do you think we prepare meals for one another?* **Say:** *In this session we will find out how God our Father cares for us.*
- ▶ Together set the table for your meal and remind your child that God provides for his creation just as you are providing a meal for your family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 16–17

- ▶ Together make a list of the things you do to care for a real or an imaginary pet. Discuss why it is important to be a loving caregiver.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 16. **Ask:** *Who feeds and cares for birds and flowers in nature? (God)* **Say:** *We can trust God to care for us the way he cares for the birds and flowers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *We pray this prayer during Mass to be one with God and one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 17. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What are some reasons we might pray a prayer of petition? (to ask for help with our cares or worries, to ask God to bless our families)* *For what can you praise God? (my family, home, pet)* **Say:** *The Lord's Prayer is a prayer of praise because we honor God. It is also a prayer for petition because we ask for God's help.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *As you prepare for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and of Reconciliation, your heart shares the excitement your godparents and I had on the day you were baptized.*

### Art Exploration: Page 237

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a view of Earth from space.



- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the land and the water.
- ▶ **Say:** *God takes care of all of his creation, including us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 237. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Together read aloud Trust in God. **Ask:** *What are some things God has created for us that show his love and care?* (people to care for us, nature, food)
- ▶ Read aloud Resting in God's Hands and discuss the question. Have your child write how it might feel to be held lovingly in God's hands. Compare his or her answer to your own.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does Peter tell us to do in his letter?* (trust in God) *What does he tell us not to do?* (worry)
- ▶ Invite your child to use blue and green paper on a blue background to make an earth like the one in the picture. Ask him or her to cut out pictures, such as animals and plants, to represent God's creation. Have your child include this caption: *God gives us the gift of his creation.* Display the art in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 18–19

- ▶ Together look at page 18. **Ask:** *How does the boy show he is praying?* (hands together, eyes closed) Remind your child that he or she is in the holy presence of God while praying.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Say:** *This is an important prayer because Jesus taught it to us. It is important to take it to heart. I will help you.* Invite your child to read the Lord's Prayer with you slowly and reverently. Allow time for silent prayer. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first sentence on page 19. **Say:** *Find the place in the Lord's Prayer where we praise God.* ("hallowed be thy name") **Say:** *Find the place in the Lord's Prayer where we bring God our needs.* ("Give us this day our daily bread.")
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for Picture of Praise. **Ask:** *How do you feel when you are praising God? Are you happy? Are you alone or with a friend?* Have your child complete the activity.

### 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 listen to a parent.
- ▶ 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's Life for Us

### Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Together cut out from magazines or newspapers pictures of people doing good things. Arrange the pictures into a collage and glue them onto a sheet of construction paper. Discuss how these people are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit helps us enjoy life by showing us how to do good things for ourselves and others. In this session we will learn more about the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about ways your family celebrates the gift of life. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Display your Bible. **Say:** *The Bible is full of wonderful stories, many of them about Jesus. The story we are going to read is about Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus into the Temple.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 22 and discuss the picture. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Messiah means both "Savior" and "anointed with oil."* **Ask:** *When Simeon looked at Jesus, what did he see?* (the Messiah, the one who had come to save his people) **Say:** *Because Simeon listened to the Holy Spirit, he was able to see who Jesus really was—our Savior.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *Why is the meaning of Simeon's name important?* (because Simeon listened to the Holy Spirit)
- ▶ Read aloud page 23. **Say:** *Faith is a gift from God that helps us believe in him and live as he wants us to live.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Learning to Care for Others and complete the activity. Encourage your child to follow through with his or her idea.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *God wants to fill our hearts with strength, joy, and the desire to love him.*

### Art Exploration: Page 238

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus bringing light to a dark world.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the contrast between the light and the darkness.





- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine the light of Jesus shining on you. When we shine with the light of Christ, the Holy Spirit is working in us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 238. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the adapted Gospel story The Work of the Holy Spirit. **Say:** *When we choose to help others, we shine with the light of Christ.* **Ask:** *Where would you like to shine the light of Christ?*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Shine a Light on Good Deeds and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The Bible passage says that we can all be a light to the world.* Encourage your child to take the Scripture to heart and pray it from memory this week.
- ▶ Together sit in a dark room and shine a flashlight. Pass the flashlight back and forth as you complete this sentence: *The Holy Spirit shines through me with \_\_\_\_\_.* (Possible answers: love, peace, joy, kindness, patience)

### Reflect: Pages 24–25

- ▶ Together look at page 24. **Ask:** *What do you think the people are doing?* (comforting each other) Remind your child that he or she can ask the Holy Spirit for help anytime.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Then invite your child to slowly and reverently pray aloud the prayer with you. Read aloud the sentence following the prayer. Allow your child time to pray silently. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together. You may wish to review the Prayer to the Holy Spirit in its entirety on page 190 of the Children's Book.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first sentence on page 25. Together brainstorm ways in which the Holy Spirit has guided you this week. Then have your child read aloud the next sentence and complete the activity. Praise your child for allowing the Holy Spirit to fill his or her heart and mind.

### Respond: Page 26

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can look for God at home and in the 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 Ordinary Time

### Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Together with your child, look at a calendar. **Ask:** *Why do people use calendars?* (to record important events, to know when to complete tasks, to understand how much time has passed in a year) Together point out dates that are important to your family.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. 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 will learn about Ordinary Time—the time of year we learn that Jesus is the Bread of Life.*
- ▶ Ask your child to look at your calendar and mark the dates on which you will celebrate Ordinary Time. Then pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 28

- ▶ With your child make a breakfast menu that shows your family's favorite breakfast foods. **Ask:** *Why do we need to eat meals and snacks?* (because we need food to help our bodies and minds work) **Say:** *All living things need food to survive and thrive.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and both paragraphs. Point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *Jesus is our spiritual food, and we thrive because we are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist.*
- ▶ Read aloud How Can I Grow? and guide your child in completing the first question. **Ask:** *Does playing with your friend or praying and reading your Bible help you learn more about Jesus?* Invite your child to complete the second question. Then discuss the answer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Like the food we eat, Jesus also nourishes us. He puts love in our hearts and peace in our minds. He is our spiritual food.*

### Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ Together recall watching parish members process to Holy Communion. **Say:** *Process means "to move in an orderly and ceremonial way."*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What do you think is beautiful about Holy Communion?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Have your child turn to The Seven Sacraments on page 198. Take turns reading aloud each section on pages 198–201. Discuss each sacrament. **Say:** *God enters our lives through each sacrament. We grow in God's love and grace as we participate in each one.*



### Art Exploration: Page 239

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the breaking of the bread at Mass.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, focusing on the prayerful people looking on as the bread is blessed and broken.
- ▶ **Say:** *Ordinary Time is a time to remember that Jesus invites us to the table to break bread and be fed by him.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 239. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate Ordinary Time. **Ask:** *How do we grow during Ordinary Time?* (by learning more about Jesus and showing our love for Jesus and others)  
**Say:** *Ordinary Time is for everyday living as followers of Jesus. It is the time to grow.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass in Ordinary Time. Point out the vocabulary word. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Give your child a small cardboard box, such as a tissue box, to decorate. Then give him or her four strips of colorful paper. Tell your child to write a short prayer on each strip as a reminder to follow, celebrate, thank, and imitate Jesus in our actions and ways we treat others. Encourage him or her to keep the prayers in the box and choose to say one each day. Close with your child by silently praying a prayer from the box.

### 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 perform a special deed for someone.
- ▶ 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

**Ask:** What does it feel like to be part of a family? **Say:** We will learn about Jesus and his family. Read aloud the unit title on page 31. **Say:** This unit will help us understand that Jesus wants everyone to be part of God's family.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture on Saint Anne and Saint Joachim [JOH uh keem] on page 31. **Say:** Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were the parents of Mary, who became the Mother of Jesus. **Ask:** Who is the child in the picture? (Mary) **Say:** Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were loving parents. They helped Mary learn about God. Read aloud the text.

Turn to page 32. Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph.

**Say:** Devoted means "to be very faithful and loyal."

Read aloud the next paragraph. Remind your child what a saint is. **Ask:** What is a patron saint? (a saint who watches over a special group) Why do you think Saint Anne is the patron saint of mothers and Saint Joachim is the patron saint of fathers? (They were Mary's parents and raised her to be devoted to God.)

With your child add Joachim and Anne's feast day, July 26, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love that Saint Joachim and Saint Anne had for family.



## Jesus Is Faithful

### Engage: Page 33

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some of the best times you think we have had as a family?* Together recall favorite times and discuss why they are important. **Say:** *Jesus was part of a family too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What does faithful mean?* (devoted, true, loyal) **Say:** *Jesus wants you to obey your parents, just as Jesus obeyed his parents. In this session we will learn how Jesus was faithful to God and to his parents.*
- ▶ Encourage your child to look for opportunities to support his or her family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 34–35

- ▶ Ask your child to name rules he or she follows at school, at home, or in sports. Record the rules by category. **Ask:** *Why do we need rules?* (Rules help us know how to behave with one another or how to play a game.)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 34 and point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *The Ten Commandments are God's special rules to help us live good lives, be kind to one another, and act more like Jesus.* Invite your child to read aloud each commandment. Discuss the sentence below it, explaining how your child might obey this rule. Have your child find the Ten Commandments in the back of his or her book on page 216.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the Sixth through Tenth Commandments on page 35. **Ask:** *Which commandments teach us to love God?* (the first three) *Which commandments teach us to love and respect ourselves and others?* (the last seven) **Say:** *When we follow the commandments, we are being like Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *It is important to remember that God is always with us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 240

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a young Jesus talking to the teachers in the Temple.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the people whom Jesus is talking to as well as the surroundings.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus is a good example for us. When we obey our parents, we obey God.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 240. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus with the Teachers. **Ask:** *Why were Mary and Joseph so worried about Jesus? (They could not find him.) How did Jesus explain why he went to the Temple? (He was doing what God wanted him to do.)* **Say:** *Jesus returned home with his parents. When we obey our parents, we obey God.*
- ▶ Read aloud Lost and Found. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that he or she is in the Temple with Jesus. **Say:** *Look around. What do you see and hear?* Invite your child to have a silent conversation with Jesus. **Say:** *You can ask Jesus questions just as he asked the teachers in the Temple.* Close with a prayer asking God to help your child listen to and obey his or her parents.

### Reflect: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Together look at page 36. **Ask:** *What do you think the boy is thinking about?* Remind your child that he or she can always tell Jesus what he or she is thinking about. **Say:** *Jesus is always with you. He loves to spend time with you.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 36. Pause after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Allow time for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Close your prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs on page 37. **Say:** *The Fourth Commandment tells us to honor and obey our parents, just as Jesus did. We can ask God to help us obey our parents, even when it might be difficult.*
- ▶ Read aloud At Church and have your child complete the sentences. Invite your child to read aloud the completed sentences.

### Respond: Page 38

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can follow the Ten Commandments.
- ▶ 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 Saves Us

### Engage: Page 39

- ▶ Invite your child to make an "I Show Kindness" booklet. Help him or her fold paper in half to form the pages of the booklet. Ask your child to draw a picture of himself or herself helping a family member, classmate, or neighbor on each page. **Say:** *You are showing your love on these pages.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the questions in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Say:** *We can show love to our families, friends, and neighbors. In this session we will learn how Jesus showed his love to people in need.*
- ▶ Have your child read the completed booklet and decide when he or she will help the people shown on the pages. **Say:** *Jesus showed his love to people in need.* Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 40–41

- ▶ Display a crucifix. **Ask:** *Where have you seen crucifixes displayed? (in church, on rosaries) What does a crucifix symbolize? (faith, God, Jesus)*
- ▶ Read aloud page 40. **Ask:** *How did Jesus show his love for people who were sick? (He healed them.)* **Say:** *When Jesus healed people, he showed God's healing presence to the world.* **Ask:** *How did some people show they were angry with Jesus? (They put him to death on the cross.) Who raised Jesus from the dead? (God)*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is Alive on page 41. **Ask:** *Where is Jesus now? (in Heaven and with us)* **Say:** *Jesus taught us how to love others.*
- ▶ Read aloud Knowing Jesus' Love. Have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child's ideas.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *It is always best to be honest.* Discuss memories your child has of telling the truth and receiving forgiveness.

### Art Exploration: Page 241

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus healing a blind man.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the artist chose to show Jesus.
- ▶ **Say:** *The message of Jesus' love is for all people in every part of the world.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 241. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.





- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Heals. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What are some examples of Jesus' miracles?* (Jesus healed those who could not see and those who could not walk.) *Why do you think John the Baptist thought Jesus was the Messiah?* (Jesus healed others.)
- ▶ Read aloud Love Through Actions. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Explain that when we reach out to those in need as Jesus did, we are being like him. **Ask:** *What are some ways you can act like Jesus?*
- ▶ Have your child fold construction paper in half to make a card. On the front have your child draw a picture and on the inside write a cheery message. Tell your child to address the card to *Dear Friend*. Encourage him or her to give it to a child who misses school because of illness.

### Reflect: Pages 42–43

- ▶ Together look at page 42. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is not speaking.* **Ask:** *What do you think she is saying to God with her heart?* **Say:** *Open your heart to Jesus, and he will understand.*
- ▶ Slowly read the prayer. Pause after the third paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray *Amen* and join your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Write *What would Jesus do?* on a sheet of paper. Explain that it is helpful to ask ourselves this question when we are unsure what to do or how to help. **Say:** *It is important to do our best to act like Jesus.* Read aloud page 43. Have your child complete the activity. **Ask:** *Have you ever been in a situation like any of these? What did you do?*

### Respond: Page 44

- ▶ 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 help someone in need.
- ▶ 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 Calls Us to Love

### Engage: Page 45

- ▶ Invite your child to talk about times he or she has felt left out of activities at home or at school. **Ask:** *How did it make you feel?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *When people include others, they are acting like Jesus. In this session we will learn how to act more like Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about someone he or she knows who might be feeling left out. **Say:** *We grow closer to God when we grow closer to others.* Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 46–47

- ▶ **Ask:** *Who is a leader at your school?* (principal, headmaster) **Say:** *Like schools, the Church also has many leaders.* Display a picture of the current pope.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 46. Read aloud Our Pope and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What makes a good leader?* (listening, encouraging others, being helpful) **Ask:** *Who leads the church?* (the pope) *Where does the pope live?* (Vatican City) Tell your child the name of the pope. **Say:** *The pope asks us to do things Jesus wants us to do.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How are our Church leaders like Jesus?* (They teach and share God's message.)
- ▶ Read aloud Our Bishops on page 47 and point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Like the pope, bishops are important Church leaders.* Tell your child who their bishop is. Explain that there are thousands of parishes and bishops all around the world.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *What matters is not so much the sin, but that we ask God for forgiveness and work hard not to do the same thing again.*

### Art Exploration: Page 242

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the parable of the banquet.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how it reminds him or her of a family dinner.
- ▶ **Say:** *God wants to be close to everyone.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 242. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Parable of the Banquet and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *How do you think the host of the dinner party felt when his guests did not come?* (sad, angry, disappointed) *Who came to the banquet?* (those who were poor, sick, blind, and lame) *What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this parable?* (God wants to be close to everyone.)
- ▶ Read aloud God's Invitation and have your child write a thank-you note to God. Encourage him or her share it with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that God invited him or her to a banquet. **Ask:** *What would you bring to share with the other guests?* Invite your child to speak heart-to-heart, telling God how it feels to gather at his table. Close with a prayer of thanks to God and a promise to accept his invitation to follow him.

### Reflect: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Together look at page 48. **Ask:** *What do you think the boy in the picture is doing?* **Say:** *You can talk to God as you would talk to your best friend.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 48. Pause after the third paragraph to give your child time to speak silently with Jesus. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus' Invitation on page 49. **Ask:** *What does it mean to be close to someone?* (to know, accept, and trust the person) Invite your child to complete the activity and share his or her work with you.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Ask:** *How did Saint Martin de Porres follow God?* (by caring for others) **Say:** *He had an orphanage and a hospital built, and he cared for African slaves who were brought to his country. He wanted the people and animals to know that God cared for them.*

### 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 he or she can do kind deeds 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.



## Jesus Cares for Us

### Engage: Page 51

- ▶ Hide one piece from a jigsaw puzzle. Together put the puzzle together, noting the missing piece. After you find the piece, **ask:** *How does it feel to have found the missing piece?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Jesus cares for us so much that he will look for us if we are lost. In this session we will learn how Jesus cares for us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how Jesus feels when one of us is lost and wanders away from him. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 52–53

- ▶ Discuss stories or nursery rhymes that teach a lesson, such as "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" or "The Little Red Hen." **Say:** *Jesus told us special stories to teach us important lessons. These stories are called parables.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Parable of the Lost Sheep on page 52. **Say:** *In this parable Jesus used the sheep to represent all of us. He wants us to know that God will do whatever it takes to keep us close to him. If we drift away, he will always reach out to help us come back to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Then invite your child to read it aloud with you.
- ▶ Read aloud Shepherding God's People on page 53. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Priests and deacons are a very important part of our Church. Religious sisters and brothers also serve the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *God's love is unconditional no matter what; he is always going to love and guide us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 243

- ▶ 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 the job of a shepherd involves.
- ▶ **Say:** *As a shepherd cares for his flock, Jesus cares for us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 243. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Jesus, Our Shepherd. **Say:** *Tell one way Jesus cares for us.*  
**Ask:** *Why do you think a shepherd is a good way to describe Jesus? (He leads us, feeds, us, and protects us as a shepherd does for his sheep.)*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud The Good Shepherd and complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a poster with the caption *I Can Be Like Jesus*. Ask your child to draw pictures or cut out and glue magazine pictures to show ways he or she cares for others. Suggest that your child focus on actions that promote caring just as Jesus cares for us. Display the poster in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 54–55

- ▶ Together look at page 54. **Ask:** *Why do you think the girl is holding a lamb? Remind your child that every time he or she prays, the bond of love between your child and God gets stronger.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Let's take some time to pray to God, our Good Shepherd. I will pray each line from Psalm 23. This psalm is found in the Bible.* Read aloud the psalm. Then have your child read it aloud. Read aloud the last paragraph. Close the special prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God Is Our Shepherd on page 55. **Ask:** *How is God like a good shepherd? (He cares for every person.) How can you be a good shepherd at school? (by caring for classmates, by making sure no one is left out)*
- ▶ Read aloud Find the Lost Sheep. Help your child work through the maze. **Say:** *The Good Shepherd cares for his sheep and watches over them.* **Ask:** *Who cares for us in a similar way? (God the Father)*

### Respond: Page 56

- ▶ 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 include others in his or her life.
- ▶ 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

- ▶ Light a candle and **ask:** *Why do people use candles? (to light a room if it is dark, for decoration)* **Say:** *Our church uses candles during Advent.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate Advent on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Advent, the time of year when we prepare to celebrate Christmas.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can light up the lives of family members during the season of Advent. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 58

- ▶ Together write a typical daily schedule for your family. **Ask:** *When do you make time to play with friends or talk to family members?* **Say:** *Just as we need to make time for things that are important to us, we need to make time for Jesus in our lives.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *It is important to take time for Jesus because he is our way to true happiness and peace.* Read aloud and discuss the two questions on the page.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus, My Light. Offer an example. **Say:** *One way I can light the way for others is by being a leader on the playground. When someone is left out, I will be his or her friend.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How can you live as a child of light?* (always set a good example, listen to my parents, show kindness on the playground)

### Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Together make a diorama by cutting a one-inch hole in the front of a shoe box. Then cut a door into the lid by cutting three sides of a rectangle that can open and shut. Glue figures from a Nativity scene into the box. Let your child look at it with the door on the lid open and closed. **Ask:** *Why do we need light? (to see in the dark)*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. **Say:** *As we see different candles and festive lights at Advent, we are reminded that Jesus lights our way.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience and complete the activity. Remind him or her that there are three purple candles and one pink candle in an Advent wreath.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Review the meaning of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. **Say:** *Advent is the perfect time to ask for and offer forgiveness.*



### Art Exploration: Page 244

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of an Advent wreath.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, focusing on the candles, colors, and shape of the wreath.
- ▶ **Say:** *The green Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end, just as God has no beginning and no end. Each candle represents one week of Advent. The purple candles remind us to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming through prayer and good works. The pink candle symbolizes that our waiting will soon end.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 244. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Lighting the Way for Jesus*. **Say:** *Light is often used to describe warmth, goodness, and love.* **Ask:** *What can we do to make room for Jesus' light in our hearts?* (pray, do good deeds)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Making Room for Jesus' Light*. Offer suggestions that your child can do, such as read stories from the Bible, go to Mass, use an Advent wreath at home, or set up a Nativity scene. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ In the center of a paper plate, have your child draw a picture of a way your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus during Advent. Have your child glue on silk or paper green leaves to cover the plate rim. He or she can cover four empty toilet tissue tubes with three purple sheets and one pink sheet of construction paper and glue the tubes to the paper plate to represent Advent wreath candles. Share the wreath with other family members.

### Respond: Page 60

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can shine a light 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.





# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

**Ask:** Can you think of a movie or a book about someone going on an adventure? Share ideas with your child and then discuss any trips your family has taken.

**Say:** We will learn about a saint who went on many adventures. Read aloud the unit title on page 61. **Say:** This unit will help us understand that the sacraments help us stay close to Jesus.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Ignatius. **Say:** Saint Ignatius of Loyola served God as a soldier and as a traveler. Read aloud the text.

**Say:** Just as Ignatius learned about Jesus from his family, we can learn with our family and grow closer to Jesus together.

Turn to page 62. Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** What was Ignatius's job? (soldier) Read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** Why do you think Ignatius wanted to be like Jesus and the saints? (to spend his life doing God's work)

Tell your child that Saint Ignatius loved teaching children about Jesus.

**Say:** Saint Ignatius taught about Jesus' love. He told children that they could talk to Jesus anytime in prayer. Now as we learn to listen to God in prayer, we can find out how to love and serve him.

With your child add Ignatius's feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love of Saint Ignatius.



## We Worship God

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Discuss what it is like to be the new member of a sports team, a school, a parish, or a club. **Ask:** *How would you welcome a new member?* (invite the person to a gathering, explain any rules, help him or her find things)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *What does worship mean?* (to praise God together as a community)  
**Say:** *In this session we will learn about the Sacrament of Baptism, an important experience that welcomes us to the Church community.*
- ▶ Encourage your child to think of other ways to welcome people who are new to your neighborhood. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Raise your forefinger to your lips. **Ask:** *What does this sign mean?* (to be quiet) Give a thumbs up. **Ask:** *What does this sign mean?* (good job) **Say:** *The sacraments are signs too. They remind us that God is with us.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 64. **Ask:** *Who is the Holy Spirit?* (the Third Person of the Trinity)  
**Say:** *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the ways we act when God is alive in us.*
- ▶ Discuss the day that your child was baptized. Have your child read aloud The Sacrament of Baptism on page 65. Point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *The Rite of Baptism is celebrated by pouring water over someone's head or immersing the person in water. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, Original Sin is forgiven.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *When we talk heart-to-heart with God, we share our innermost thoughts and feelings.*

### Art Exploration: Page 245

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a beautiful flowering tree.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the flowers, buds, and trunk.
- ▶ **Say:** *Just as a branch grows strong on a tree, we grow strong and happy when we stay close to Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 245. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.



- ▶ Read aloud *Jesus Is the Vine*. **Ask:** *Why do you think Jesus calls himself a vine? (He gives us life and keeps us strong.) What do we need to grow in love of God and Jesus? (prayer, sacraments, Bible, good deeds)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Grow Like a Vine* and complete the activity. Ask your child to share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit helps us stay close to Jesus. We bear the beautiful fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness.*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw a tree, leaving the branches bare. Have your child label the tree *Jesus* and the branches *Us*. Ask him or her to add fruits to the branches and label them as the Fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. Pray silently together, asking the Holy Spirit for these gifts.

### Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is saying a prayer. Remember that we thrive as long as we are connected to Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 66, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Provide a brief time of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 67. Discuss the questions with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud *Growing Close to Jesus* and have your child complete the list. Invite your child read aloud his or her list and discuss the ideas.

### 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 be kind 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 Reconciliation

### Engage: Page 69

- ▶ With your child role-play this situation: A friend promises to play with you after school but forgets and goes to play at a different person's house. **Ask:** *What do you say to your friend the next time you see him or her?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Jesus helps us recognize our sins. He also helps us learn forgiveness. In this session we will learn how to do this.*
- ▶ Discuss times when you and your child have reconciled with friends. Talk about how you each felt after making up with a friend. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 70–71

- ▶ Share a childhood story with your child about a time you disobeyed or disappointed someone you loved. Highlight the consequences of your actions and how you made peace with that person.
- ▶ Read aloud Making Peace with God on page 70 and point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What is one thing both kinds of sin have in common?* (They hurt our relationship with God and with others.) **Say:** *God gives us the wonderful chance to be forgiven through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We confess our sins to a priest, tell God we are sorry, and receive God's forgiveness.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we gather for Mass, we admit to God and one another that we do not always do what we should. Together we ask for God's forgiveness.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 71. Point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *Let's turn to pages 212 and 213. Discuss these pages and explain that these types of questions help us think about what we will confess to Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *A penance is a prayer or a deed we do to make up for our sins.*

### Art Exploration: Page 246

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus talking to Zacchaeus in the tree.



- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the locations of the man in the tree and Jesus.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus is always happy when we make efforts to be closer to him.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 246. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Zacchaeus, the Rich Man. **Ask:** *Why did the crowd become angry?* (Jesus was going to the home of a sinner.) *What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus?* (that he was saved that day)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Forgive One Another and complete the activity. Share with your child what you think forgiveness means.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Together with your child read aloud the verse again.
- ▶ Read this rhyme aloud and demonstrate the action after each line. Ask your child to join you and read the rhyme again. **Say:** *Zacchaeus had to climb a tree.* (mime climbing up) *For it was Jesus he longed to see.* (hands like binoculars) *When Jesus asked him to come down,* (mime climbing down) *Zacchaeus turned his life around.* (turn around) *He made peace with God, you see.* (pretend to shake hands as if greeting someone) *He walked in love through God's mercy.* (put hands on heart)

### Reflect: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Together look at page 72 and read aloud the heading. **Ask:** *What do you think the boy in the picture is ready to ask God?* **Say:** *We are going to learn the Act of Contrition. Contrition is the sadness we feel when we know we have sinned.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to pray aloud the Act of Contrition with you. At the end ask your child to take a few moments to talk to Jesus in his or her heart.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Forgives on page 73. **Say:** *After God has forgiven us, we have a pure heart, free from sin. We feel joyful and holy.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Pure Heart and have your child complete the activity. **Say:** *Tell God how good you feel when he forgives your sins, making your heart pure and holy.*

### 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 show forgiveness 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.



## The Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Engage: Page 75

- ▶ **Say:** Words can hurt people, but words can heal too. **Ask:** When our unkind words hurt people, what can you say to heal the hurt? ("I'm sorry." "Please forgive me." "Let's be friends again." "I wish I could take it back.")
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** Reconciliation is a sacrament. A sacrament is a special sign that God is with us. In this session we will continue to learn about how we can make up with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ▶ **Ask:** How do you know when you hurt someone you care about? Have your child think about how he or she feels when this happens. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ Ask your child to make a poster that shows signs and symbols of peace. At the top of the poster, tell him or her to write *May God give you pardon and peace*. Display the poster in your home.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud We Are Forgiven on page 76. **Say:** Jesus forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Point to the vocabulary word *absolution*. **Say:** Absolution is the forgiveness God offers us when we say we are sorry for our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature and point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** When you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest cannot tell anyone anything you have confessed to him.
- ▶ Read aloud the first three paragraphs on page 77. **Say:** After confession we are filled with peace in our hearts. Together turn to pages 214 and 215 of your child's book to read the section How to Go to Confession.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** The wonderful thing about the Sacrament of Reconciliation is that God frees us from the burden of our sins.

### Art Exploration: Page 247

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the four friends lowering a paralyzed man through the roof to meet Jesus.



- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the men are doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus heals and forgives us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 247. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Heals. **Say:** *The paralyzed man cannot see Jesus without the help of his friends.* **Ask:** *How do they help?* (They carry their friend to Jesus and lower him through the roof.) *Who are some people in your life that help you grow close to God?* (family, friends, priests)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Friendship and complete the activity. Share with your child your own experience of friendship.
- ▶ Invite your child to role-play these situations that teach how to be a good friend: a friend is worried about a sick pet; a friend broke an arm and needs help doing things; a friend has to do chores before playing with you. At the end of each role-play, talk about how being a good friend made your child feel.

### Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Ask:** *How do you think the girl in the picture feels?* **Say:** *God always helps us ask for forgiveness when we sin.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 78, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to respond in his or her heart. **Say:** *We can pray the Act of Contrition anytime to tell God that we are sorry for something we have done and to ask for his help.* Pray aloud the Act of Contrition together.
- ▶ Read aloud Peace Be with You on page 79 and discuss the question. Have your child read aloud Making Peace and complete the sentences. Invite him or her to read aloud the completed sentences.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus offers us the peace that comes with forgiveness.*

### 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 be a peacemaker at home and at school.
- ▶ 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.





## Mary Shows Us the Way

### Engage: Page 81

- ▶ With your child discuss special women you both know. Have your child design a trophy for a special woman, using gold construction paper and art supplies. Ask him or her to complete this sentence on the trophy: *You are special to me because \_\_\_\_\_.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *Whom do you turn to when you need help?* **Say:** *In this session we will learn how Mary is always ready to help us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to give the trophy to the woman he or she honored. Invite your child to think about how Mary loved her Son, Jesus, and how Mary loves us today. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Discuss a time when your family traveled to visit a friend or family member. Talk about how you got there and how long it took. Recall how you felt when you finally arrived.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mary Visits Elizabeth on page 82. **Ask:** *What did Elizabeth call Mary?* (blessed) **Say:** *Mary was grateful for all God had done for her.* **Ask:** *What has God given you?* (a healthy body, a home to live in, a good family)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Discuss any cultural experiences that are about Mary, such as the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe or a May crowning. **Say:** *Everyone calls Mary blessed as Elizabeth said they would.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and prayer on page 83. **Say:** *The Magnificat is a special prayer of praise that Mary offered to God for choosing her to be Jesus' mother.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *Let's take a few moments to recall the good things God has done for us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 248

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the Virgin Mary with flowers.



- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Mary is wearing and holding.
- ▶ **Say:** *Each time you pray to Mary, know that she is always close to you.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 248. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Mother of the Church. **Say:** *Mary has the special role of being the Mother of the Church.* **Ask:** *How does God help us to be his children?* (He gives us grace.)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Special Women and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What are some of Mary's experiences that you think she remembered?* (visit from the angel Gabriel telling her she would be the mother of Jesus, visiting Elizabeth, praising God, the birth of Jesus, finding Jesus in the Temple)
- ▶ Explain to your child that different cultures picture Mary in their own way. Have your child picture Mary and draw his or her own version of the Mother of God. Display your child's artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Ask:** *How do you think the boy in the picture feels?* (happy) Remind your child that we ask Mary to pray for us, to help and support us, and to pray with us as we ask God for what we need. **Say:** *Mary, the Mother of the Church, loves each of us and wants us to be close to God and to her Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph slowly. Allow time for silent prayer. Close the prayer by praying the Hail Mary together.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the directions on page 85. Have your child read aloud each stanza and complete each sentence. When he or she is finished, read aloud the poem together.

### 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 honor Mary, the Mother of 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 Christmas

### Engage: Page 87

- ▶ Display a picture of Mary. **Ask:** *Why is Mary an important part of Christmas?* (She is the mother of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. On a dry-erase board or sheet of paper, draw a time line showing the Sundays in Advent, Christmas, the Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord. Together look at a calendar to find the Epiphany and the end of the Christmas season for this year. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how the Church celebrates the birth of Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to take a moment to imagine he or she is kneeling next to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in the manger. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 88

- ▶ **Say:** *Let's imagine we are having a special guest come to our home to visit.* **Ask:** *What are some things our family might do to make the guest feel welcome?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and first two paragraphs. Discuss the questions. **Say:** *Celebrating Christmas is similar to welcoming a special guest into our home.*
- ▶ Read aloud the third paragraph and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How does Jesus' birth show that God is with us?* (Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God's gift to us.)

### Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ Together look at a religious Advent calendar. **Ask:** *What do you think we will see when we open the window on December 25?* Review the special preparations of Advent and how they help prepare us to celebrate the joy of Christmas.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. **Say:** *When Christmas finally arrives, families are ready to rejoice. Jesus is here! He is in our hearts, and he is with us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *Jesus wants to be with us always. He is eager for the day when you can receive him as often as possible, at least once a week, in the Eucharist.*



### Art Exploration: Page 249

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the Nativity scene in Bethlehem.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting, the people, and the animals.
- ▶ **Say:** *A Nativity scene reminds us of Jesus' birth and how much God the Father loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 249. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Feast of Christmas. **Ask:** *How do we celebrate and remember the importance of Christmas?* (attend Mass, set up a Nativity scene in our homes or yards, send cards to family and friends) *Why do you think we give gifts to one another at Christmas?* (to recall the special gift that God gave us in Jesus) **Say:** *God gave us talents that are meant to be shared. When we give someone the gift of ourselves, we are living as Jesus did.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud You Are a Gift and complete the activity. Examples of talents might include reading to a younger child, playing an instrument, or sharing a positive attitude.
- ▶ Invite your child to design a Christmas card to give to a parishioner or neighbor who is homebound. Have your child fold construction paper in half, decorate the card, and write a special Christmas message inside. Close with a silent prayer asking that all people be remembered on Jesus' birthday.

### 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 joy 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.



# Sacraments, Our Way of Life

## Begin

Write the following words on a dry-erase board or a sheet of paper: *school, store, church, park*. Have your child read aloud the words. **Say:** *We meet people in all different places.* **Ask:** *Where else do we meet people?* **Say:** *Each time we meet Jesus, we learn more about him.* Read aloud the unit title on page 91. **Say:** *This unit will help us learn more about how we meet Jesus in the sacraments.*

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Pope Saint Pius X on page 91 and have your child read aloud the text. **Say:** *Because Pius X was a pope who later became a saint, he has both the titles pope and saint in his name. The Roman numeral X stands for the number 10. That means he was the tenth pope named Pius.*

Turn to page 92. Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *Pope Saint Pius X wanted Catholics to receive Holy Communion more often. He also wanted children to be closer to God by receiving Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.*

Read aloud the second paragraph. **Say:** *Charities, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, are organizations that help people in need.* **Ask:** *How do you think Pope Saint Pius X was like Jesus?* (He spent his life in service to others.)

With your child add Saint Pius's feast day, August 21, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the service of Pope Saint Pius X.



## New Life in Jesus

### Engage: Page 93

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you think makes a good team member? (being fair, giving everyone a turn, listening to other people's ideas)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how the sacraments help each of us become a member of the Church and stay a good member.*
- ▶ Have your child think about teams or groups he or she belongs to. **Ask:** *How can you be a better member of each group or team? Pray aloud the prayer together.*

### Explore: Pages 94–95

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some signs that you belong to a certain team or group? (uniforms, badges, T-shirts)* **Say:** *A sacrament is a special sign for our Church members.*
- ▶ Read aloud Special Signs from God and Baptism on page 94. **Say:** *What are sacraments? (special signs that show God is with us) Who gave the sacraments to the Church? (Jesus) What are the Sacraments of Initiation? (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Water is a symbol of our new life in Baptism. The life we receive in Baptism is life as a member of God's family, the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud Confirmation on page 95. **Say:** *We grow in faith as God's children in the Sacrament of Confirmation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Eucharist. **Say:** *At Mass the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ that we receive in Holy Communion. Consecration makes a thing or a person special to God through prayer. The priest consecrates the bread and wine.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *Sacraments are special occasions of grace, but we can enjoy the loving presence of Jesus in prayer anytime.*

### Art Exploration: Page 250

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Peter holding keys.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the keys that Saint Peter is holding.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus called Peter to be the first leader of his Church. The Church continues to have leaders today who help us be close to God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 250. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud Peter Speaks to the People. **Ask:** *Why did Peter encourage the people to be baptized? (Their sins will be forgiven, and they will receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of Saint Peter Is a Leader. **Ask:** *How do you think Saint Peter helped others become the best they could be? (baptized them, taught them, prayed with them)* Brainstorm a list of current local, diocesan, and universal Church leaders. Then read aloud the last paragraph and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Have your child find a smooth, palm-sized rock. Share the Scripture passage from Matthew 16:18: "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." Invite your child to paint symbols on the rock that remind him or her of the strength received through the Church. Display the rock paperweight in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 96–97

- ▶ Together look at page 96. **Say:** *Use your imagination to tell what the girl in the picture sees, hears, feels, and smells.* Tell your child to do the same when he or she talks to Jesus in prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph softly. Pause to allow your child time to think about his or her response to each question. Encourage your child to talk to Jesus in his or her heart. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Sacraments in Our Lives on page 97. **Say:** *The sacraments are special signs that show us that God is with us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Making Peace. Suggest that your child look back at pages 94–95 for the answers while he or she completes 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 times he or she can talk to Jesus throughout the 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.





## Jesus Loves the Church

### Engage: Page 99

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine you have just moved into a new neighborhood. How do you feel? (nervous, lonely) What do you wish your neighbors would do for you? (welcome you to the neighborhood, include you in activities)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *When someone new comes to our neighborhood, school, or parish, we should try to make that person feel welcome. In this session we'll learn ways we can show our love as followers of Jesus by making others feel welcome.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of ways he or she would welcome a new neighbor. Share your own ideas with your child. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ Together recall experiences when you had guests for dinner. **Ask:** *Who was there? What did we talk about? What did our guest share with us?*
- ▶ **Ask:** *What is a disciple? (a follower of Jesus')* Read aloud Inviting Jesus to Dinner on page 100. **Say:** *The disciples were very sad when they met the man on the road.* **Ask:** *How do you think they felt when they realized the man was Jesus? (overjoyed, happy)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Invite your child to read aloud the verse, using gestures: *Jesus' followers came together to learn* [put hands together to form a book], *to pray* [join hands and bow head in prayer], *and to break bread* [mime eating].
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is with Us on page 101. **Say:** *The Sacrifice of the Mass helps us remember that Jesus died for us and saved us from our sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *We learn about Jesus and his messages for us by listening to the Gospels.*

### Art Exploration: Page 251

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture showing adults and children walking to or entering a church.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the destination of all the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we serve others in our parish community, we show our love for the family of God.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 251. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of We Are Members of the Church. **Say:** *Being a member of the Church means giving time and talent to serve the community God created. This service done for others is called ministry.* **Ask:** *What are some ways that children your age can be involved in ministry in our parish?* (donate food or clothing to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, sing in the children's choir) Have your child read aloud the last paragraph. Work together to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *What do ministers of hospitality do?* (welcome people to Mass)
- ▶ Invite your child to make a hospitality cross to represent the ministry. Help him or her glue together two craft sticks to make a cross. Write *HOSPITALITY* on the vertical stick. Then write *JE\_US* on the horizontal stick, using the letter *S* from *HOSPITALITY* to connect the two words. Ask your child to decorate the cross with glitter and glue a safety pin to the back. Arrange for your family to serve as ministers of hospitality at an upcoming Mass and wear pins like this one.

### Reflect: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Together look at page 102. **Ask:** *Where is the boy in the picture?* **Say:** *We say a prayer of blessing before every meal. As we ask for God's blessing on "these your gifts," we can include the gift of food and all the blessings of the day.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Pray aloud the prayer. Close by encouraging your child to pray this prayer with your family at mealtimes.
- ▶ Read aloud Welcome, Jesus! on page 103. **Ask:** *How can you invite Jesus into your life?* (pray, go to Mass, do acts of service)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Message for Jesus. Invite your child to complete the activity and share with you his or her welcome message to Jesus. **Say:** *When we welcome others into our lives, we are welcoming Jesus too.*

### 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 welcome new children.
- ▶ 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.



## Gathering for Mass

### Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Discuss with your child how your family prepares to go to Mass. What are some things that your family does to get ready for Mass that are different from other activities?
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What do you think the boy and his mother might be preparing for?* **Say:** *In this session we will learn more about how we prepare for Mass and then gather with others to celebrate Mass.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what people do to prepare for Mass once they arrive at church. Suggest that he or she think about how the altar and offertory table are prepared, how the musicians practice, and how the ushers seat people. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Discuss the jobs of people you see participating in Sunday Mass. **Say:** *Some people have jobs such as altar servers, lectors, and choir members.* **Ask:** *What things are we all called to do at Mass?* (sing, say the responses)
- ▶ Read aloud The Mass Begins on page 106. **Ask:** *What happens at Mass after the Entrance Chant?* (The priest greets everyone and leads people in asking God to forgive their sins.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Hearing God's Message. Discuss the vocabulary words.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does this verse tell us?* (how important it is to listen to God's messages)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Responding to God's Word on page 107. **Say:** *The Liturgy of the Word is the part of Mass when we listen to God's Word from the Bible.* Review the information in the section The Order of Mass, which begins on page 202.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Discuss how the Third Commandment calls us to keep holy the Lord's Day.

### Art Exploration: Page 252

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a plaque with the symbols of the four Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the symbols shown to represent each Gospel writer.



- ▶ **Say:** *The Gospels contain God's special messages for us to learn and live by. Listen for them each time you attend Mass.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 252. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Four Gospels. **Ask:** *What do we call the four Gospel writers?* (Evangelists) Ask your child to name each Evangelist and his symbol.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions in Symbol Match. Allow time for your child to complete the activity. Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Invite your child to design and draw a symbol that represents him or her, such as the ones for Jesus and the Evangelists. Encourage your child to think about his or her talents and incorporate them into the symbol. Ask your child to explain his or her choices when sharing the finished symbol with you.

### Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **Say:** *Mass is a special time to pray for the forgiveness of our sins, ask for God's blessings, and listen to God's messages from the Bible.*
- ▶ Slowly read aloud the paragraphs. Pause after each one to give your child time to reflect. Invite your child to open his or her eyes and join you in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Mass on page 109 and complete the activity. Discuss the responses when he or she is finished.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *Where have you heard these words before?* (at Mass) Take turns acting out the role of the reader and the role of the people.

### 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 to show that he or she is like 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 the Eucharist

### Engage: Page 111

- ▶ Together brainstorm things that children share with each other, such as toys, treats, and books. **Say:** *We share our time, possessions, and goodwill with people in our lives.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *We share our faith when we celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass. In this session we will learn how Jesus shares himself with us in the Eucharist so that we can grow closer to him.*
- ▶ Ask your child to find a way to share his or her time with others every day this week. Discuss different situations that would work with your child. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 112–113

- ▶ Teach your child the song "We Can Serve," sung to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down." **Say:** *We can serve as Jesus served, Jesus served, Jesus served. We can serve as Jesus served, We serve others!* Continue with "We can love" and "We can help."
- ▶ Read aloud Liturgy of the Eucharist on page 112 and point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the part of the Mass after the Liturgy of the Word.* **Ask:** *What is the meaning of the word transubstantiation? (when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *What do we do to celebrate the Lord's Day? (celebrate Mass)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Attending Mass on page 113. Turn to page 209 and discuss each of the Holy Days of Obligation.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Connect the washing of the feet to Mass on Holy Thursday.

### Art Exploration: Page 253

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus and his disciples having a meal together.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how he or she can identify Jesus.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Last Supper was a special time for Jesus and his followers. The story of the Last Supper reminds us of how Jesus sacrificed himself for us.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 253. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Last Supper. **Say:** *The Last Supper has an important meaning for Catholics. It reminds us of Jesus' great love and the sacrifice he made. It shows how we can make sacrifices by doing things for others.* **Ask:** *What are some ways that you can give of yourself to others?* (spend time with someone who is sick or lonely, read to a younger sibling)
- ▶ Read aloud Thank You, God and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to share his or her thank-you letter with you.
- ▶ **Say:** *Meals are special times we share with our families and others we care about, just as Jesus shared the Last Supper with his followers.* Ask your child to make a place mat for each family member. Suggest that he or she draw pictures in the colorful style of the Art Print or use stickers to show favorite foods and people who are special to him or her. Encourage your child use the place mats at your next meal together.

### Reflect: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Together look at page 114. **Say:** *The boy in the picture might be setting aside prayer time to think about receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.*
- ▶ Slowly read aloud the first two paragraphs, giving your child time to listen to the words of the prayer. Read aloud the last two paragraphs, pausing after each sentence. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Eucharist on page 115. Turn to Receiving Holy Communion on page 208. After reading aloud this section, practice the responses with each other.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus' Gift. Give your child time to complete the activity.

### Respond: Page 116

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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

- ▶ Wear something purple. Point to the purple clothing and ask: *Why is this color special to our Church?* (It is the color of Lent.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *What are the names of some of the special days in Lent and Holy Week?* (Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday) **Say:** *In this session we'll learn about Lent and Holy Week. This time of year we remember to ask God to help us become the people he calls us to be.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family prepares for Lent and Holy Week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 118

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is something you can do to be a better person?* Together discuss ways to be more thoughtful to those around you.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *We Grow in Goodness During Lent and Holy Week*. Discuss the questions together.
- ▶ Read aloud *A Time to Change*. **Say:** *I am going to be more cheerful when I wake up in the morning. I will say "good morning" and smile at everyone I see.* Invite your child to complete the activity with ways he or she will change this Lent.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does it mean to put away your old self?* (to leave behind behaviors that are not like Jesus') *What are some behaviors that you can leave behind this Lent?*

### Reflect: Page 119

- ▶ Discuss how we can sometimes feel a little sad thinking about our sins and the things we have done wrong.
- ▶ Read aloud *Mass During Lent and Holy Week*. **Say:** *Remember that all of us sin sometimes. It's important to ask for God's mercy and help to do better next time. God gives us a fresh start, and that's a good feeling.*
- ▶ Read aloud *What We Experience*. Discuss the simplicity of the church during Lent.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Important Days* and complete the activity. Then ask your child to tell what he or she knows about each special day.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Ready for the Sacraments* feature. **Say:** *Sometimes it's difficult to do the right thing and be good. Sometimes it's much easier to do the wrong thing, which may lead to sin. At Mass we pray to God and ask for help to follow Jesus' example of faithfulness.*





### Art Exploration: Page 254

- ▶ 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 what he or she already knows about the last days of Jesus' life on earth.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus came to show us how much God loves us. He saved us from our sins by his sacrifice.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 254. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Read aloud Lent and Holy Week. **Ask:** *How can we show that we are sorry for our sins?* (ask God in prayer for forgiveness, ask others to forgive us, receive the Sacrament of Penance) *What special days do we celebrate during Holy Week?* (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud About Lent and use the words in the box to complete the sentences. Ask him or her to read aloud the sentences.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a prayer pot, using modeling clay. Give your child six small squares of red paper. Model how to fold each square in half and cut out a heart shape. Each week of Lent, tell your child to place one heart in the pot to represent a good deed he or she performed that week. Tell your child that the last heart should be placed in the pot on Palm Sunday.

### Respond: Page 120

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can spend time with someone to make a new friend.
- ▶ 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 do you think when you see someone wearing a bandage? (They've been hurt, and the bandage is helping the wound heal.) **Say:** Besides bandages, people also help us. **Ask:** Who are people who help you? (parents, families, teachers, friends, neighbors) **Say:** We are blessed to have people who help us. We can also help others. Read aloud the unit title on page 121.

**Say:** In this unit, we will learn how to put our faith into practice and live as disciples of Jesus.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Martin of Tours and invite him or her to read aloud the text. **Say:** Saint Martin of Tours was a loving, caring man who reached out to help others.

Turn to page 122. Read aloud the title and the first two paragraphs.

**Say:** Martin saw that the man was freezing and needed help. He reached out to help the man at a personal sacrifice. We should try to notice when others need our help. **Ask:** Why do you think Martin saw Jesus wearing half of his coat in his dream? (Jesus told us that anything we do for others, we do for him.)

Have your child read aloud the last paragraph. **Ask:** How was Saint Martin like Jesus? (He helped many people.) **Say:** When we help others, no matter who they are or where they live, we are being like Jesus too.

With your child add Martin of Tours's feast day, November 11, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the generosity of Saint Martin of Tours.



## Being Like Jesus

### Engage: Page 123

- ▶ **Ask:** Can you remember a time when someone was being helpful or kind to you?  
**Say:** That person was being like Jesus. You can be like Jesus too!
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** God is merciful to us, and he wants us to show mercy to others. In this session we'll learn how to follow the example of Jesus, who was merciful to everyone.
- ▶ Write the word *mercy* on a sheet of paper. Together think of ways to show mercy to others. Each way should include a letter from the word *mercy*. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 124–125

- ▶ **Ask:** What is a parable? (a story Jesus told that shows us what God wants for the world) **Say:** Jesus told a parable about the Good Samaritan to teach us how to treat our neighbors.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the Bible passage of The Good Samaritan on pages 124 and 125. **Ask:** Why were the people listening to Jesus' story surprised? (Samaritans and Jews didn't talk to one another.) **Say:** The Samaritan helped the Jewish man even though Jews and Samaritans were enemies. We can act like the Good Samaritan and help others in need.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Ask:** What do you think it means to be human? **Say:** Receiving the Eucharist is an important way we grow to be more like Jesus.

### Art Exploration: Page 255

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image that shows the words of the Beatitudes.
- ▶ **Ask:** What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors used.
- ▶ **Say:** Jesus gives us a plan for true happiness in the Beatitudes.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 255. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs of Reaching Out to Others. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What can you do when you hear unkind words or see unkind actions?* (walk away, change the channel or the video, ask the person to stop) Read aloud the beatitude together.
- ▶ Read aloud Blessed Are the Kind. Allow time for your child to write his or her answers and share them with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *The words remind us that when Mass is over, we are to take what we've received out into the world. Listen for these words the next time you attend Mass and join in the response.*
- ▶ Have your child write the kindness beatitude on a sheet of paper using markers of different colors. Invite your child to draw a picture showing how he or she would live this beatitude by showing kindness to others.

### Reflect: Pages 126–127

- ▶ Together look at page 126. **Say:** *It looks like the girl in the picture is listening to Jesus. Jesus loves spending time with you.*
- ▶ Pray aloud Being a Good Samaritan, pausing for two to three seconds after each sentence. After the last paragraph, pause to allow your child time to reflect and listen to what Jesus says to him or her. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Acting as Jesus Would on page 127. **Say:** *We must do our best to show love and mercy toward others.* Read aloud Making a Difference and have your child complete the activity. Discuss the pictures. **Ask:** *How do you think the child who was selfish felt later? Why? How do you think the child who shared his toy airplane felt later? Why?*

### 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 he or she can be a good Samaritan every 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.



## We Share God's Life

### Engage: Page 129

- ▶ Ask your child to retell the story of the Good Samaritan from Session 21. **Ask:** *What kind of choice did the Samaritan make? (a good choice)*
- ▶ 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 when we follow Jesus and listen to his words, we make good choices and share in God's life.*
- ▶ Look at events that are coming up in the next week and talk about good choices that your child can choose to make. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 130–131

- ▶ If possible, display pictures of some of the adults in your child's life. **Ask:** *How can these people help you make good choices?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 130. **Say:** *A good moral choice is choosing to do the right thing because it's what God wants us to do.* **Ask:** *Who helps us make moral choices? (parents, grandparents, teachers, priests)*
- ▶ Read aloud Steps for Making Good Choices on page 131 and point out the vocabulary word. Present a situation that your child might face and lead him or her through each step. **Say:** *The next time you are faced with making a moral choice, ask the Holy Spirit for help as you answer these three questions.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *The Church is joined as one body through the Eucharist. We are all members of the Body of Christ.*

### Art Exploration: Page 256

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Moses is wearing and how the Ten Commandments are presented.
- ▶ **Say:** *We show love for God and others when we follow the commandments.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 256. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Follow God's Laws. **Ask:** *Why do you think God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses? (so his people would know what they must do to love God and follow his laws) Why does God give everyone a choice to follow or not to follow his laws? (God gives us the gift of freedom to make choices.)*



- ▶ Read aloud Choose God. Have your child complete the activity and discuss the responses.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Being like Jesus, we are choosing life with God.*
- ▶ Have your child make a friendship bracelet. Help him or her string a yellow, blue, green, and red bead on yarn and knot the ends. **Say:** *Yellow represents Jesus as the Way. Blue is for the Truth. Green is for the Life. Red is for the love of Jesus.* Invite your child to share the bracelet with someone.

### Reflect: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Together look at page 132. **Say:** *The girl in the picture knows that the Holy Spirit is always with us, giving us strength and guidance.*
- ▶ Read aloud the reflection, pausing after each question to give your child time to reflect. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud Choosing Like Jesus on page 133. **Say:** *It's good to talk with someone when we need help. That person can help us resolve our problem. Jesus always prayed before making decisions. Close your eyes. Picture in your mind a time when you had a choice to make.* **Ask:** *How did you act like Jesus?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Moral Choices and complete the activity. Discuss his or her responses.

### 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 ask the Holy Spirit to help him or her make good choices today.
- ▶ 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.



## Following Jesus

### Engage: Page 135

- ▶ Recall a random act of kindness that someone did for you or your child. **Ask:** *Why do you think that person was kind to us? (Jesus teaches us to love everyone.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Jesus is our role model when it comes to being kind to others. He can help us treat others as he would. In this session we will learn about the love and kindness that Jesus taught us.*
- ▶ Together make a list of kind acts you can do for family members this week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is your favorite subject in school? Why?* **Say:** *It's fun to study and learn new things. The more we study and practice, the better we become at what we do.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Great Commandment on page 136 and point out the vocabulary terms. Together find the Old Testament and the New Testament in a Bible. Draw attention to the term *Great Commandment*. Ask your child to look up the term in the Glossary and give some examples.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *To follow the Great Commandment is to love God, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Beatitudes on page 137. **Say:** *Jesus taught people the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are ways Jesus gave us to live as his followers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Discuss the importance of Jesus' love.

### Art Exploration: Page 257

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of friends playing and bringing joy to their neighborhood.
- ▶ **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 children.
- ▶ **Say:** *We can be like Jesus by loving our neighbors.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 257. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.





- ▶ Read aloud Love Your Neighbor. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can love our neighbor as we love ourselves?* (show care, friendliness, encouragement, and understanding toward others)
- ▶ Read aloud Love in Action. Allow time for your child to write words he or she says and deeds he or she does to show love.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a special out-of-season valentine for someone. Tell your child to write a message of love or friendship. Have him or her send or hand-deliver the valentine to this person.

### Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Ask:** *What kind of choice do you think the boy in the picture is thinking about?* **Say:** *We can always rely on Jesus to be present, to strengthen us, and to guide us in every decision we make.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Let's think about how we can practice the Beatitudes in our lives, especially when we have to make difficult choices.* Pray aloud the prayer, pausing for a couple of seconds after each sentence, giving your child time to reflect. Invite your child to join you in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus taught that true happiness isn't found in getting what we want, but in being kind and fair to others and working for peace. This is the happiness that lasts.* Read aloud the heading and the first sentence on page 139.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Doing What Jesus Teaches and complete the activity. Invite your child to share which beatitude is followed in each example.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Say:** *Even though Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton had a busy life, she found time to reach out to others. She was a special person who put Jesus' teaching into practice.*

### 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 make peace with someone he or she hurt.
- ▶ 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.



## Making Choices

### Engage: Page 141

- ▶ **Ask:** *What things do we share at home? (food, bedroom, toothpaste, computer) How do you show respect for these things and the other people who use them? (clean up after I eat, keep my room neat)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *What does it mean to show respect? (to be polite, to be kind, to be considerate, to be careful with others' belongings)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn how we show respect for others.*
- ▶ Discuss how your family members can show more respect toward one another. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 142–143

- ▶ **Ask:** *Who are some leaders you know or have heard of? (principal, teacher, scout leader, coach, president)* **Say:** *Jesus chose Peter to be the leader of the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Community of Believers on page 142. **Say:** *Peter encouraged Christians to act as Jesus would. He wanted them to live in peace.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This psalm teaches us about true happiness. We can work hard to show respect for everyone.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Living in Kindness on page 143. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *God is kind and forgiving. When we sin, he always forgives us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Ask:** *In what ways can we help those in need?* **Say:** *Remember that an important way to help others is to pray for them.*

### Art Exploration: Page 258

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a parent teaching a child something, such as walking or riding a bike.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the mother is helping her child.
- ▶ **Say:** *God wants us to respect our families.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 258. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Respect Others. **Ask:** *What can you do to make peace at home? (show respect, don't argue, use good manners)*



- ▶ Read aloud Keeping the Peace and have your child complete the activity. Have him or her read aloud the completed sentences.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we share the Sign of Peace at Mass, we are saying that we respect one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- ▶ Have your child make a collage that represents your family. Tell your child to cut pictures and words from magazines and other media that remind him or her of each person's qualities. Have your child group together pictures and words that refer to each family member. Display the artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 144–145

- ▶ Together look at page 144. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is resting in a quiet place.*  
**Say:** *Because prayer is talking and listening to God, it is important that we be very quiet.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs, pausing after each one to give your child time to reflect. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Respecting Others on page 145. Discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Showing Respect. Have your child complete the activity and discuss the answers with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Peace be with you.* Have your child offer the Sign of Peace to you. **Say:** *The next time you attend Mass, share the Sign of Peace with those around you.*

### Respond: Page 146

- ▶ 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 respect in his or her words and deeds.
- ▶ 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

- ▶ Sing a simple Alleluia together. **Ask:** *What other joyful symbols do we see around us at Easter?* (colorful eggs, lilies, Easter baskets)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Easter, the time of year when we rejoice that Jesus is risen!*
- ▶ Together find Easter on a calendar. Invite your child to count 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is the most joyful time you remember? What made this occasion so joyous?* (being with family and friends, going to a special place, having fun)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Reflect During Easter. **Say:** *The gift of eternal life gives us hope and faith to know that when we die, we will live with Jesus forever.*
- ▶ Read aloud Eternal Life in Heaven. Invite your child to complete the picture and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *It is hard when someone we love dies. We miss the person very much.* **Ask:** *How does it make you feel knowing that, because of Jesus, those we love are loved by God who wants them to live with him forever?* Discuss your child's response.

### Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ Discuss how the joy of Easter is a small taste of the joy of Heaven. **Say:** *When we go to Mass during the Easter season, we sing joyful songs to express our joy that Jesus is risen from the dead.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. Compare a Sunday Mass to Easter Sunday. Ask your child to tell what he or she sees and hears at each Mass.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of What We Experience. **Say:** *The color white reminds us of Jesus' new life. When we are baptized, we wear a white garment to symbolize our new life.* Have your child read aloud the activity directions and complete the Resurrection symbol.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Ask:** *How does Jesus come close to us? (in the sacraments)* **Say:** *Remember that the sacraments are about love, belonging, forgiveness, and friendship—all special things that help us be the people Jesus wants us to be.*



### Art Exploration: Page 259

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a bouquet of lilies.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the lilies symbolize.
- ▶ **Say:** *White lilies in your home or church at Easter remind us of the risen Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 259. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate Easter. **Ask:** *Why do you think spring is the perfect season to celebrate Easter?* (There is new life in nature just as Jesus rose to new life.)
- ▶ Read aloud Alleluia and allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ Invite your child to think about what happened on Easter morning. **Say:** *Imagine coming face-to-face with the risen Jesus. What do you say to Jesus? What does Jesus say to you? How does being with Jesus make you feel?* Invite your child to spend a few moments speaking heart-to-heart with the risen Jesus Christ. Close by singing together a simple Alleluia.

### Respond: Page 150

- ▶ 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 spread joy to those he or she meets today.
- ▶ 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.