



# 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

Turn to page 1. Invite your child to read aloud the page. **Say:** *Saint Teresa of Ávila spent a lot of time praying and thinking about prayer. She also wanted to help other people learn how to pray. Ask: Who helps you learn how to pray? (Possible answers: family members, priests, catechists)*

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Teresa of Ávila.

**Ask:** *What can we tell about Saint Teresa of Ávila based on this picture? (She was a holy person.)*

Turn to page 2. Have your child read aloud the page. **Ask:** *What did Teresa discover she liked about living in a convent? (the simple life) What title did Teresa receive for what she wrote? (Doctor of the Church) Explain that the Church believes that her writings about prayer are very important to Church teachings. Say: We remember Saint Teresa of Ávila because she dedicated her life to prayer. We are going to learn how we can grow closer to God through prayer.*

With your child add Teresa's feast day, October 15, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the teachings of Saint Teresa of Ávila.



## God Creates the World

### Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Together with your child, look out a window and find beautiful aspects of God's creation. **Ask:** *What makes these things beautiful? Why do you think God created them?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What is happening in this picture?* (Children are picking up trash.) **Say:** *There are many ways we can take care of creation. In this session we will learn about the wonders of God's creation and how we are called to help care for what God has given us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what you both saw out your window and how we are called to help care for what God has given us. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ **Say:** *Think of a time you saw a rainbow.* **Ask:** *How did you feel when you saw the colors of the rainbow?* **Say:** *God has created those amazing colors.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 4. Point out the vocabulary terms. **Say:** *Having a soul makes us human and makes us beings who are made in the image and likeness of God.* **Ask:** *What is free will?* (our ability to choose good because God has made us like him) *What kinds of choices do you think God wants us to make regarding the earth?* (God wants us to use our free will to choose to care for everything he has given us.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Everything God makes is good, and he takes care of everyone and everything.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Caring for the Earth on page 5. **Ask:** *Why is it important not to waste the resources we have received from God?* (It shows our gratitude for the gift of creation.) Then invite your child to write his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions to Gifts from God. Have your child complete the activity and discuss his or her responses with you.

### Art Exploration: Page 229

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a tree with flowers and butterflies.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors and the flowers.
- ▶ **Say:** *Creation is a gift from God. There are many ways we can thank him for this gift.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 229. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud God the Creator. Point out the vocabulary word in dark type. Say: *The psalms were first written as poems. They are like song lyrics and can be sung as hymns.* **Ask:** *What aspects of God's creation are included in this psalm?* (the earth, water, fields, grain, plants, pastures, valleys) **Say:** *Creation is full of life. The living things that surround us remind us to thank God for the gift of creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Write a Psalm and invite your child to write and share his or her own psalm.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *There are different types of psalms. We can use some of them to pray prayers of thanks, prayers of praise, and prayers of sorrows.*
- ▶ Ask your child to draw on a sheet of paper an outline of a tree. Taking turns, decorate the tree with aspects of God's creation that you and your child believe to be especially beautiful. Conclude by praying together a prayer thanking God for the gift of creation.

### Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Ask:** *What is the girl in the picture focusing on?* **Say:** *Before you pray, focus your attention on a specific image or idea to help you concentrate and reflect.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 6. Pause after the last two paragraphs to give your child time to reflect. Provide time for your child to talk silently with God. Together pray Amen and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *Why is it important to thank people for the gifts they give us?* (to show how much we appreciate their thoughtfulness) *What are some things we can do to show God how thankful we are for the gift of creation?* (pray a prayer of thanks, recycle, use only what we need) Read aloud Thanking God for Creation on page 7 and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the drawing and the prayer.

### 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 other ways he or she can thank God for the gift of creation.
- ▶ 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.



## Our Father in Heaven

### Engage: Page 9

- ▶ Using markers, ask your child to draw a tree and write the name of a different family member on each branch. **Ask:** *How does God want us to treat our family members? (lovingly)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Ask:** *How are some families alike? How are some different?* **Say:** *In this session we are going to learn more about how God calls us to treat one another.*
- ▶ On the "family tree," encourage your child to write on the branch one nice thing he or she can do for each family member. Encourage your child to follow through with his or her ideas during the next week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 10–11

- ▶ Discuss why we pray. **Ask:** *What are some of the prayers you know by heart? In addition to praying these prayers, how else can we pray? (sing a song, go to Mass, read the Bible)*
- ▶ Take turns with your child reading aloud page 10. **Ask:** *Why does God listen to our prayers? (because he loves us and wants to help us) Why might we pray the Lord's Prayer? (to develop a closer relationship with God)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *The Lord's Prayer helps us grow in relationship with God the Father.* Pray together the Lord's Prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the first three paragraphs on page 11. **Ask:** *How might we describe the Kingdom of God? (It is proclaimed in the Gospels. It is present in the Person of Jesus.)* **Say:** *Through Jesus and the Gospels, we learn how to follow God's plan for us. This is the way we build up God's kingdom.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Serving God's Kingdom and have him or her complete the activity. Discuss your child's response.

### Art Exploration: Page 230

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of God.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what God looks like.
- ▶ **Say:** *This picture tells us that God created everything.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 230. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What happens when we choose to follow God's plan for us? (We build up the Kingdom of God.)*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** *What do we read about in the Gospels? (Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection) Point out in your Bible where your child can find the Gospels.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus, the Son of God. Give your child time to read the passage and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What can we do to grow in our relationship with Jesus? (pray, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments)*
- ▶ Using art supplies, invite your child to make his or her own image of God the Creator. Suggest that your child include his or her favorite aspects of God's creation. Then ask your child to write a caption for the artwork that indicates what the images teach about God.

### Reflect: Pages 12–13

- ▶ Together look at page 12. **Ask:** *Where is the boy in the picture? (in a forest) Why do you think he is looking up? Say:* *We can talk to God in the quiet of our heart.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sentence before the prayer. **Say:** *When we profess our belief in God, we profess our belief in the Trinity.* Pray aloud the Act of Faith slowly and with expression. Read aloud the paragraph after the prayer. After giving your child a few quiet moments, close the prayer by asking your child to join you in praying the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 13. Point out the vocabulary term. **Ask:** *What do the words faith, hope, and charity mean to you? (Faith is trust in God, hope is the belief that God's promises will be fulfilled, and charity is love of God and one another.) What are some ways you can practice faith, hope, and charity in your life? (pray, trust in God, treat others as I want to be treated)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Sacred Symbols. Have your child complete the activity. Talk about the symbols that your child draws.

### 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 practice faith, hope, and charity in everyday 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.



## God's Plan for Salvation

### Engage: Page 15

- ▶ With your child listen to or watch a news broadcast. **Ask:** *Are the people in these stories helping or hurting one another? Why might people choose to help one another?* Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Ask:** *Do you think God wants us to help people who have been hurt? Why?* (because we are all brothers and sisters in God, because it is the example Jesus gave us)
- ▶ Ask your child to think about the people he or she watched on the news. **Ask:** *What can you do right now to help those who have been hurt?* (pray) Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 16–17

- ▶ Invite your child to share what he or she knows about Adam and Eve. Together look at the pictures on page 16. **Ask:** *What do you see?* (two people, a snake)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 16. **Ask:** *What temptation did Adam and Eve face?* (whether to eat the fruit from the tree that God had told them not to eat) *What choice did they make?* (to eat the fruit) *What were the consequences of their decision?* (God told them to leave the garden. Their relationship with God was injured.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 17. **Ask:** *What is a promise?* (a commitment we make) **Say:** *Original Sin is the loss of holiness and justice that resulted from Adam and Eve's choice to turn away from God.* **Ask:** *What is the result of Original Sin?* (a world full of temptation where it can be difficult to follow God's plan for us) *How can we make up for our bad choices?* (celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, say "I'm sorry")
- ▶ **Say:** *God knows that sin is part of our world. However, God has sent a Savior to show us how to live and to save us from our sins.*
- ▶ Invite your child to make a picture book of the story of Adam and Eve for younger children in your neighborhood to enjoy.

### Art Exploration: Page 231

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a statue of Jesus with his arms outstretched.
- ▶ **Say:** *Whom do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the position of Jesus' arms.





- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus is always ready to welcome us. He is always ready to accept us. He loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 231. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *Why is Salvation through Jesus the greatest gift God has given us? (It allows us to live with God forever in Heaven.) What choice does God want us to make when we are faced with temptation? (to follow his plan for us, resist temptation, and accept the gift of Salvation)*
- ▶ Read aloud Saved by Jesus. Explain that an acrostic is a poem with a word written vertically and words or phrases written horizontally that describe the vertical word. The horizontal words use one of the letters in the vertical word. With your child brainstorm a list of words or phrases for the first line. Then invite your child to finish it and share the final acrostic.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we pray the Penitential Act, we ask God to forgive us and to help us mend the relationships we have harmed through our sinful choices. We can use this prayer any time we want to express our sorrow to God.*
- ▶ Using modeling clay, ask your child to sculpt his or her own statue of Jesus. Encourage your child to portray one of Jesus' characteristics in the statue, such as his love, compassion, or forgiveness. Display the statue in a place of honor in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 18–19

- ▶ Together look at page 18. **Say:** *The Act of Hope and the Act of Faith are like family keepsakes—these two prayers have been passed on from generation to generation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sentence before the prayer. Invite your child to pray the prayer together with you. Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow time for your child to pray silently. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 19. Take turns reading aloud each situation with your child and discussing how to use free will to make good choices.

### 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 demonstrate to others that he or she has trust in God.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



## God Calls Us to Obey

### Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Together with your child, read news articles in which people have made both good and bad choices. **Ask:** *Why is it important for us to follow rules? (to keep us safe)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In a free society, citizens have certain rights. With rights come responsibilities that help keep us safe. In this session we are going to learn about the importance of making good choices. We'll also discuss behaviors that help us follow God's plan for us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to discuss how the stories with bad choices could have had different results with better decisions. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Ask your child to recall the story of Pinocchio. Explain that Jiminy Cricket serves as Pinocchio's conscience. **Ask:** *What does your conscience help you do? (distinguish between right and wrong)*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 22. **Ask:** *What are the Fruits of the Holy Spirit? (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)* Point out the vocabulary word, *prudence*. **Say:** *When you are faced with temptation, you can pray to the Holy Spirit for help.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Where does this verse come from? (the Lord's Prayer)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Examination of Conscience on page 23. **Ask:** *When might you make an examination of conscience? (as part of your prayer before going to bed, before celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation)*
- ▶ Read aloud Positive Choices. Ask your child to make an examination of conscience, using page 210 in the back of his or her book. Then have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child's response.

### Art Exploration: Page 232

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of a dove surrounded by the apostles.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting how the dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.





- ▶ **Say:** *The Holy Spirit helped the apostles make good choices in their lives just as he helps you do the same in your life.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 232. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Living in Freedom. **Ask:** *When we are faced with temptation, what can we do to help us find the strength to live in true freedom?* (follow the Ten Commandments, practice the virtues, pray to the Holy Spirit for strength)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Help from the Holy Spirit. Ask your child to complete the activity by writing a prayer.
- ▶ Together with your child, use art supplies to make a small mural that shows people using their free will to make good choices. Display the mural in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 24–25

- ▶ Together look at page 24. **Ask:** *Where is the boy? What is he doing?* **Say:** *Think of a quiet place where you can open your heart and find God's grace.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 24. **Say:** *It is important to think about our relationships to make sure we are treating people with dignity and respect.* Ask your child to reflect silently on the questions in the text. Close by praying *Amen* and offering each other a sign of peace.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Helping Hand page 25. **Ask:** *How did Sophia's choice make her feel?* (It made her feel good, even though she was late to her friend's house.)
- ▶ Read aloud Write About Respect and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Ask:** *How can we be more like Saint Peter Canisius?* (We can make an effort to get along with one another. We can encourage our friends to treat other people with kindness and respect.)

### Respond: Page 26

- ▶ 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 another way he or she can form a good conscience.
- ▶ 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 different types of calendars, such as academic, church, or family calendars. **Ask:** *Why do people use calendars?* (to remember appointments, to record special events)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *Why do we celebrate feasts and seasons?* (to remind us of the great things God has done for us) *How many times during the year do we celebrate Ordinary Time?* (two) *What two feasts do we celebrate in the fall, near the end of Ordinary Time?* (All Souls Day and All Saints Day) **Say:** *In this session we will learn how Ordinary Time helps us grow as Jesus' disciples.*
- ▶ Encourage your child to make Ordinary Time stand out on one of the calendars you looked at. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 28

- ▶ List these virtues on a sheet of paper: *honesty, charity, patience, prudence, joy, hope, justice, courage, faith, temperance, self-control*. Take turns using each word in a sentence to show its meaning. Use the following to define the listed virtues: *honesty*: truthfulness; *charity*: love; *patience*: waiting for something, even when it is difficult to do so; *prudence*: being directed toward the good; *joy*: happiness; *hope*: trust that God will always be with us; *justice*: the desire to give to God and to others what is due to them; *courage*: bravery; *faith*: belief in something that cannot be seen; *temperance*: moderation in thought, action, and feeling; *self-control*: the ability to control one's thoughts, actions and feelings.
- ▶ Read aloud We Grow in Virtue During Ordinary Time. **Ask:** *What do we try to better understand during this season?* (Jesus' invitation to love God, to serve others, and to avoid sin) *What does God's grace help us do?* (grow in virtue and avoid temptation)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Growing Strong and complete the activity. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *When we live in Jesus' light by following his teachings, we produce good things.*

### Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ With your child find John 13:1–9 or Matthew 10:40–42 in your Bible. **Say:** *Here are two Gospel stories in which Jesus teaches what it means to be a disciple.* Read aloud the stories.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Ordinary Time. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What do disciples do?* (believe in and follow Jesus' teachings)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The candles in church symbolize the light of Christ and remind us that we are called to share Christ's light with others.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Sharing Christ's Light and complete the activity.



- Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Remind your child that Ordinary Time goes from the Monday after the Baptism of the Lord until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, and then from the Monday after Pentecost until the first Sunday of Advent. Use a calendar to point out the days.

### Art Exploration: Page 233

- Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a person praying.
- **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions and facial expression of the person who is praying.
- **Say:** *When we pray, we use traditional prayers, use our own words, read Scripture, or focus on an object or an image.*
- Have your child turn to page 233. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- Read aloud Called by God. **Ask:** *How can we learn what God is calling us to do? (by praying) What do we discover when we take time to pray and reflect? (how God wants us to share his peace and love with others)*
- Have your child read aloud Respond to God's Call and complete the activity.  
**Say:** *Pray a prayer of thanks to Jesus for giving us an example of how to share God's peace and love with others.*
- Together with your child, read your most recent parish bulletin or information on your parish Web site. Invite him or her to use art supplies to make a poster of different opportunities your family can participate in together through your church to serve others. Display the poster in your home and discuss what you would like to do as a family.

### Respond: Page 30

- 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 practice the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.
- 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 qualities make someone a good listener? (patience, respect, attentiveness) Why do we need good listeners in our lives? Why is it important for priests to be good listeners? (Priests listen to the needs and concerns of parishioners.)* Read aloud the unit title on page 31. **Say:** *This unit helps us learn what Jesus teaches about God's love and forgiveness. It begins by telling us about a priest who was a very good listener.*

## Introduce the Saint

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

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

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

Turn to page 32. Have your child read aloud the page. **Say:** *Saint John Baptiste Vianney practiced virtues in his life.* **Ask:** *What are some ways that he helped others? (He was kind to those who were poor and sick; he established an orphanage; he took time to listen to his parishioners.)*

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

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



## Jesus' Law of Love

### Engage: Page 33

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is the Golden Rule?* (Treat others as you want to be treated.) Together discuss times when it might be difficult to follow the Golden Rule.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What might be happening between these boys?* (Two boys are shaking hands.) *Do you think they are following the Golden Rule?* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about the new commandment we have received from Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about why we follow the Golden Rule. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 34–35

- ▶ Review the Ten Commandments. **Ask:** *What do the Ten Commandments help us do?* (love God and love one another.)
- ▶ Read aloud The New Commandment on page 34. **Ask:** *What is the Torah?* (the Law revealed by God in the Old Testament) *What is the main idea of Jesus' new commandment?* (The Law we have received from God calls us to love God and to love others.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *What are two definitions for the word Torah?* (the Law revealed by God and the first five books of the Bible)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and first paragraph on page 35. **Ask:** *What is fortitude?* (the virtue that gives us the strength to follow Jesus) *What other virtues help us follow Jesus?* (charity, patience, self-control) **Say:** *When we practice the virtues, we build up the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Following Jesus' New Commandment and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we pray a prayer of intercession, we pray on behalf of someone else. The Prayer of the Faithful is sometimes called the Universal Prayer.* Together read aloud the Prayer of the Faithful from a recent Mass.

### Art Exploration: Page 234

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



- ▶ **Say:** *Saint Vincent de Paul lived out Jesus' new commandment by caring for people who were sick and people who were poor.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 234. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What did Vincent de Paul do when he faced challenges in his work? (He prayed to the Holy Spirit, and he practiced the virtues.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Care for Others. Have your child finish the activity and discuss his or her picture.
- ▶ Ask your child to reflect on the Art Print. **Say:** *Imagine you are walking down the street and having a conversation with Saint Vincent de Paul.* **Ask:** *What do you say to him? What does he say to you?* Give your child time to pray to Saint Vincent de Paul, thanking him for giving us an example of how to live out Jesus' new commandment.

### Reflect: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Together look at page 36. **Say:** *Just as the people in the picture show their love for each other, we show our love for God through our prayers.*
- ▶ Have your child prepare for prayer by getting comfortable. Read aloud the first paragraph. Pray together the Act of Love. Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow time for your child to pray silently. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Acting with Love on page 37. Help your child think of the people he or she sees every day. Have your child complete the chart. **Say:** *Showing kindness to others is one way to live out Jesus' new commandment.*

### 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 that he or she can serve others and follow Jesus' new commandment.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.





## The Beatitudes

### Engage: Page 39

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

### Explore: Pages 40–41

- ▶ Take turns completing this sentence with your child: *We can build up the Kingdom of God by .* (following God's plan for us, practicing the virtues)
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 40. **Say:** *Living the Beatitudes can lead to a happy life.* Read aloud the Scripture passage, pausing after each Beatitude to explain its meaning. **Ask:** *Do you think it will be easy to live out the Beatitudes? Why or why not?*
- ▶ Read aloud Living the Beatitudes on page 41. Complete the activity together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *During the Sign of Peace, we commit ourselves to being peacemakers and to building up the Kingdom of God. We express our willingness and desire to live in peace with one another.*

### Art Exploration: Page 235

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a man removing a thorn from a lion's paw.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the man is doing to help the lion.
- ▶ **Say:** *We are called to be Jesus' followers and to build up God's kingdom by making good choices.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 235. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first three paragraphs. **Ask:** *What is Saint Jerome an example of?* (someone who chose to practice the Beatitudes)



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

### Reflect: Pages 42–43

- ▶ Together look at page 42. **Ask:** *What can you tell about the person in the picture?* (Animals are drawn to him, he appears to be a peaceful person.)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis. Give your child time to ask God to help him or her be a peacemaker. Close the prayer by reading aloud the last paragraph and offering a sign of peace to your child.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Serving the Needs of Others on page 43. **Say:** *As you think about what you might draw, let's think about what Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Jerome did to live out the Beatitudes. Then let's think of one way God is calling you to live out the Beatitudes in your life.* Discuss your child's ideas and then invite your child to discuss the picture when it is finished.

### Respond: Page 44

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



## Jesus Our Redeemer

### Engage: Page 45

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

### Explore: Pages 46–47

- ▶ Together make a time line of Jesus' life. Invite your child to explain what happened at each event. **Say:** *Jesus taught us how to live throughout his life.*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus, Son of God on page 46. **Ask:** What happened after Jesus' Crucifixion? (God raised Jesus from the dead.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud On the Cross. **Ask:** *Why did Jesus tell one of the men crucified next to him that "This day you will be with me in paradise"?* (He will be saved because of his faith in Jesus.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *In the Mystery of Faith, we proclaim our belief in the Paschal Mystery—Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Died for Our Sins on page 47. **Ask:** *Why do we call Jesus our Redeemer?* (He offered his Death to free us from our sins.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *As Catholics we believe that it is Jesus who saves us from our sins.*

### Art Exploration: Page 236

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



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 236. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus' Ascension. **Ask:** *How long did Jesus stay on earth before he was taken up to Heaven? (40 days)* **Say:** *Jesus' Ascension is so important that we celebrate the event on the Feast of the Ascension, which is one of the Holy Days of Obligation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Report the News and give your child time to complete the activity. Invite your child to read aloud his or her news story.
- ▶ Give your child time to study the Art Print. **Say:** *Imagine that you are on the Mount of Olives with the other disciples, watching Jesus ascend into Heaven.* **Ask:** *What are you thinking as you watch this happen? What do you feel?* **Say:** *Imagine that you are having a conversation with the disciples after the Ascension.* **Ask:** *What do you say to them? What do they say to you?* Conclude the reflection by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.

### Reflect: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Together look at page 48. **Say:** *The boy is outside, thinking about something. It is important to think about the meaning of the words you pray. Be aware that the Holy Spirit is with us to support us in our faith.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Point out that a creed can be any statement of faith in which we express our beliefs. Pray together the Sign of the Cross and the Apostles' Creed. Pause between each line to give your child time to reflect on the meaning of the prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud What We Believe on page 49. Reread the Apostles' Creed and discuss the meaning of the lines. Have your child use crayons or markers to design his or her stained-glass window.

### Respond: Page 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 forgive others.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



## Jesus Sends the Spirit

### Engage: Page 51

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

### Explore: Pages 52–53

- ▶ Review what happened on Pentecost by reading together Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4 from the Bible. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus and his Father, was descending on the apostles to give them strength and courage to continue Jesus' Word.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 52. **Ask:** *How was Peter able to preach in Jesus' name?* (through the direction of the Holy Spirit) **Say:** *We also have been given the strength of the Holy Spirit, which helps us carry on Jesus' work in the world today.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 53. **Say:** *The Works of Mercy help us think of ways we can take care of others.* Define the meaning of each Spiritual Work of Mercy. **Ask:** *How might we practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy?* (teach someone a new skill, forgive someone who hurt us)
- ▶ Read aloud Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *These are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We can rely on these gifts to carry on Jesus' work in the world today.*

### Art Exploration: Page 237

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people receiving a meal.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the people are doing and how they are dressed.
- ▶ **Say:** *As Jesus' followers we are called to help people regardless of their circumstances.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 237. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



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

### Reflect: Pages 54–55

- ▶ Together look at page 54. **Say:** *One of the symbols of the Holy Spirit in the Bible is wind or breath. The Holy Spirit is as close to us as our breath.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Saint Augustine's teachings are so important that he has been named a Doctor of the Church.* Pray together the Holy Spirit Prayer of Saint Augustine. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Sharing Mercy on page 55. **Ask:** *Who are some of the other saints and holy people we have learned about who practiced the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy?* (Saint Teresa of Ávila, Saint Peter Canisius, Saint John Baptiste Vianney, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta)
- ▶ Read aloud Help from the Holy Spirit. Give your child time to complete the activity. You may wish to write your own prayer and then exchange prayers with your child and read them aloud.

### Respond: Page 56

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





## Celebrating Advent

### Engage: Page 57

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

### Explore: Page 58

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

### Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Display a Bible. **Ask:** *What do we call the four books in the New Testament where we learn about Jesus?* (the Gospels) **Say:** *Reflecting on Jesus' teaching in the Gospels is another way to decide if we're making good moral choices.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. **Say:** *John the Baptist was the son of Elizabeth, Mary's cousin. John the Baptist told people to get ready to hear Jesus' message.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sections What We Experience and Praying to Mary. **Say:** *The Angelus is a prayer of devotion that honors Mary for the yes she gave to God. Find the Angelus on page 190 in the back of your child's book. Pray together the prayer.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete, or Rejoice, Sunday, marks approximately the halfway point of Advent. In addition to lighting the pink candle, the priest may wear pink vestments.*



### Art Exploration: Page 238

- Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a *Las Posadas* procession.
- **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the people.
- **Say:** *Las Posadas is one tradition that can help us prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.*
- Have your child turn to page 238. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What are some Advent traditions?* (Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, Jesse trees, Saint Nicholas Day celebrations)
- Have your child read aloud *Las Posadas. What happens at each place except the last one?* (The pilgrims are denied lodging.) **Say:** *When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay. This is why Jesus was born in a stable. It was the only place left for them.*
- Read aloud Prepare to Welcome Jesus and share ideas your family has followed in the past. Give your child time to complete the activity.
- Ask your child to imagine himself or herself as one of the people in the *Las Posadas* procession. **Ask:** *What are you thinking and feeling as you process from place to place and are denied entry? How do you feel when you are finally allowed to enter someone's home?* **Say:** *Take a moment to talk with Jesus. Ask him to help you be a welcoming person.*

### Respond: Page 60

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



# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

**Ask:** Who are some of the saints we have learned about? (Saint Teresa of Ávila, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint John Baptiste Vianney) What made these people saints? (They followed God's plan for them. They helped other people follow God.) Read aloud the unit title on page 61. **Say:** We are going to learn about a king who was named a saint. Our new unit will help us learn about the Church, the community of Jesus' followers.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Louis IX. **Ask:** What can you tell about Saint Louis IX based on this picture? (He was a Catholic. He was a king.)

Have your child read aloud the text. **Say:** As king, Louis IX was concerned about the French people, and as a Catholic, he worked to strengthen the Church.

Turn to page 62. Have your child read aloud the page. **Ask:** What did Saint Louis IX do to serve God? (He supported the building of hospitals, schools, and religious institutions. He supported efforts to spread the Good News.) **Say:** Saint Louis IX supported two religious orders: the Dominicans and the Franciscans. Members of these orders took a vow of poverty. They supported themselves by begging.

With your child add Louis's feast day, August 25, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the efforts of Saint Louis IX.



## The People of God

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ **Ask:** *What communities do you belong to? (family, school, parish, town) Discuss how you are welcomed into these communities and how you show that you are an active member of these communities.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Say:** *Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are welcomed into the Church community. In this session we will learn more about the Church, the community of people who believe in and follow Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can be an active member of the Church. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Display a globe or a picture of one. **Ask:** *What is this? What does it represent? (the planet Earth) How are people who live on earth the same and different?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 64. **Ask:** *What did Jesus tell his followers to do? (go forth and make new disciples, continue his mission by teaching others how to follow God's commandments) Point out the vocabulary term *universal Church*. **Say:** *The Church is universal because it is open to everyone.**
- ▶ Read aloud Welcomed into the Church on page 65. **Ask:** *What are the three Sacraments of Initiation? (Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Who is speaking in this passage? (Jesus) What is he saying? (that his followers will receive the strength of the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses in the world)*

### Art Exploration: Page 239

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Dominic.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Saint Dominic is wearing and how he wears his hair.
- ▶ **Say:** *Saint Dominic founded a religious community called the Order of Preachers. Members of this community are often called Dominicans.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 239. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint Dominic. **Ask:** *What did Dominic believe was one of the best ways to help others grow in faith? (by sharing the Good News in both word and action) What did many of the early members of the Dominicans do? (They traveled from city to city to preach the Good News.)*
- ▶ Read aloud A Good Example. Give your child time to complete the activity and invite him or her to share the response with you.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine that he or she is with Saint Dominic and his companions as they travel from city to city, preaching the Good News. **Ask:** *What do you hear in your travels? What do you see? What do you do to teach others about Jesus? Ask your child to say a silent prayer thanking God for the opportunity to share the Good News with others.*

### Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is finding a quiet time in her day to be with God.* Invite your child to find a comfortable position for prayer.
- ▶ **Say:** *During our prayer you are going to use your imagination to imagine that you are with the apostles when Jesus sent them out into the world.* Read aloud the reflection slowly and reverently. Pause after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud A Celebrating Community on page 67. **Ask:** *In what four ways is Jesus present in the celebration of the Mass? (in the Scripture readings, in the priest, in the community, in the Eucharist)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Pray with Jesus. Work together on ideas for how you can participate more fully in the Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Holy water cleanses us of Original Sin. A white garment reminds us of the purity and joy of being clothed in Christ. A candle reminds us that we are called to share Christ's light with others.*

### 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 share a word of welcome with a new parish member.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



## The Church Teaches Us

### Engage: Page 69

- ▶ Ask your child to do a chore such as yard work or housework. After he or she has started, offer to help finish the job. **Ask:** *Was it easier to work together? What behaviors do you think can help people work together well?* (communication, trust, respect)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *Why might these two people find it helpful to work together?* (By working together, they can accomplish their task more quickly.) **Say:** *In this lesson we will learn about how our Church leaders carry on Jesus' mission in the world today.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about tasks around your home where two people could work together to finish sooner. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 70–71

- ▶ Write the names of the apostles on a sheet of paper. They include Andrew, Bartholomew, James the son of Alphaeus, James the son of Zebedee, John, Judas, Matthew, Peter, Philip, Simon, Thaddeus, and Thomas. Together find their names in these Scripture passages: Matthew 10:1–4, Mark 3:14–19, and Luke 6:17–19.
- ▶ Read aloud page 70. **Ask:** *Who are the leaders of the Church today?* (the pope and the bishops) **Say:** *There are over 5,000 bishops in the Church. United by the pope, they symbolize the unity of the universal Church, the Body of Christ.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Shepherds of the People of God on page 71. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What do the bishops, the priests, and the deacons do?* (shepherd the People of God)
- ▶ Read aloud Knowing Our Leaders. Work together to complete the activity.

### Art Exploration: Page 240

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus' followers, the twelve apostles.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the differences between the twelve apostles.
- ▶ **Say:** *While each of us is different, Jesus has called each of us to work together as members of the Church to carry out his mission in the world.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 240. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.





- ▶ Read aloud A New Apostle. **Ask:** Which apostle betrayed Jesus? (Judas Iscariot) **Say:** When the apostles cast lots, they threw stones onto the ground. The way the stones landed determined the outcome of the apostles' decision. **Ask:** Who was chosen as the replacement for Judas Iscariot? (Matthias)
- ▶ Read aloud Choose a Candidate and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** Why did the apostles believe the number 12 was important? (There were 12 tribes of Israel; the apostles thought of themselves as carrying on this tradition.)
- ▶ Invite your child to draw a picture of someone he or she knows who carries on Jesus' work in the world today. When your child is finished, have him or her explain how the person is following Jesus' example.

### Reflect: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Together look at page 72. **Say:** Every morning is a new opportunity to get to know God and others better. With God's help we celebrate the joys of each new day.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Together pray aloud the Morning Offering. Read aloud the last paragraph and give your child time to reflect.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Growing with God on page 73. **Say:** Following the Precepts of the Church helps us grow in our relationship with God and with the Church.
- ▶ Read aloud Practicing the Precepts of the Church and have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to share the picture and caption with you.

### 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 choose to live how God wants him or her to live.
- ▶ 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 Friend

### Engage: Page 75

- ▶ Together discuss your child's friends. **Ask:** *Why are these children your friends? How do friends treat each other? Do friends always get along?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *God is our friend. When we have done something wrong, we can apologize to him, just as we apologize to the people we hurt. In this session we will learn about sin and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how to be a better friend. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ Discuss the story of Adam and Eve. **Ask:** *What did the serpent convince Adam and Eve to do? (eat fruit from the forbidden tree) Remind your child that even though Adam and Eve turned away from God, he did not abandon them.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 76. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Venial sins can become bad habits that lead to more serious sins. Capital sins are like venial sins. The more often we commit them, the more likely they are to lead us to commit more serious sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 77. **Say:** *When we are truly sorry for our sins, we have perfect contrition. When we say we're sorry to avoid getting into trouble, we have imperfect contrition. Read aloud the remaining paragraphs. Reflecting on whether we should confess a sin can be part of the examination of conscience we make before we celebrate the sacrament.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Isaiah reminds us that God loves us even more than a mother loves her children. Because God has created us, he will never forget us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 241

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the parable of the forgiving father.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of the father, his son, and the townspeople.
- ▶ **Say:** *Even when we do something to hurt God, he still loves us and wants us to return to him.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 241. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Forgiving Father. **Ask:** *How did the father respond to his son's homecoming? (He celebrated with a great feast.) How is God like the father in this parable? (God is always ready to welcome us.) How are we sometimes like the son? (We sometimes choose to turn away from God.)* **Say:** *Even when we do something to hurt God, he still loves us and wants us to return to him.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Lesson Learned and complete the activity. Discuss why the other two sentences are not correct.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine that he or she is one of the townspeople watching the father embrace his son. **Ask:** *What are you thinking? How do you feel?* **Say:** *Imagine that you are the son being welcomed back by your father.* **Ask:** *How do you feel?* **Say:** *Imagine you are the father.* **Ask:** *How do you feel as you welcome your son home?* Give your child time to think about these questions and then to pray.

### Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Say:** *The boy in the picture is taking time to reflect on his surroundings.* **Say:** *Close your eyes, fold your hands in front of you, and listen with your heart.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph, pausing at the end of each one to give your child time to reflect. At the end of the reflection, allow time for your child to pray silently. Close by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Forgive Others on page 79. **Ask:** *When someone hurts us, what does Jesus want us to do? (forgive the person)* **Say:** *In this passage Jesus tells us that when we forgive someone, we are called to go above and beyond what is expected of us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Forgiveness Acrostic. Work together to think of words and phrases about forgiveness that begin with each letter of the word *forgive*. You may wish to use a dictionary or thesaurus for help with ideas for words or phrases.

### 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 show forgiveness to someone who has been unkind.
- ▶ 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.



## Serving God and Others

### Engage: Page 81

- ▶ Together discuss your child's talents. **Ask:** *What do you think you are good at doing? What are activities you enjoy doing? How do you share these talents with others?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What talent might this girl have that she can share with others? (being a good violinist)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn how we can serve God by following Mary's example.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think of how to share his or her talents in a way that serves the Church. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Display pictures of Mary. **Ask:** *Why do we include pictures and statues of Mary in our churches? (They remind us that she is an important person to whom we can pray and whose example we can follow.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 82. **Ask:** *Why did Mary agree to do what God asked of her? (She trusted God.)*
- ▶ Read aloud The First Disciple on page 83. **Say:** *When Mary agreed to become Jesus' mother, she became the first and greatest of the disciples.* **Ask:** *How can we respond to the call of discipleship? (by following Jesus, by telling others about the Kingdom of God, by caring for creation)* **Say:** *Solidarity means that all people have dignity because they are children of God. We care for others because we are all equal before God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Name some of Mary's feast days: January 1, Mary, the Mother of God; August 15, the Assumption; December 8, the Immaculate Conception; December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

### Art Exploration: Page 242

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Mary's expression.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we follow Mary's example by saying yes to God, we help build up God's kingdom.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 242. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mary, Mother of the Church. **Ask:** *What did Jesus tell Mary and his beloved disciple, John, as Jesus was dying on the cross?* (to treat each other as mother and son) **Say:** *When Jesus said this, Mary became the Mother of the Church.* Explain that the Communion of Saints is the community of all those who have been saved in Jesus Christ. **Say:** *When we proclaim our belief in Jesus, we are united with those who belong to the Communion of Saints.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mary's Flowers. **Say:** *Modesty means "to speak and act in an appropriate manner."* **Ask:** *Why is modesty a good description of Mary?* (Rather than doing what she wanted, Mary chose to follow God's plan.) Have your child complete the activity. Discuss where you have seen these flowers in your community.
- ▶ Using construction paper, markers, and scissors, invite your child to make paper flowers. Have your child write on each flower something he or she can do to follow Mary's example. Place the completed flowers in a vase and use them to decorate your home. Encourage your child to complete the actions he or she wrote on the flowers.

### Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Say:** *The Gospel of Luke tells us that Mary made it a practice to reflect on things in her heart. She understands our need to reflect.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Before praying, explain the meaning of some of the words. **Say:** *The "children of Eve" are all the descendents of Adam and Eve. The "land of exile" is the world we live in, which is full of sin and temptation as a result of Adam of Eve's choice to turn away from God. An "advocate" is someone who pleads the case of another. "Clement" describes someone who is merciful.* Pray aloud the prayer slowly, pausing after every line. If necessary, review the meaning of some of the words again. Read aloud the final paragraph and then give your child time to reflect silently. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Listening to God on page 85. **Ask:** *Why is prayer important?* (Prayer is one way for us to hear what God is asking of us.) Give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Holy Person. **Say:** *Father Miguel Pro used disguises to conduct an underground ministry. He celebrated the sacraments and attended to the physical and spiritual needs of the people he served.*

### 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 treat others with kindness and respect.
- ▶ 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 Nativity scene or a picture of one and discuss it. **Ask:** *What is this? When do we display Nativity scenes? (during the Christmas season) What do you see in the Nativity scene?* **Say:** *We use Nativity scenes to remind us of Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. **Say:** *The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus; and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrates Jesus' baptism. In this session we will learn more about the Christmas season.*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Christmas by marking the important feast days of the season on your family calendar. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 88

- ▶ Light a candle. **Ask:** *What do candles or flames symbolize? (warmth, heat, Christ's light, the Holy Spirit) When do we see candles in Church? (at Baptisms, at the altar during Mass, during Advent)*
- ▶ Read aloud We Share Christ's Light During Christmas. **Say:** *We call Jesus the Light of the World because he has shown us how to live.* **Ask:** *How can we share Christ's light with others? (follow Jesus' new commandment, practice the Beatitudes)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Bread of Life. **Ask:** *What do we agree to do when we welcome the Bread of Life into our lives? (share with others everything Jesus has shared with us)*
- ▶ Read aloud Share with Others and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the response with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *When we place our trust and faith in Jesus, he gives us everything we need.*

### Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ Together sing or read aloud the lyrics to your favorite Christmas carols. Discuss how you both feel when you hear these songs.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. **Ask:** *Why is white an appropriate color for the Christmas season? (During the Christmas season, we celebrate the purity and joy of Jesus' birth.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the section What We Experience. **Ask:** *What do the carols and hymns inspire us to do? (what is right and to feel Jesus' love for us)*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Peace in Hymns and Carols. Give your child time to complete the activity. Suggest that your child come up with a melody for his or her verse.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is another connection to bread as a symbol for Jesus.*





### Art Exploration: Page 243

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the Magi honoring the baby Jesus.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the Magi are doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Magi showed their praise by giving Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We can show our praise by offering Jesus our gift of love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 243. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud God Among Us. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord?* (that God chose Jesus to teach us about his kingdom) *What do we remember on the Feast of the Epiphany?* (the Magi's visit to Bethlehem where Jesus was revealed to the world as God's Son, who was sent to show us how to live) *What gifts did the Magi offer?* (gold, frankincense, and myrrh) *What gift can we offer?* (our love)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Gift for Jesus. Give him or her time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Together make Christmas ornaments for parishioners who are homebound or who live in health-care facilities. Have your child write a note to accompany each decoration. Arrange with the church office to have the decorations delivered to parishioners.

### Respond: Page 90

- ▶ 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 share God's love with others by sharing a sign of peace with a family member.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



# Sacraments, Our Way of Life

## Begin

**Ask:** Who are teachers you remember most? Why do they stand out to you? (They made learning fun; they explained lessons in a way that I could understand.) Read aloud the unit title on page 91. **Say:** We're going to read about Saint Ignatius of Loyola, who believed education was important. Our new unit will help us encounter God's forgiveness, love, and generosity.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

**Ask:** What can you tell about Saint Ignatius of Loyola based on this picture? (He was a holy man.)

Have your child read aloud the paragraph. **Say:** Today there are about 20,000 Jesuits in the world, working in ministries such as education, parish ministry, and peace and justice. Through their ministry the Jesuits try to help people find God in the world around them. The Jesuits hope that everything they do brings glory to God.

Turn to page 92. Have your child read aloud the page. **Say:** Saint Ignatius of Loyola was inspired to change his life after reading about Jesus and the saints.

**Ask:** What did Saint Ignatius of Loyola do to show that he had changed? (He gave up his worldly lifestyle. He celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He traveled to a monastery. He became a priest.)

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



## Celebrating Reconciliation

### Engage: Page 93

- ▶ **Say:** Think of a time when someone hurt your feelings. **Ask:** How did you feel? How did you respond to that person? How did you show forgiveness to that person?
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** Hugging or sharing another sign of peace is one way to show others that you are ready to forgive them. In this session we will learn about the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, which is a visible sign of God's love and forgiveness. We will also learn that Jesus calls us to share God's forgiveness with others.
- ▶ Together act out situations in which one person might apologize to another. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 94–95

- ▶ Display a first-aid kit. **Ask:** Why do we use items in a first-aid kit? (to treat an injury) **Say:** Sins are like invisible wounds that injure our relationship with God and with one another. God can repair these injuries through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God's Forgiveness on page 94. **Ask:** What do we do when we have contrition? (We ask God to forgive us. We turn away from sin and turn our hearts back to God.) What happens when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation? (Our relationship with God and the Church is restored.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** What does this passage tell us about God? (He is like a shepherd. He provides for the people in his flock.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 95. **Ask:** When do we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation? (when we are ready to ask God's forgiveness) What do we receive when we express our sorrow to God? (his healing forgiveness and the joy this brings)

### Art Exploration: Page 244

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image that depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- ▶ **Ask:** What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the job of the shepherd.
- ▶ **Say:** Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and he calls us to repent when we freely choose to turn away from God.



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 244. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Lost Sheep. **Ask:** *What does a good shepherd do when he realizes he has lost one of his sheep?* (goes out to look for the lost sheep) **Say:** *Repentance is our choice to turn away from sin.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Good Shepherd and complete the activity.
- ▶ Give your child construction paper and glue. Invite him or her to make a mosaic of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by tearing small pieces of construction paper and gluing the pieces to another sheet. Display the artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 96–97

- ▶ Together look at page 96. **Ask:** *How does the girl in the picture look?* (sad) **Say:** *Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive the grace to return to God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Together pray aloud the Act of Contrition. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on the meaning of the words. Conclude by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross together. Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow a few moments for your child to pray in the silence of his or her heart.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Return to God on page 97. **Ask:** *What does Jesus call us to do when we sin?* (return to God) *What can we do to accept an apology from others?* (Give the person a handshake or a hug. We can say “I forgive you.”)
- ▶ Read aloud Showing Forgiveness. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas for forgiveness with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Notice that each liturgical season has its own color.*

### Respond: Page 98

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to forgive someone who has hurt him or her.
- ▶ 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 the Eucharist

### Engage: Page 99

- ▶ Together find pictures of families sharing meals. **Ask:** *What is different about each of these celebrations?* (There are different foods and different events.) *What is the same about each of these celebrations?* (People are enjoying a meal together.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about the Eucharist, an important meal we share with our family of faith.*
- ▶ Ask your child to start a family-meal scrapbook. Have him or her draw pictures and write captions about your family celebrations. Compile the pictures in a book. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ Discuss different traditional foods that might be served during your family celebrations or those of friends. **Ask:** *Why are some foods important to families?* (Foods can be family recipes and are also part of a family's ethnic culture.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate on page 100. **Ask:** *What do we share with one another when we share a meal with our families?* (God's love)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *What other foods have special symbolism or significance for us?* (king cake for Mardi Gras, birthday cake)
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Invites Us on page 101. **Ask:** *Why does the Church call us together on Sunday?* (to remember Jesus' Resurrection)
- ▶ Read aloud The Lord's Day and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *When we receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, we receive the strength to live as God wants us to live.*

### Art Exploration: Page 245

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus feeding the five thousand.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of the apostles and the people in the crowd.
- ▶ **Say:** *The story of Jesus feeding the five thousand is an example of Jesus' compassion for his disciples.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 245. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand. **Say:** *Compassion is a feeling of sympathy or sorrow for someone in need.* **Ask:** *How does this story portray Jesus' compassion? (Jesus showed compassion for the people who had followed him by making sure they were fed.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Show Compassion and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine that he or she is an eyewitness to the feeding of the five thousand. Invite your child to write a news report of what he or she saw. Encourage your child to deliver the news report to your entire family.

### Reflect: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Together look at page 102. **Say:** *The boy in the picture is grateful for his food. Remember to talk to Jesus from your heart.*
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer slowly. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to use his or her imagination. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Holy Days of Obligation on page 103. **Say:** *On these six days, we celebrate the great things that God has done for us. These days are so important that the Precepts of the Church call us to go to Mass on these days.*
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrate Our Faith. Have your child draw an image that represents one of the Holy Day of Obligation and share it with you when he or she is finished.

### Respond: Page 104

- ▶ 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 show compassion.
- ▶ 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.





## Anointing of the Sick

### Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Together recall times when you were sick or injured. **Ask:** *What did people do to make you feel better?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *Giving comfort to people who are ill is one way to share Jesus' love with others. In this session we will learn about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Through this sacrament the Church offers Jesus' healing to those who are sick.*
- ▶ Think of someone in your family or neighborhood who could use some comfort. Deliver your personal care for this person together. Pray aloud the prayer with your child.

### Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Read aloud Luke 5:17–20 from your Bible. **Ask:** *Why was Jesus willing to heal the man? (because of the faith of his friends)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 106. **Say:** *The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments. It is one of the Sacraments of Healing.*
- ▶ Read aloud Anointing of the Sick on page 107. **Say:** *During the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest anoints the forehead and hands of the person who is sick or elderly. The oil of the sick is blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass, which is celebrated during Holy Week. This anointing brings Jesus' strength and healing. It also brings forgiveness of sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When there is a possibility of a member of the Church dying, in addition to celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest offers viaticum. This helps the person prepare for death.*

### Art Exploration: Page 246

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of an icon of Saint James, who encouraged early Christians to pray for and to help people who were sick.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Saint James's garments.
- ▶ **Say:** *We, like the members of the early Church, carry on Jesus' healing work by caring for people who are sick or suffering.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 246. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Heals. **Ask:** *In his letter in the New Testament, what did James encourage Christians to do? (pray for those who were ill and anoint them in the name of the Lord)*
- ▶ Read aloud Care for Others. Allow time for your child to complete the poster and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *In this passage, Matthew points out the many ways that Jesus' followers experienced healing.*
- ▶ Together work with your child to make a prayer chain. On strips of two-by-six-inch paper, write the name of someone you know who is sick, suffering, or in need of prayer. Make the first link by taping together the two ends of a paper strip. Thread successive links through the link and tape together the ends of the new strip. Pray together a prayer asking Jesus to comfort all those who are sick or suffering.

### Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **Say:** *We pray prayers of intercession every time we celebrate the Mass. These prayers are called the Prayer of the Faithful. Praying to help another person is a great way to live out Jesus' new commandment that we learned about.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Then take turns with your child playing the parts of the reader and the responder. Pray aloud, including the name of someone for whom you would like to pray. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Prayers of Intercession on page 109. **Ask:** *How can we show care for people who are sick or suffering? (visit them, send a card, pray a prayer of intercession for them)* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Holy Person feature. **Say:** *Because of his example, Pierre Toussaint has been named venerable, one of the steps in the process of being declared a saint.*

### 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 prayers of intercession to help others experience Jesus' healing.
- ▶ 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 of Service

### Engage: Page 111

- ▶ **Ask:** What do you want to be when you grow up? **Say:** God has a plan for each of us. We will all serve him in our own way. **Ask:** How might you serve God when you are older?
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *The Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Through them, people receive the grace to share their gifts and serve the Church in special ways. We'll learn about these two sacraments in this session.*
- ▶ Have your child make a list of occupations that appeal to him or her. **Ask:** How will these choices help you serve God and the Church? Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 112–113

- ▶ Share a wedding story you are familiar with. **Ask:** Why do people get married? (because they love each other)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Family Wedding on page 112. **Say:** *When a couple exchanges vows, they are making a public commitment to each other in front of God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** How does this passage apply to the Sacrament of Matrimony? (Jesus commands us to love one another. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a bride and a groom promise to love each other during good times and bad times.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 113. **Ask:** How can married couples serve the Church? (They help each other grow closer to God. They teach their children how to live Christian lives.) What happens in the Sacrament of Holy Orders? (Men are ordained bishops, priests, and deacons.)

### Art Exploration: Page 247

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of two men picking grapes from vines.
- ▶ **Ask:** What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the men.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we become like productive branches that bear much fruit.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 247. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud The Vine and the Branches. **Say:** *In this passage Jesus tells us that when we freely choose to follow him, we remain close to him. We bear fruit by sharing his love with others.* **Ask:** *What can we do to remain close to Jesus?* (pray, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments, practice the virtues)
- ▶ Read aloud Retell the Parable and have your child complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her parable with family members.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Say:** *Hildegard of Bingen responded to the call of discipleship by giving advice to others.*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw multiple branches stemming from a main vine. **Say:** *On each vine draw a picture or write a sentence about how you can share Jesus' love with others.* Display the artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Together look at page 114. **Say:** *The boy in the picture appears to be focused on his thoughts. To stay connected to Jesus, we must let God cut away all that hinders our growth.*
- ▶ Ask your child to sit comfortably. Read the reflection slowly, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and asking your child to offer you a sign of peace.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Called by God on page 115. **Ask:** *What does God call us to do?* (serve the Church by sharing our gifts with others)
- ▶ Read aloud Serve the Church. Give your child time to complete the activity. Remind him or her to write a caption that describes how the ordained men or the married couple is serving the Church.

### Respond: Page 116

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



## Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

### Engage: Page 117

- ▶ Discuss the picture on page 117. **Ask:** *What is happening?* (A girl is receiving ashes on her forehead.) *When do we receive ashes on our forehead?* (Ash Wednesday)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. **Ask:** *What do we prepare for during Lent?* (the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection)
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family will prepare for Lent and Holy Week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 118

- ▶ Together read aloud the Scripture passage Matthew 14:13–21. Discuss the example Jesus sets for his followers in this passage.
- ▶ Have your child read We Become More Like Jesus During Lent and Holy Week. **Say:** *Jesus' enemies put him to death on the cross.* **Ask:** *What is this event called?* (the Crucifixion) *What is Jesus' rising from the dead called?* (the Resurrection)
- ▶ Read aloud Lenten Promises. Have your child write his or her promises and then share them with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God gave us a great gift in his Son, Jesus. Everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever in Heaven.*

### Reflect: Page 119

- ▶ Suggest to your child that the two of you become prayer partners during Lent and pray for each other.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. **Ask:** *What is the Gospel Reading about on Good Friday?* (Jesus' Passion)
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *What is the washing of the feet a symbol of?* (Jesus' love) **Say:** *In Jesus' day people traveled by foot. Their feet got very dirty. When Jesus washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper, he practiced a humble act of service.*
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of Love and Kindness. Give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *When else does the Church use the color purple?* (during Advent) **Say:** *Purple is a symbol of penance.*



### Art Exploration: Page 248

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the resurrected Christ.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the picture was made.
- ▶ **Say:** *The season of Lent ends with the celebration of the Triduum during Holy Week.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 248. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Triduum. **Ask:** *What are the three days of the Triduum?* (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) *What do we do during the Easter Vigil?* (wait to celebrate the glory of Christ's Resurrection)
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrate the Triduum and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Before the session make three separate prayer spaces, each using symbols for one of the days of the Triduum. For example, you can use bread or a chalice for Holy Thursday, a cross for Good Friday, and a candle for Holy Saturday. Together process to the prayer spaces for each day of the Triduum. At each space, review what we remember on that day and then pray aloud a prayer that reflects that day of the Triduum.

### Respond: Page 120

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to share God's love with everyone, not just the people he or she likes.
- ▶ 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:** *If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?* **Say:** *We are going to learn about a saint who traveled all over the world to help others learn about Jesus.* Read aloud the unit title on page 121. **Say:** *Our new unit will help us learn how following the Ten Commandments can help us live like Jesus.*

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Francis Xavier. Read aloud the text. **Say:** *Saint Francis Xavier was a missionary.* **Ask:** *What does a missionary do?* (travels to distant lands to teach people about God and Jesus)

Turn to page 122. Have your child read aloud the page. **Ask:** *Who was one of Francis Xavier's friends?* (Ignatius of Loyola) *What religious order did Francis Xavier join?* (the Society of Jesus) *What did Francis Xavier do to share Jesus' love with others?* (He taught children by telling them religious stories and teaching them religious songs. He visited people who were poor, sick, or in prison.) *What was his great wish?* (to go to China to teach people there)

**Say:** *Saint Francis Xavier is the patron saint of missionaries to foreign lands.*

With your child add Francis's feast day, December 3, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the teachings of Saint Francis Xavier.



## The Ten Commandments

### Engage: Page 123

- ▶ Together make a list of rules that can help people follow Jesus' example of love and service. Post the rules in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *Why are there rules for games?* (so the game is fair, to help players get along) **Say:** *In this session we're going to learn about the Ten Commandments. These are 10 rules we've received from God that help us grow in our relationship with him, with our families, and with one another.*
- ▶ Discuss a game your child enjoys playing. Invite your child to imagine that the rules are taken away. **Ask:** *What do you think might happen?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 124–125

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is the Torah?* (the Law revealed by God in the Old Testament; the first five books of the Old Testament)
- ▶ **Say:** *The Book of Exodus is part of the Torah.* Have your child read aloud page 124. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *Why did God want Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt?* (They were being treated cruelly as slaves.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 125. **Ask:** *What are the Ten Commandments?* (God's instructions for how to live in relationship with him and with one another) **Say:** *The agreement between God and the Hebrews is a Covenant.*

### Art Exploration: Page 249

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of God presenting Moses with the Ten Commandments.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the differences between God, Moses, and the other people.
- ▶ **Say:** *God gave the Hebrews the Ten Commandments to help them remain faithful to the Covenant he made with them.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 249. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God's Covenant. **Ask:** *What did the Hebrews agree to do when they entered into the Covenant with God?* (to live in relationship with him and with one another according to his instructions)



- ▶ Read aloud Symbols of Your Relationship. Allow time for your child to design a symbol and discuss its meaning with you.
- ▶ Explain that many artists have made images of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God. Using art supplies, have your child make his or her own illustration of God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses.

### Reflect: Pages 126–127

- ▶ Together look at page 126. **Say:** *The girl in the picture has an adult in her life to help her make good decisions. Remember that we always have the Holy Spirit to give us strength and guidance to make good moral choices.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introduction. Pray aloud the prayer together. Give your child time to reflect silently. Read aloud the last paragraph. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Making Moral Decisions on page 127. **Say:** *These three questions can help us make good moral choices. They can be part of our examination of conscience.*
- ▶ Read aloud Seek Advice and have your child complete the activity. Ask your child to share his or her question with you.
- ▶ Read aloud Reading God's Word. **Ask:** *Who is speaking? (Jesus) What do you think he means when he says "I have come to fulfill"? (Jesus revealed the deeper meaning of the Ten Commandments when he gave us the new commandment.)*

### Respond: Page 128

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



## Loving God Above All

### Engage: Page 129

- ▶ **Ask:** Who are some of the people in your life whom you love? (family members, friends) Why is it important to show our love to people? (When we express our love, we share God's love with others.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *There are many ways we can show our love to God. Whenever we do so, we give thanks for the many ways he shows his love to us. In this session we are going to learn about the first three commandments. When we follow these commandments, we express to God our love for him.*
- ▶ Invite your child to make a thinking-of-you card to give to a person he or she loves. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 130–131

- ▶ **Ask:** As Jesus' followers, what do you believe is most important in our lives? (the Mass, the sacraments, following Jesus' example)
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 130. **Ask:** What is the main message of the first part of the Law? (You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.) What is the main message of the second part of the Law? (You shall love your neighbor as yourself.)
- ▶ Read aloud The First Three Commandments on page 131. **Ask:** What do the first three commandments help us do? (grow in our relationship with God)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This passage sums up the first three commandments by reminding us that we are called to keep God at the center of our lives.*

### Art Exploration: Page 250

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people entering a church.
- ▶ **Ask:** What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the people in the picture are following the first three commandments.
- ▶ **Say:** *The first three commandments teach us to love God above all.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 250. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Have your child read aloud Love and Worship God. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *How do we honor God?* (use his name with reverence and love) *What does the Eucharist give us the strength to do?* (serve others by performing acts of love and service)
- ▶ Read aloud The Name of God and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Give your child time to reflect on the Art Print. **Say:** *Think about the last time you were at Mass.* **Ask:** *What did you see? What did you hear? Were you able to smell flowers or incense?* After giving your child time to reflect, **say:** *Take a moment to have a conversation with Jesus. Thank him for giving us the gift of himself in the Eucharist.* Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.

### Reflect: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Together look at page 132. **Say:** *We are going to pray a prayer called the Divine Praises. In this prayer we honor the name of God, the names of the members of the Holy Family, and the names of the angels and saints.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Take the role as Leader and have your child read the All parts and pray the prayer together. Read aloud the last paragraph. Give your child time to reflect silently. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the directions on page 133. Have your child read aloud the words in the word box. Allow time for your child to write his or her answers and then go over them together.

### 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 show God that he or she loves him.
- ▶ 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.



## Loving Our Family

### Engage: Page 135

- ▶ Display images of different families. **Ask:** *What is different about these families? What is the same about the families?* **Say:** *Even when it is difficult to do so, we are still called to love our family members.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments. These three commandments teach us how to love.*
- ▶ Ask your child to make love-one-another coupons for family members that illustrate ways he or she can show love. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ Share stories about difficult decisions you both had to make. **Ask:** *Why was the choice difficult? What did you do to help you choose?* Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint Thomas More on page 136. **Ask:** *What was Thomas More forced to choose between?* (loyalty to the Church and loyalty to the government) **Say:** *The faith of Thomas More gave him the strength to forgive King Henry and the man who executed him.*
- ▶ Read Aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** Saint Thomas More is the patron saint of lawyers because of his example. He made the right decision even when doing so was difficult.
- ▶ Read aloud page 137. **Say:** *Obedience is the act of willingly following what God asks us to do. Parents and other leaders help us follow God's plan for us. We are obedient when we do what these people ask of us.* **Ask:** *What does the Fifth Commandment say?* (Killing is wrong.) *What does the Sixth Commandment say?* (Respect our bodies and other people's bodies.)

### Art Exploration: Page 251

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of a heart, a traditional symbol of love.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the colors and the heart symbolize.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus calls us to forgive, love, and pray for our enemies.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 251. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.





- ▶ Read aloud Love and Forgive Your Enemies. **Ask:** *What does Jesus say in the Scripture passage? (Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Prayer of Forgiveness. Allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ **Say:** *A heart is often used to symbolize love, but there are many symbols we can use for love and forgiveness. Ask your child to make a piece of art that uses symbols of love and forgiveness. Encourage your child to make abstract art and to use multiple mediums, such as crayons, markers, colored pencils, and watercolors.*

### Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Say:** *King Solomon is one of Jesus' ancestors. He is also the son of King David. Solomon was known to be a wise king. Many people turned to him for advice. His prayer reminds us to follow the Ten Commandments.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Give your child time to read the prayer silently. Read aloud the last paragraph slowly. Allow time for your child to complete a silent prayer. Close the prayer by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 139. Then take turns reading aloud the dialogue between Olivia and Ryan. **Ask:** *What can Ryan do to help him make the right choice? (pray to the Holy Spirit, follow the saints' example, practice the virtue of fortitude, follow the Fourth Commandment)*
- ▶ Read aloud Write a Response and give your child time to respond.

### Respond: Page 140

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to treat your family with love and respect.
- ▶ 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 Others

### Engage: Page 141

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is one way that you cooperate with a family member? (share a bathroom, bedroom, computer; take turns using a toy or choosing TV shows to watch)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *Cooperating with one another helps us live together peacefully. In this session we'll learn about the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments. These commandments help us do this.*
- ▶ Together write an acrostic poem using the word *cooperation*. **Say:** *For each letter of the word cooperation, write a phrase or sentence about how you can follow God's plan by cooperating with others. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

### Explore: Pages 142–143

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do the first three commandments help us do? (grow in our relationship with God) What do the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments help us do? (grow in our relationship with our family)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 142. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *God wants us to look to him for our happiness, not to other people or possessions.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two sections on page 143. Point out the vocabulary word *temperance*. **Say:** *We practice the virtue of temperance when we show gratitude for what we have rather than wanting more.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Commandments Advertisement. Invite your child to share his or her advertisement with you when it is finished.

### Art Exploration: Page 252

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Moses looking toward the Promised Land after wandering in the desert.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how he or she thinks Moses feels.
- ▶ **Say:** *God wrote the message of the Covenant on the heart of the Hebrews.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 252. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God's Promises. **Ask:** *Where did Moses and the Hebrews arrive after wandering in the desert for 40 years? (the land God had promised to them)*



- ▶ Read aloud The Importance of the Ten Commandments and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *What are some ways we can announce the Gospel of the Lord?* (be kind to others, obey the Ten Commandments, reach out to people who are sick or suffering)
- ▶ Give your child art supplies and invite him or her to make a keep-the-Covenant poster in which they draw ways people can keep the Covenant by obeying the Ten Commandments and following Jesus' example. Have your child write a title and caption for the poster. Display the poster in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 144–145

- ▶ Together look at page 144. **Say:** *As the Hebrews were getting ready to cross the Jordan River, they were preparing to cross over to a new life. You will soon be crossing over to a new grade and new challenges. God will always help you and never give up on you.*
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer slowly and reverently, pausing between sentences to allow time for reflections. Close the prayer by praying Amen and joining your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Follow God's Plan on page 145. **Ask:** *How do Sarah's actions go against the commandments?* (Making fun of the new girl and talking about her behind her back is one way of bearing false witness against her neighbor. When Sarah does this, she chooses not to follow the Eighth Commandment.)
- ▶ Read aloud Send a Response. Ask your child to describe his or her quiet place and then draw a picture of it.

### 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 he or she can show respect 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.



## Celebrating Easter

### Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Together sing an Alleluia your parish uses as a Gospel Acclamation during the Easter season. Then **ask:** *How else can we praise God?* (pray a prayer, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate during the Easter season?* (Jesus' Resurrection) **Say:** *We rejoice and sing our praise to God to thank him for what he has done for us through Jesus' Resurrection. In this session we will learn more about the Easter season.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family prepares for Easter. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 148

- ▶ Together read aloud from your Bible one of the accounts of the Resurrection. [Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12]
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Live in Peace During Easter. **Ask:** *Why were Jesus' disciples excited to see him?* (They missed him. They had thought he was dead.)
- ▶ Read aloud Gift of Peace. **Ask:** *Why do you think Jesus shared his gift of peace with his disciples?* (so that they could share his peace with others, so that they will know that he is always with them) Have your child read the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *In Jesus' time, a lamb was often used as a sacrificial offering to God. We compare Jesus to a lamb because he died so that our sins would be forgiven. He is the Lamb of God.*

### Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ Display a bouquet of flowers. **Ask:** *Why do many people like flowers? What do flowers remind you of?* **Say:** *Flowers are a symbol of the new life we receive through the Resurrection. They are also a reminder of the beauty of God's creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. **Ask:** *What are the Scripture readings about during the Easter season?* (Jesus' Resurrection, how Jesus appeared to Mary and the disciples, the Ascension, Pentecost)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The light of the Paschal Candle reminds us that we are called to share the joy of Christ's Resurrection with others. It is lit during the first part of the Easter Vigil and is lit for every Mass celebrated during the Easter season.* **Ask:** *Why do we use the color red on Pentecost?* (It reminds us of the Holy Spirit.)



### Art Exploration: Page 253

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows signs of new life during spring.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the new signs of life.
- ▶ **Say:** *During the Easter season, we celebrate the new life we receive through Christ's Resurrection.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 253. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrate Easter. **Ask:** *When do we share God's love with others?* (whenever we choose to follow God's plan for us, follow Jesus' example of service, and practice the Ten Commandments)
- ▶ Read aloud Share God's Love and allow time for your child to complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the picture with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that he or she has gone to Jesus' tomb and found it empty. **Say:** *Think about what you're feeling as you walk to the tomb. An angel tells you that God has raised Jesus from the dead.* **Ask:** *What do you think and feel upon hearing this?* **Say:** *Now thank Jesus for the new life we receive through him. Tell him one way you will share his gift of peace with others.*

### 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 he or she can share Jesus' peace 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.