



Unit 1



Before You Begin

Download and print:
Art Print BLMs Sessions 1–5

God, Our Creator and Father

Begin

- ▶ **Say:** The title of this book is Finding God. We will use this book to help us learn about God. God is our Creator and Father. **Ask:** What does it mean to create something? (to make something) God created and creates everything. Have your child look outside and finish this sentence with things he or she sees: God created _____. **Say:** We see God's love for us in his creation. Let's read about someone who loved God's creation too.

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 1. Read aloud the saint's name. **Say:** A saint is a person who lived a good, holy life as a follower of Jesus. Saint Thérèse loved flowers. She loved all of God's creation. Saint Thérèse now lives with Jesus in heaven.
- ▶ Ask your child to color the picture as you read aloud and discuss page 2. Then help your child tear out and fold the Unit 1 saint booklet at the back of the book. Read aloud the pages, inviting your child to track the words with his or her finger. Complete the activity on page D together. **Say:** Saint Thérèse was born almost 150 years ago. She was such a good woman that we still learn about her today!
- ▶ With your child, add Saint Thérèse's feast day, October 1, to your calendar. Plan an event together to honor the ways of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus.



God Creates the World

Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Hold up and identify the following colors of crayons or markers: black, orange, yellow, and green. Ask your child to point out objects in your home that match each color.
Say: *Our world is full of color. Who made our world and all the colorful things in it?* (God)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the poem, inviting your child to track the words with his or her finger. **Say:** *God creates all things. Our colorful world is God's creation.*
- ▶ Reread each line of the poem. Together name other things God has made that are the same color. Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ Take a nature walk outside. Examine a tree, flower, or leaf. Discuss how it feels, smells, and looks. **Say:** *God creates wonderful things for us to enjoy because he loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 4. Help your child find the words *God* and *creates* in the Glossary. Discuss the definitions. **Ask:** *What does God create?* (God creates the world and everything in it.) Read aloud the directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Invite your child to name different kinds of animals and plants that God creates.
- ▶ Together draw a picture or make a clay model of an animal. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can care for animals?* (We can give them food and water.) Read aloud the title and the sentence on page 5. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can care for the earth?* (We can recycle; we can care for trees, plants, and animals.) *What are some ways we can care for people?* (We can be kind. We can be helpful. We can pray for them.) Read aloud the directions. Have your child complete the activity. Talk about ways you can care for the plants, animals, and people in your home and in your community.
- ▶ Display a Bible. **Say:** *The Bible contains the Word of God.* Read aloud the Did You Know? feature at the bottom of page 5. Then read aloud the Reading God's Word feature at the bottom of page 4. **Say:** *These words are from the Bible.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 1 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of God creating animals.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What is God doing in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe how God is creating, looking after, and caring for the animals.
- ▶ **Say:** *God creates everything in this world, and he creates us. God wants us to care for his creation.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print 1 Blackline Master. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section God Creates the World. Hold up a Bible and **ask:** *What is the name of this book?* (the Bible) **Say:** *This story is from Genesis, the first book in the Bible. The story tells us how God created the world.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section God's Beautiful World and have your child complete the activity. Discuss animals that live in the air, in the sea, and on the land that God has created.
- ▶ Play Animal Charades with your child. Take turns acting out the motions and sounds of an animal. Then complete the following sentence with that animal's name: *God created the _____.* Talk about ways that people can care for each animal.

Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Say:** *Sometimes we are quiet and still when we pray. Sometimes we pray using our own words, and sometimes we pray using special words.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 6. Help your child find the word *pray* in the Glossary and discuss the definition. Demonstrate how to fold your hands in prayer. Invite your child to practice folding his or her hands. Then, with your hands folded, bow your head, close your eyes, and demonstrate how to offer a simple prayer to God. Invite your child to pray along silently. Pause briefly before praying together *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and text on page 7. **Say:** *We often begin and end a prayer with the Sign of the Cross. Let's practice making the Sign of the Cross.* Teach the gestures first using exaggerated movements. Then add the words. Repeat the prayer several times with your child. Then together complete the activity.

Respond: Page 8

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *God*, *creates*, and *pray*. **Say:** *We have talked about how God creates the world and everything in it.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Thank you, God, for creating this great world for us. We know you love us because you made this colorful and beautiful world for us to enjoy.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the questions at the end of the story.



God Creates People

Engage: Page 9

- ▶ Look at photos of family and friends. Discuss why these people are important to you. **Say:** *God creates people. Everything God creates is good.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. **Say:** *Let's learn a song about how God takes care of people.* Read aloud the song title and sing the verse. [You might refer to page 195 for the complete set of verses.] Demonstrate hand gestures—such as cradle arms, point to self, arms up, and make a circle—as you sing each verse with your child. **Say:** *God takes care of us and loves us.*
- ▶ Continue singing the song, creating a verse for each person in your photos. For example, **say:** *He's got my Uncle Max in his hands.* When you have finished, pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 10–11

- ▶ Share something special about yourself. For example, **say:** *I can jump really high.* **Ask:** *What is something special about you?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *God made us all special.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 10. Help your child find the word *people* in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *People are God's greatest creation.* Read aloud the directions and have your child do the activity. As your child colors the picture of Adam and Eve, read aloud Genesis 2 from a children's Bible or retell it from your Bible using simple language. **Say:** *Listen for the rule that God gives to Adam and Eve.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature on page 10. **Say:** *God is the Creator of all life.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 11. Point out the word *loves*. Help your child find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Ask:** *How do you know that someone loves you?* (They are kind; they take care of you.) Have your child complete the activity and find the hidden word that answers the question (me).
- ▶ Read aloud the A Friend of God feature. **Say:** *Saint John was a follower of Jesus.*
- ▶ Help your child write the names of family members, neighbors, and friends on long strips of paper. Make a paper chain out of the strips. Call it your *God Loves Us All* chain. Ask family members to add new names to the chain.

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 2 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of children from around the world holding hands or relating to one another.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What is happening in this picture? What are the children doing?* (Possible answers: The children are holding hands; they are caring for one another.) Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail.
- ▶ **Say:** *All of us are unique and special. God loves us just the way we are. He wants us to love and care for one another.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print 2 Blackline Master. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section God Creates All People. **Say:** *God made each of us different and unique, but we are all made in God's image.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Caring for God's People and complete the activity together. Talk about how all people are made in God's image. **Say:** *We may have different customs, languages, and ways of living, but we are all made by God. We are all the same in God's eyes.*
- ▶ To the tune of "Farmer in the Dell," sing these words, inserting different physical features at each verse: "God loves our eyes, God loves our ears, God loves our arms, God loves us all." Together point to the feature as you sing about it.

Reflect: Pages 12–13

- ▶ Together look at page 12. **Ask:** *How are these children enjoying God's creation?* (They are running outside.) **Say:** *We can thank God for his creation in prayer.*
- ▶ **Ask:** *How do we get ready to pray?* (We get quiet, fold our hands, close our eyes, and bow our heads.) Pray aloud page 12. Invite your child to pray the *Thank you, God* lines with you. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What body part do we use to see?* (eyes) Repeat for hear, touch, taste, and smell. **Say:** *We use our five senses to experience the world around us.* Read aloud the title and text on page 13. **Say:** *We use our senses to learn about God's creation.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Then discuss it.

Respond: Page 14

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *loves* and *people*. **Say:** *We have learned about how God creates, loves, and cares for all people. We are all special and loved by God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Thank you, God, for making each of us special and for taking such good, loving care of us every day.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in *With My Family* and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.

Adam and Eve Make a Choice

Engage: Page 15

- ▶ Find pictures of plants and vegetables that grow in a garden. (daisies, carrots, corn, cucumbers, roses) Make number flash cards for 1 through 5, showing pictures of your plants.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. **Ask:** *Who were Adam and Eve?* (the first people God created) Remind your child that Adam and Eve lived in a garden. Read aloud the poem. Invite your child to hold up their fingers to show the numbers they hear. Make up new verses that go with your flash cards and have your child display the flash cards as you say the new verses.
- ▶ Talk about how to take care of plants in a garden. (Water them, make sure they get enough sunlight, give them good soil and natural fertilizers.) Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray *Amen*. **Say:** *God always wants what is best for us.*

Explore: Pages 16–17

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some important rules in our family?* (Answers will vary.) *Why are rules important?* (Rules keep us safe. Rules bring order and peace.) Together make a list of your family rules.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 16. **Ask:** *What happens when rules are broken?* (Someone could get hurt. We separate ourselves from the love of God.) Read aloud the directions and demonstrate how to draw a line from number 1 to number 2. Discuss each rule. When your child is finished, **ask:** *Why are these good rules?* (They follow God's rules.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *God's rules help us love others and live in harmony.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 17. Point out the term *Original Sin*. Help your child find the term in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Ask:** *What are some of God's rules?* (Love one another, share, give to those in need.) **Say:** *God is our Father. His rules give us a way to live.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Everything good comes from God. God asks us to care for his beautiful world.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 3 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Adam and Eve.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the emotions on Adam's and Eve's faces and the setting.
- ▶ **Say:** *This artwork shows Adam and Eve, the first people God created. They lived in a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print 3 Blackline Master. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Adam and Eve. **Say:** *Adam and Eve decided not to follow God's rules. Because they sinned, we are all born with sin. This is called Original Sin. Even though Adam and Eve sinned, God still loved them and cared for them just as he does for us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Choosing God and have your child complete the activity. Talk about good choices that you can make every day.
- ▶ Ask your child to close his or her eyes and imagine that he or she is in the Garden of Eden. **Ask:** *What do you see? What can you smell? What noises do you hear? Can you feel the sunshine on your face? Do you see Adam and Eve? What might you say to them?* Encourage your child to have a silent conversation with God, thanking him for creating us, loving us, and forgiving us.

Reflect: Pages 18–19

- ▶ Together look at page 18. **Ask:** *Where is the girl sitting?* (under a tree) **Say:** *Jesus is always with you wherever you are—indoors, outdoors, at home, at school, or at church.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Sometimes we pray to ask God to help us follow his rules. Let's get ready to pray.* Pray aloud page 18. **Say:** *Sometimes we make bad choices, but God still loves us.* Give your child time to pray silently. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the text on page 19. **Say:** *Sometimes we don't follow God's rules. We tell God we are sorry. We pray for God's forgiveness and help. God forgives us.*
- ▶ Read each sentence in the activity. If it tells a way to stay close to God, give it a thumbs-up with your child and have him or her color in the heart. If not, give it a thumbs-down and leave the heart blank. **Say:** *We are never alone. God is always with us.*

Respond: Page 20

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the term *Original Sin*. **Say:** *We have learned about God's rules.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Thank you, God, for listening, loving, and helping me every day.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



God Promises a Savior

Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Take a neighborhood walk, looking for small creatures and animals. **Ask:** *What do all these creatures need?* (food, water, air) Discuss how people can help God's creatures.
- ▶ **Say:** *Let's read a poem about little creatures who might need our help.* Read aloud the session title and the poem. **Ask:** *How was each animal cared for?* (They were put in a safe place.) **Say:** *God sent Jesus to care for and protect us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about ways we protect animals and one another. Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray *Amen*. **Say:** *It takes great love to keep others safe and protected.*

Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Together find and identify pictures of people who take care of us, such as doctors, firefighters, and police officers. **Ask:** *How do they protect us?* (They keep us safe.) **Say:** *It feels good to feel safe and loved.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 22. Have your child point to the word *Savior*. Help him or her find the word *Savior* in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *God promised to send a Savior to protect us. He kept his promise. God sent his Son, Jesus.* Read aloud the directions. Demonstrate how to write the letter S and have your child complete the activity. Then read aloud the completed sentences.
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. **Say:** *Jesus knows that sometimes we make bad choices in the things we say and do. His love and forgiveness keep us close to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentence on page 23. Point out the word *heaven*, and help your child find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *Jesus' love for us is so big that he makes heaven possible for us.* Then read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God's love for us was so great that he sent us his only Son, Jesus. Jesus is our Savior.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 4 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the prophet Isaiah.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture? What is the man doing?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail.
- ▶ **Say:** *The man in the picture is the prophet Isaiah. A prophet is someone who delivers a special message of hope and love from God.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print 4 Blackline Master. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section The Prophet Isaiah. **Ask:** *What special messages do we get from our friends and family in cards, e-mails, and phone calls?* (We are loved; we are special; they are proud of us.) **Say:** *Isaiah's message was that God was going to send his Son, Jesus, to save us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section My Message and assist your child in completing the activity. Discuss the message about God that your child wrote.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Isaiah's message was true. Jesus really did come to save us.*
- ▶ Help your child write special messages to family members or friends about Jesus, our Savior, and put them in a place where they will be surprised by the message. **Ask:** *How are we being like the prophet Isaiah?* (We are delivering messages of hope and love.)

Reflect: Pages 24–25

- ▶ Together look at page 24. **Ask:** *What do you think the children in the picture might say to God?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *God is always glad to hear what is in our hearts.*
- ▶ Point to and read aloud the All part: *Jesus saves us.* Have your child repeat it. Explain that you will pray aloud the Leader part while your child responds with *Jesus saves us.* Prompt your child to respond at the appropriate times. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentence on page 25. **Say:** *God the Father sent Jesus to us. What do you say when someone does something for you?* (Thank you.) Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the prayer card. Encourage him or her to share it with your family.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *What is the name of the Savior whom God sent to protect us?* (Jesus) **Say:** *Thank you, God and Jesus, for protecting us and loving us.*

Respond: Page 26

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *Savior* and *heaven*. **Say:** *We learned that God sent us a Savior. Our Savior is God the Father's Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Thank you, Father, for sending us Jesus our Savior to help us make good choices and live the way you want us to live.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.

Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Together look at the picture. Point out the symbols of the four seasons. Take turns pantomiming activities that people enjoy doing during each season. **Say:** *The Church celebrates seasons too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. Point out the term *Ordinary Time* and help your child find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *In this session, we will learn about a Church season called Ordinary Time. It is a time to give thanks and praise.*
- ▶ Look at a calendar with your child. Help him or her write something to be thankful for on each day of the coming week. Together pray aloud the prayer and include a sentence about what you are thankful for today. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Page 28

- ▶ Write the word *THANKS* vertically on a sheet of paper. Together think of people or things you are thankful for that start with each letter of the word. Record the words next to the letter. Take turns using your ideas to complete this sentence: I am thankful for _____.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentence. **Say:** *During Ordinary Time, we slow down and thank God for all the gifts he gives us. Ordinary Time is a time to be grateful for all living things.* Read aloud the directions and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How can we celebrate the world that God created for us?* (Be kind to others; take care of plants and animals; recycle; praise and give thanks to God in our prayers.)

Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ **Say:** *Show me how you might react if you received a gift you were not expecting.* Encourage your child to pantomime being surprised, happy, or grateful.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the text. Ask your child to point to the word *grace*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *God gives us a gift every day called grace. God's grace helps us make good choices. He gives it to us because he loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions. Point out each picture, beginning at *Start*, and help your child determine if it shows a way to follow Jesus. If the answer is yes, have your child color the footprint. Discuss other things you can do with your family and friends that show they are positively responding to God's grace.

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 5 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people praying at Mass.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture? What are the people doing?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people's expressions.
- ▶ **Say:** *Ordinary Time is a special time of year for the Church. During Ordinary Time, we give thanks and praise to God in prayer. We also learn about the life of Jesus.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print 5 Blackline Master. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Ordinary Time. **Say:** *In the Church calendar, each season has a special color. The color for Ordinary Time is green. We celebrate Ordinary Time two times a year.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Church Seasons. Assist your child in completing the activity. Use construction paper for the chain if beads are not available. **Say:** *During Ordinary Time, we celebrate God's love.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *We use colors to remind us of the season we are celebrating at Mass. The priest wears green clothes at Mass during Ordinary Time.*
- ▶ Together look for pictures of green things in magazines and cut them out. Glue the pictures to a large sheet of paper. Help your child label the picture *Green Is Good*. Encourage your child to tell others that the color green stands for Ordinary Time when they see it at church.

Respond: Page 30

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *Ordinary Time* and *grace*. **Say:** *We have learned that during Ordinary Time we thank God for creation and learn about the life of Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Thank you, God, for creating this beautiful world for us to enjoy. We will help care for animals, plants, and people.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Unit 2



Before You Begin

Download and print:
Art Print BLMs Sessions 6–10

Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

- ▶ **Ask:** *What have we learned so far about God?* (God created the world and everything in it; God loves us; God helps us make good choices.) Read aloud the unit title on page 31.
Say: *God the Father loves us so much that he sent us his Son, Jesus. This unit will help us understand more about how Jesus teaches us and saves us.*

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 31. **Ask:** *Who do you think this woman is?* (Mary) Read aloud her title, *Mary, Mother of God*. **Say:** *Mary is the Mother of God. She is our Mother too.*
- ▶ Invite your child to color the picture on page 32 as you read aloud the sentence. Help your child tear out and fold the Unit 2 saint booklet at the back of the book. Read aloud page A, inviting your child to track the words with his or her finger. Then read aloud pages B, C, and D. **Say:** *God blessed and chose Mary to be Jesus' mother. Mary teaches us to have faith in God's plan for us.* Together say the word yes. Brainstorm with your child ways to show faith in God. Then have your child complete the activity on page D. **Say:** *Let's ask Mary to help us listen to God's plan for us.*
- ▶ With your child, add Mary's feast day, January 1, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor Mary, Mother of God.



Mary Says Yes to God

Engage: Page 33

- ▶ **Ask:** What is something that will happen for sure today? Can you name something that is going to happen a year from today? **Say:** We don't know what the future will bring us, but it can be something good, not something to worry about.
- ▶ Read aloud the poem together. Have your child track the words with his or her finger. **Say:** You don't have to worry about what will happen next because you have faith in God. God is always with you.
- ▶ Discuss upcoming events with your child. **Say:** You can have faith that God will take care of you. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying Amen.

Explore: Pages 34–35

- ▶ **Ask:** How can we deliver a message to someone? (e-mail, text, letter, in person) Choose one way and send a message of love to a family member.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 34. Point out the words *angel* and *Mary*. Help your child find them in the Glossary and discuss the definitions. **Say:** God sent an angel named Gabriel to earth with a message for Mary. Help your child complete the activity to find out the message. Then read it aloud together. Explain that some angels are messengers and some angels are guardian angels who watch over us.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Discuss the meaning of the angel Gabriel's words for Mary. **Say:** Mary trusted God and his plan for her.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 35. **Say:** Mary is a good model of faith. When we feel unsure, we can ask Mary to pray for us to have faith.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions. **Ask:** What was Mary's answer to God? (Yes.) Have your child circle the word Yes and color the picture. **Say:** Mary is the Mother of God. She is our Mother too.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** From her first moment of life, Mary was free of Original Sin. [If necessary, review the term *Original Sin* in the Glossary.]

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 6 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary with the angel Gabriel.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including naming the people he or she sees.
- ▶ **Say:** *We see the angel Gabriel asking Mary to be Jesus' mother.* **Ask:** *What did Mary say? (Yes.) How do you think she felt? (surprised, nervous, excited)*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 6. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section An Angel Comes to Mary. **Ask:** *What message did the angel Gabriel have for Mary? (God wanted Mary to be Jesus' mother.)* **Say:** *God chose Mary out of everyone in the world. By saying yes, Mary did what God asked her to do.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Yes, God! and help your child complete the activity. Discuss ways that your child can say yes to God at home, at school, and on the playground.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *God blessed Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, with a boy named John. John was a good friend to Jesus.*
- ▶ In advance, cut out small squares of construction paper. Write the word YES and ask your child to copy it in large letters onto a sheet of drawing paper. Show your child a picture of a mosaic artwork. Explain that a mosaic is an ancient way of making pictures. Then help your child glue the squares of paper on the letters to make a mosaic.

Reflect: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Together look at page 36. **Ask:** *What is the girl looking at? (a flower) What do you think about when you look at God's creation? (Answers will vary.)* Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences on page 36.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Church prays a prayer to honor Mary. The prayer is called the Hail Mary. It begins with the words that the angel Gabriel said to her. When we pray the Hail Mary, we show our love for Mary and for Jesus.*
- ▶ Pray aloud each line of the Hail Mary and ask your child to repeat after you. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *Who are special women in your life who love you? (grandmothers, aunts, sisters, teachers)* **Say:** *Mothers are special people.* Read aloud the title and the text on page 37. **Say:** *We honor Mary with a celebration called May Crowning in the month of May. At a May Crowning, a crown of flowers is placed on a statue of Mary. Have your child color the picture. Invite him or her to share it with family members.*

Respond: Page 38

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *angel* and *Mary*. **Say:** *We have talked about how Mary said yes to God's plan.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, help me say yes to God the Father as Mary did. Help me be loving and kind like you.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Joseph Says Yes to God

Engage: Page 39

- ▶ Ask your child to give a thumbs-up to positive words (*Sure, Yes, Absolutely*) and a thumbs-down to negative words (*No way, Never, No*). **Say:** *When someone asks you to do something kind, it's important to say yes.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the poem. Invite your child to follow along and join in on the line *I say yes!*
- ▶ Together talk about times you have said yes to God. Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 40–41

- ▶ Discuss ways that your family members have taught one another how to do things. **Say:** *One way members of a family take care of one another is by teaching.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 40. Have your child point to the word *Joseph*. Help your child find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. **Ask:** *What did Joseph do for Jesus?* (He loved, cared for, taught, and protected Jesus.) Read aloud the directions and have your child color the picture and trace the word *Joseph*. Then read aloud the completed sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *An angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream and told him to name the baby Jesus. The name Jesus means "the Lord saves."*
- ▶ Display family pictures and talk about your family members. Then read aloud the title and the sentences on page 41. Point to the term *Holy Family*. Help your child find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. **Ask:** *How might the Holy Family be like our family?* (They work and play together. They love one another.) Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the A Holy Place feature. Share pictures of ancient and modern-day Nazareth. **Say:** *People visit Nazareth today because it is Jesus' hometown.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 7 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Joseph holding baby Jesus.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people and what they think about it.
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 7. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. **Say:** *Families show love with words, hugs, and actions.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section An Angel Comes to Joseph. **Say:** *Joseph trusted God. He obeyed God. Joseph loved and cared for Mary and Jesus his whole life.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Special Messages from God. Have your child complete the activity and tell what happens in the correct order.
- ▶ Invite your child to use his or her imagination and role-play a conversation between the angel and Joseph, with your child in the role as Joseph. Then **ask:** *Pretend you are Joseph. How do you feel? What do you do when you wake up? How do you say yes to God?* Invite your child to thank God for Joseph, Jesus' father on earth.

Reflect: Pages 42–43

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 42. **Ask:** *What is the family doing?* (They are praying before they eat.) **Say:** *Sometimes we pray alone, and sometimes we pray with others.* **Ask:** *When might we pray alone?* (at bedtime prayer) *When might we pray with others?* (at Mass or before meals or after meals)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences on page 42. **Say:** *We thank God for the gift of food.* Have your child sit comfortably as you lead the Grace Before Meals prayer. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 43. **Ask:** *How do you think Jesus showed love for his family?* (He worked with Joseph; he obeyed his mother, Mary.) *How do you show love for your family?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and discuss whether each sentence is a way to say yes to God. Give your child time to circle the correct responses.
- ▶ Plan different ways that your child can be helpful and loving to family members.

Respond: Page 44

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the terms *Joseph* and *Holy Family*. **Say:** *We have talked about Joseph and his obedience to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Thank you, Jesus, for helping me show love to my family.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Jesus Is Our Friend

Engage: Page 45

- ▶ Invite your child to discuss friendship. **Ask:** *What makes a good friend? How do friends help each other?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the song title. Lead your child in singing and clapping along to “If You’re Happy and You Know It.” **Say:** *Now let’s learn new words for this song.* Read aloud the lyrics as your child follows along. Then sing it together.
- ▶ **Ask:** *How is Jesus your friend?* (He listens to me. He loves me.) Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 46–47

- ▶ Hand a red paper heart to your child. **Say:** *I want to share my love with you.* Ask them to repeat the words and action with you. **Say:** *Jesus connects us all with love.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 46. Have your child point to the word *Jesus*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. **Ask:** *Who is Jesus?* (Jesus is the Son of God.) **Say:** *Jesus passes God the Father’s love to you.* Read aloud the directions. Have your child trace the arrows and write his or her name as you point to the flowchart.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus loves children. He invites you to talk to him anytime.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 47 and have your child follow along. **Say:** *Jesus is our friend. We want to follow him and be like him.* Read aloud the directions and demonstrate how to color the marked parts. When your child has finished coloring, read aloud the previously hidden word (Jesus).
- ▶ Read aloud the A Friend of God feature. Talk about saints with whom you are familiar. **Ask:** *Why do you think saints follow Jesus?* (They want to be like Jesus. They want to live with Jesus in heaven someday.)



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 8 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of two friends playing or hanging out together.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including where the friends are, what they are doing, and what they might be talking about.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus is our friend. We can talk to him anytime out loud or in the quiet of our heart.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 8. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Jesus Calls Us to Be Friends. **Ask:** *Why do you think God gives us friends?* (Friends give us comfort. We have fun with our friends. Our friends love us, and we love them.) **Say:** *God gave us our best friend, Jesus, who loves us just the way we are.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Friendship Flower. Help your child complete the activity. Display the completed craft in your home.
- ▶ Talk about a pledge your child can make when he or she is with friends. (Example: I pledge to use kind words, I pledge to share what I have, and I pledge to help a friend who is sad.)
- ▶ Invite your child to make a handprint with finger paint on a sheet of paper. When the handprint is dry, help your child write his or her Friendship Pledge in the center of the handprint. Display the Friendship Pledge in your home.

Reflect: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Together look at page 48. **Ask:** *What is this boy doing?* (praying) Explain that prayer is an opportunity to speak to Jesus heart-to-heart.
- ▶ **Say:** *Use your imagination during this prayer time. Picture yourself sitting with Jesus.* **Ask:** *What would you say to him? What would he say to you?* Invite your child to follow along as you read aloud page 48. Then together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Give your child a hug. **Say:** *Jesus loves you and is always with you.* Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 49. **Say:** *Jesus wants all children to know he is their friend.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. **Say:** *Each time you look at this picture, it will remind you that you can talk with Jesus anytime.*

Respond: Page 50

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *Jesus*. **Say:** *We have talked about Jesus' love. We can be more like Jesus by showing love to others.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Jesus, help me be more like you so that I can be a good friend to others.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Jesus Heals Us

Engage: Page 51

- ▶ Take turns feeling each other's foreheads or using a thermometer to check for a temperature. **Say:** *Sometimes our bodies need God's healing. Sometimes our hearts or minds need God's healing, like when we are sad.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Let's read a poem about caring for someone.* Read aloud and discuss each line of the poem. **Say:** *Jesus cares for us when we get sick.*
- ▶ Discuss how families can care for one another when they get sick. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 52–53

- ▶ Brainstorm a list of things that help you and your child feel better when you are sick. (rest, quiet activities, medicine) **Say:** *When you are resting quietly, ask Jesus for patience and healing.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 52. Have your child point to the word *heal*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. Then read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Briefly retell the story of Jesus healing Jairus's daughter, found in Luke 8:40–56.
- ▶ **Say:** *We can ask Jesus to help us heal when we are sad, angry, or hurt. He is always there for us.* Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 53. Have your child point to the word *faith*. Help your child find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. Read aloud the directions and have your child draw a picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 9 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus healing someone.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions and expressions of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus helps people who are sick. Jesus helps us even when we don't look or feel sick.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 9. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section A Healing Message. **Say:** *The soldier believed in Jesus. He knew Jesus could help. We know Jesus loves us and can heal us too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Jesus Heals Bookmark. Help your child decorate and cut out the bookmark.
- ▶ **Say:** *We are blessed and comforted because Jesus heals our hearts when we are sick or sad.* Help your child cut out a construction-paper heart and paste it on a large sheet of drawing paper. Then have your child place first-aid bandage strips on the heart. Help your child write the title *Jesus Heals My Heart* at the top of the paper. Display it in your home.

Reflect: Pages 54–55

- ▶ Together look at page 54. **Ask:** *Why do you think the girl in the picture looks so happy?* Remind your child that Jesus gives us comfort when we are hurting, and we ask him to heal us.
- ▶ **Say:** *I am going to pray a line of the prayer. Then you pray "Jesus, heal us" after me.* Pray aloud the prayer together. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 55. **Say:** *I am going to tell you a Bible story about a man who could not walk. Listen for the miracle performed by Jesus.* Read aloud the story found in Mark 2:1–12 from a children's Bible or retell it from your Bible using simple language. Then complete the activity together. Use the pictures to take turns retelling the story. Remind your child that Jesus is always with us—when we are happy and when we are hurting.

Respond: Page 56

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *heal* and *faith*. **Say:** *We have talked about how we can be like Jesus and help people who are hurting.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, thank you for taking care of me. Help me care for others the way you care for me.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.

Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 57

- ▶ Together look at the liturgical calendar on page 151. **Say:** *We have already learned about a Church season called Ordinary Time. Point to the word Advent on the calendar. **Say:** Now we are going to learn about another Church season that takes place every year during the month of December.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text on page 57. Point out the word *Advent*. Help your child find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. **Ask:** *Whom do you recognize in the picture? (Mary and Joseph) What are they doing? (traveling to Bethlehem) Why do we celebrate Advent? (to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Nativity story, found in Luke 2:1–20, from a children's Bible or retell it from your Bible using simple language. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Page 58

- ▶ Discuss exciting events that your family looks forward to. **Ask:** *How do you feel when something exciting is about to happen? (happy, nervous) How can we prepare for what is about to happen? (rest, organize, plan, discuss with our family)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. **Ask:** *How do people prepare for a baby? (prepare a room, get supplies, ask others for advice) How do families feel when a new baby is coming? (excited, nervous, hopeful, joyful) **Say:** Mary and Joseph prepared for baby Jesus' coming too.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Mary shared her joy with her family.* Discuss how your family shares happy news.

Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. Have your child point to the term *Light of the World*. Together look it up in the Glossary and discuss its meaning. If possible, display an Advent wreath. **Say:** *Jesus lights our path. He shows us the way to live.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Talk about how your family will celebrate Advent.
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. **Say:** *During Advent, the color violet reminds us to prepare for the birth of Jesus.*



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 10 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people celebrating Las Posadas.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What are the people doing in the picture?* Encourage your child to describe the costumes worn by the people and the setting.
- ▶ **Say:** *These people are celebrating Las Posadas. The word posada means “shelter.” The people wear costumes and walk from home to home asking for shelter, just as Mary and Joseph did.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 10. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Celebrating Advent. **Say:** *During Advent, we get ready to welcome Jesus and celebrate his birth.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Getting Ready for Jesus. Assist your child in making the mini-Nativity scene. Let the model dry overnight before displaying it in your home.
- ▶ Together study the picture of Las Posadas again. **Ask:** *How do you think Mary and Joseph felt as they looked for a place to stay? Do you think they were afraid? How were their lives about to change with the birth of Jesus?*
- ▶ Invite your child to have a silent conversation with Jesus, telling him how your family will prepare to welcome him into your home and hearts during Advent this year.

Respond: Page 60

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the terms *Advent* and *Light of the World*. **Say:** *We have talked about Advent and preparing to celebrate Jesus’ birth.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. Together pray the Sign of the Cross. **Say:** *Dear God our Father, help us keep the Holy Family in our thoughts as we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth.*
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Unit 3



Before You Begin

Download and print:
Art Print BLMs Sessions 11–15

The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

Begin

- ▶ Play Follow the Leader with your child, taking turns being the leader and the follower. **Say:** *Jesus is our best leader. We follow Jesus in order to be more like him.* Read aloud the unit title on page 61. **Say:** *Unit 3 will help us understand how we follow Jesus together as a community called the Church.*

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on page 61. Read aloud the saint's name. Explain that the letters XXIII stand for the number 23. **Say:** *Jesus wants our Church family to come together. Our Church has a leader called a pope. Saint John XXIII served our Church as the pope.*
- ▶ Turn to page 62. Invite your child to color the picture as you read aloud the title and the sentence. **Say:** *Saint John XXIII was known as Angelo as a boy. He wanted to follow Jesus. God called Angelo to lead his Church as Pope John XXIII.*
- ▶ Help your child tear out and fold the Unit 3 saint booklet at the back of the book. Read aloud pages A–D, inviting your child to track the words with his or her finger. Discuss the ideas on each page. **Say:** *Pope John XXIII helped people know the Church.* Have your child complete the activity on page D.
- ▶ With your child, add John's feast day, October 11, to your calendar. Plan an event together to honor the work of Saint John XXIII.



God Gathers Us

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ **Ask:** *How is our church different from our home? (Possible answers: Our church has pews; it has an organ; it has stained-glass windows.)* **Say:** *Our church is God's house. It is a place to worship God.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Let's perform a finger play about our church.* Read aloud the session title. Have your child follow along as you read aloud and demonstrate each step. Then perform the finger play together all the way through.
- ▶ Discuss the name of your church and the people you see there. **Say:** *God's house is a place to pray.* Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Show your child a world map or a globe. **Say:** *People all over the world love Jesus.* Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 64. Have your child point to the word *Church* and help him or her find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *Catholics around the world share the same beliefs of our faith. However, we often express our faith in different ways.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God calls us by name to be his people. We are the People of God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 65. Help your child find the word *parish* in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Ask:** *What is the name of our parish priest?* Discuss the work your priest does for your parish. Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. **Say:** *We also call our priest Father because he leads our parish family.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 11 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people celebrating Mass outside St. Peter's Basilica.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the size of the building and the size of the crowd.
- ▶ **Say:** *We are all God's People. God calls each of us by name, and together we are the People of God.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 11. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section We Are God's People. **Say:** *We all have talents that are gifts from God. Some people like to draw, write stories, or play sports. Others enjoy math or music. Discuss special talents you and your child have that bring joy to others.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section God Calls Me. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Together look through newspapers for pictures of people sharing love for God's world. Invite your child to draw the image and then use markers or watercolors to add color to the picture. **Say:** *We are all God's people.*

Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Ask:** *Where is this family and what are they doing?* (The family is praying at church.) **Say:** *We come together because God asks us to gather in his name.*
- ▶ Ask your child to quiet his or her mind, relax, and get ready to pray silently. Then pray aloud the prayer. Allow time for your child to pray silently. Then pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Talk about what you do at Mass. Then read aloud the title and the sentences on page 67. Have your child track each word with his or her finger. **Say:** *We remember Jesus at Mass. We sing. We listen to stories from the Bible. The priest celebrates Mass in Jesus' name.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the A Holy Place feature. Show your child where Rome, Italy, is on a map. **Say:** *The pope is the Bishop of Rome. The pope often celebrates Mass at St. Peter's because it is his home church.*

Respond: Page 68

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *Church* and *parish*. **Say:** *We have talked about belonging to the Church and gathering together in our parish church to pray and worship God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your family and into your house to pray and worship together.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Jesus Calls His Disciples

Engage: Page 69

- ▶ Discuss leaders that your child knows, such as a teacher or the president of the United States. **Ask:** *What does a leader do?* (A leader shows us the right thing to do; a leader helps us make good decisions.) **Say:** *We are lucky to have a leader like Jesus to follow. He shows us the way with love.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title, the poem title, and the poem. Then have your child repeat the poem with you. **Ask:** *How does Jesus teach us?* (He gives us a way to live.)
- ▶ Discuss how Jesus is like a best friend. (He gives us everything that is good.) Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 70–71

- ▶ Find online or draw a picture of fishermen and their boats during the time of Jesus. **Say:** *Fishermen in Jesus' time sailed in large boats and threw nets into the water to catch fish.* Demonstrate how to cast a pretend net and have your child do the same.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 70. Point out the word *disciple*. Help your child find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. **Say:** *The name Peter means "rock." Peter was a disciple who traveled to many places telling people about Jesus and sharing his love.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus still calls you and me to be his disciples.*
- ▶ Invite your child to act out the following ways of being a disciple for Jesus: praying, smiling, sharing a sign of peace, and caring for a pet. Then read aloud the title and the sentences on page 71. **Say:** *When we show love, we are being Jesus' disciples.* Then read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the A Friend of God feature. **Say:** *There have been more than 250 popes since Peter.* Together find the name of the current pope.

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 12 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus calling his disciples.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture, including the people and their actions.
- ▶ **Say:** *There are so many ways we can follow Jesus and share his love with others.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 12. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section The Call. **Say:** *Jesus asked his disciples, his close friends, to help him spread his message of how to be close to God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section I Follow Jesus and help your child prepare the paper fish. Fold the top fin slightly so that a hook will catch on it. Place the fish in a bowl. Give your child a pencil with a string and a bent paper clip. As your child “goes fishing” for a fish, encourage him or her to show family, friends, and teachers that he or she follows Jesus.
- ▶ Have your child imagine that he or she is a disciple from Jesus’ time, listening to Jesus preaching. Pretend to be Jesus and **ask:** *Will you follow me? Will you share my love with others?* After your child responds, **ask:** *How does it feel to be called by Jesus?* Invite your child to have a silent conversation with Jesus about how he or she will follow him.

Reflect: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Together look at page 72. **Say:** *These children are disciples of Jesus. They are showing love for one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title on page 72 and the introductory sentences. **Say:** *Let’s become quiet and still to talk and listen to God today.* When your child is ready, pray aloud the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 73. **Say:** *We believe in Jesus. We have faith in Jesus.* Shout “I believe” with your child after you say each of these faith statements: *Mary is the Mother of Jesus; Jesus is the promised Savior; We are disciples of Jesus.*

Respond: Page 74

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *disciple*. **Say:** *We have talked about how following Jesus brings us closer to the Father.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Father, thank you for making me a disciple of Jesus. Guide me every day to show love to others.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



God Sends the Holy Spirit

Engage: Page 75

- ▶ Surprise your child with a small gift or a favorite snack. **Say:** *Surprise!* **Ask:** *What is the best thing about a surprise? (It is unexpected.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the poem title. **Say:** *Let's read a poem about a surprise that happened to Jesus' friends.* Read aloud each line of the poem as your child follows along. Then together perform the poem with the gestures.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ **Ask:** *How can we surprise our neighbors so they know they are loved by Jesus?* Brainstorm a list of ideas. Carry out one of your ideas today. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit helps us do the right thing.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 76. Help your child find and read about the term *Holy Spirit* in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Ask:** *What do you know about your Baptism?* (My godparents held me; the priest poured holy water over my head.) **Say:** *At Baptism, we become members of God's family, the Church.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Peter was inviting a crowd of people to be baptized. About 3,000 people were baptized that day.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 77. Help your child find the word *Trinity* in the Glossary and discuss the definition. Then write the prefix *tri-*. Connect the word *Trinity* to other words that indicate three: *tricycle, triangle, triplets*. Read aloud the directions and help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. Show your child pictures of common signs or symbols we see in church that recall the Trinity, such as the Celtic Trinity knot and shamrocks.

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 13 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Peter telling people about Jesus' love.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the people are doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *God sends the Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit helps us share God's love just as Peter did.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 13. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section The Holy Spirit. **Ask:** *What kind of good news do you like to hear?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *Jesus' message of God's love for us is called the Good News. The Holy Spirit fills us with God's love. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but he is always with us. The Holy Spirit guides us and helps us share the Good News.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and help your child attach the folded pinwheel to a pencil eraser using a thumbtack. **Say:** *We may not see the Holy Spirit, but it moves us just like the wind moves the pinwheel.*
- ▶ **Say:** *When the Holy Spirit came, there was a loud wind. People were filled with the Holy Spirit.* Give your child paper streamers, spoons, or toy instruments. Together play lively music, dance, and sing to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Say:** *The boy in the picture is talking and listening to Jesus in the quiet of his heart. Be still and open your heart to Jesus when you pray.*
- ▶ **Say:** *God the Father is our Creator. Jesus is the Son of God and the Second Person of the Trinity. God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. We pray to one God in Three Persons in this special prayer.* Read aloud the title and introductory sentences on page 78. Then pray aloud the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Make a *Help One Another* jar by placing an empty jar on a table with coins or jelly beans next to it. **Say:** *Our family will place a coin in the jar each time we help someone this month.* Discuss ways that your child can fill the jar by helping others. Then read aloud the title and the sentences on page 79. **Say:** *We receive peace from the Holy Spirit.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Then pray aloud together the prayer on the dove.

Respond: Page 80

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the terms *Holy Spirit* and *Trinity*. **Say:** *We have talked about how the Holy Spirit guides us and helps us be kind.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, help me know the Holy Spirit so he can guide me as I help others.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in *With My Family* and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Jesus Leads Us

Engage: Page 81

- ▶ Display a piece of fruit like an apple or a banana. **Say:** *This fruit can feed one person. What can we do to share this fruit? (Cut it in half.)* **Say:** *Jesus once fed thousands of people with a few loaves of bread and two fish. That's an amazing miracle!*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the poem title. **Say:** *Let's read a poem about Jesus' miracle.* Read aloud the poem. **Say:** *A lesson that this poem teaches us is that we should share what we have with others.*
- ▶ As you share your piece of fruit, read aloud the miracle of the loaves and fishes in Matthew 14:13–21 from a children's Bible or retell it from your Bible using simple language. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ With each of you using one crayon and one sheet of paper, begin coloring a picture. **Ask:** *How can we make our pictures more colorful? (We can share our crayons.) How does sharing help? (Sharing allows people to accomplish their goals together.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 82. Discuss what the children are doing in each picture. Then read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What can you do for people who are forgotten or left behind by others? (Include them; be kind; share.)*
- ▶ Discuss something that your child has a talent for. **Ask:** *How could you share your talent with others? (Answers will vary.)* **Say:** *Serving others helps us share Jesus' love.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 83. Have your child point to the word *serve* and help him or her find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *Serving others is a way to share.* Read aloud the directions and invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the A Friend of God feature. **Say:** *Pope John XXIII described his role as "servant of the servants of God." We all serve God by caring for others.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 14 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of two children sharing food.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the children are doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we share with others, we show love, kindness, and caring. We also show God's love.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 14. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Talk about various things (besides physical objects) that we can share, such as love, friendship, and our talents.
- ▶ Read aloud the section God Wants Us to Share. **Say:** *God wants us to help those in need.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section God Calls Us to Share. **Say:** *Imagine yourself in this picture. What could you do to help the child?* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The Bible teaches us that, as members of the Church, we should help others. Helping others shows our love for God.* Brainstorm ways that your family can share with people in need. Suggestions might include donating clothes, bringing food to a food pantry, and including people in need in your daily prayers. Discuss how you can follow through on the suggestions you choose to do. Share your plan with the rest of your family and carry it out together.

Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Ask:** *What is the girl doing?* (praying) **Say:** *Today we will pray a prayer of petition. That means we are asking for help with our needs and the needs of others.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences on page 84. Point out the Leader and All parts and practice the All response with your child. Then pray aloud each petition slowly. Pause and cue your child to recite the response. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 85. **Ask:** *How do you feel when you serve others?* (happy, proud) Encourage your child to name examples of ways to serve, such as forgiving, being a peacemaker, and praying.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. When he or she is finished, **say:** *When you serve others, you are full of love and joy. That is giving glory to God!*

Respond: Page 86

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *serve*. **Say:** *We have talked about how we can show Jesus' love when we serve others.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Jesus, thank you for helping me show your love by serving others.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Celebrating Christmas

Engage: Page 87

- ▶ **Say:** We have talked about how we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth during Advent. The season on the Church calendar that comes after Advent is Christmas. **Ask:** What do we celebrate during Christmas? (We celebrate Jesus' birth.)
- ▶ Together look at the picture. **Say:** Jesus slept in a manger. A manger is a box where food is placed for animals. Read aloud the session title, the page title, and the sentences. Have your child point out the word *Christmas*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition.
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family will celebrate the birth of Jesus. Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray *Amen*.

Explore: Page 88

- ▶ Show your child a picture of an angel. **Ask:** What message did the angel Gabriel bring to Mary? (She was chosen to be the Mother of God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. **Ask:** How do you think the shepherds reacted to the angels' visit? (with fear, awe, joy, surprise) Invite your child to pantomime these expressions.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 2:8–20 from a children's Bible or retell it from your Bible using simple language. **Ask:** What did the angel tell the shepherds to do? (Go to Bethlehem and find the baby in the manger.) **Ask:** How can you be like the shepherds and tell others about Jesus? (by loving my family, sharing, and showing kindness) Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.

Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ Talk about what you see and do at Mass during the Christmas season, such as seeing baby Jesus in the manger of a Nativity scene and singing Christmas songs. Discuss your favorite part of the Church's Christmas celebration.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. Name Christmas songs that your family enjoys singing at Mass, such as "Silent Night" and "O, Come, All Ye Faithful." As your child completes the activity, sing your favorite Christmas song together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** The shepherds ran to see baby Jesus. A Nativity scene often includes shepherds. **Ask:** What does the Nativity scene remind us about the season of Christmas? (Christmas is the time when people gather together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.)



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 15 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the manger scene at Jesus' birth.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including symbols, such as the star or a halo.
- ▶ **Say:** *We celebrate the birth of Jesus during the Christmas season. We remember Jesus as a baby.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 15. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Explain that different people and cultures have different ways of celebrating Jesus' birth.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Jesus Is Born. Then read aloud the section We Celebrate His Birth. After you help your child make the stick puppets, retell the story of the birth of Jesus. Together, use the puppets to act out part of the story. **Say:** *The birth of Jesus is a cause for celebration. The Savior, promised by God, is born.*
- ▶ Offer your child an assortment of materials; include items such as glitter, glue, sequins, beads, yarn, and stickers. Ask your child to make his or her own version of the Holy Family. Encourage your child to include details, such as the animals and the star.

Respond: Page 90

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *Christmas*. **Say:** *We have talked about the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, help me share your love with my family and friends as we celebrate your birth.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Unit 4



Before You Begin

Download and print:

Art Print BLMs Sessions 16–20

Sacraments, Our Way of Life

Begin

- Plan a “Celebrate Today” party for you and your child. Include healthy snacks, music, and a simple game. **Say:** *It is fun to have a celebration! It helps us grow closer to each other.* Remind your child that he or she learned about God’s family, the Church, in the last unit. **Ask:** *When do we celebrate together as God’s family, the Church?* (at Mass on Sunday or on a holy day) **Say:** *Now we will learn about a saint who answered God’s call to become part of his Church and helped others grow closer to God.*

Introduce the Saint

- Have your child turn to page 91 and read aloud the unit title. Read aloud the saint’s name and look at his picture. Help your child locate the country of Spain on a map or globe. **Say:** *Saint Ignatius lived in Spain about 500 years ago.*
- Turn to page 92. Read aloud the title and the sentence as your child colors the picture. Then help your child tear out and fold the Unit 4 saint booklet at the back of the book. Read aloud pages A–D, inviting your child to track the words with his or her finger. Complete the activity on page D together. **Say:** *Saint Ignatius changed his life after he heard God’s call. His work is still important in our lives today.*
- With your child, add Saint Ignatius of Loyola’s feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan an event together to honor the teachings of Saint Ignatius.



Jesus Calls Us to Pray

Engage: Page 93

- ▶ Ask your child to pretend to sneeze. **Say:** *God bless you! When we ask for God's blessing, we are asking God to watch over us. We also ask God to watch over the people we love.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title, the poem title, and the poem. **Say:** *At Mass, the priest gives us God's blessing.*
- ▶ Invite your child to finish this sentence with names of family members: *God bless _____.* Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 94–95

- ▶ Discuss different reasons we pray: to thank God, to praise God, to ask God for help, to tell God we are sorry. Together brainstorm situations when you would pray each type of prayer. **Say:** *Sometimes we need to thank God, praise God, ask God for help, or tell God we are sorry. God listens to all our prayers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the text on page 94. Then read aloud the directions. Help your child name people and things he or she has prayed about recently. Give an example for each type of prayer. **Say:** *For a prayer that asks for help, you might write: Dear God, please watch over _____ at camp and keep him safe.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the A Friend of God feature. Together you might reread the Saint Ignatius of Loyola tear-out booklet.
- ▶ **Ask:** *Where is a good place to pray out loud?* (at Mass, at bedtime) Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 95. **Say:** *God is happy when you talk to him in prayer. You can pray by saying words, reading, singing songs, and being quiet. God is listening to you.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God listens to our prayers. Talking and listening to God helps us feel closer to him.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 16 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a child praying before bedtime.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the action of the child.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we pray, we are doing what Jesus asks of us. We are growing closer to God our Father.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 16. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Our Father. **Say:** *When we talk to God, we honor him.* Then read aloud the section The Lord's Prayer. Invite your child to decorate the prayer card. Then pray the prayer together. **Say:** *We will use this prayer card to help us learn and pray the Lord's Prayer. Let's display this prayer card where everyone in our family can use it to pray the Lord's Prayer.*
- ▶ **Say:** *We can pray to God any time. We can pray when we are sad or when we are happy. We can pray when we are sleepy or when we are full of energy!* Give your child a sheet of paper, watercolors, and a paintbrush. **Say:** *Paint a picture of yourself when you are praying. Remember, your painting can show you praying at bedtime, at a meal, outdoors—whenever or wherever you like to pray.* When your child is finished, discuss his or her painting.

Reflect: Pages 96–97

- ▶ Together look at page 96. **Ask:** *What do you think the children in the picture are thinking about?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *We are happy and grateful for all the wonderful things God has given us. We thank God for the beauty of his creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences. Point out the term *Lord's Prayer*. Help your child find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. **Say:** *Today you will be learning the first part of the Lord's Prayer.* Pray aloud the first line of the Lord's Prayer and invite your child to repeat after you. Continue line by line. Then go back to the beginning and pray aloud all the lines together with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 97. **Say:** *The first part of the Lord's Prayer asks God to guide us and help us do what he wants us to do.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions. **Ask:** *What do you think heaven looks like?* (Answers will vary.) Invite your child to complete the activity and describe what he or she drew.

Respond: Page 98

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the term *Lord's Prayer*. **Say:** *We have talked about the Lord's Prayer and about reasons and ways to pray.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Father, please bless us and watch over us until we are together again.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.

The Church Celebrates

Engage: Page 99

- ▶ Discuss your family traditions. **Ask:** *What yummy foods do we eat? What special activities do we do?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *Our Church family has special traditions too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the poem. Have your child track the words with his or her finger. **Ask:** *How do family traditions bring people together?* (Families share love when they get together. They enjoy each other's company.)
- ▶ Help your child make an invitation for someone to come to your next family celebration. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ Together make a small door banner for an upcoming family celebration. **Say:** *The Church has celebrations too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 100. Have your child point to the word *sacrament*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. **Say:** *Jesus gave us sacraments to show us his love.* Read aloud the directions and the name of each sacrament. Describe how each image represents the sacrament. Then have your child color each picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *We celebrate the sacraments at certain times in our lives.*
- ▶ **Say:** *We have already learned about three sacraments. But Jesus gave us four more sacraments!* Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 101. Again, say the name of each sacrament and describe how each image represents the sacrament. Then have your child color each picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Together name the seven sacraments. **Ask:** *Why do we celebrate the sacraments?* (We celebrate the sacraments to remember that God is always with us.)

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 17 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a wedding ceremony.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the role of each person in the wedding party.
- ▶ **Say:** *Matrimony means marriage. Matrimony is a sacrament. When we celebrate the sacraments, we welcome God into our hearts.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 17. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Signs of Love. **Say:** *Jesus gave us the sacraments. The sacraments help us live as God wants us to live.* Read the section Matrimony Maze. Discuss each sign of the sacrament that is in the maze. Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Priests pray blessings over people at Mass and at the celebration of each sacrament, such as Baptism.*
- ▶ Play traditional wedding songs, such as “Canon in D Major” by Johann Pachelbel or “Ave Maria” by Franz Schubert. Explain that these songs are usually played at a wedding ceremony. Share family wedding pictures as you listen to the music. Encourage your child to ask questions about what happens during a wedding ceremony. **Say:** *The Sacrament of Matrimony brings people together in love.*

Reflect: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Together look at page 102. **Ask:** *What is the boy doing?* (praying in church) **Say:** *We ask for God's blessing as we gather to praise and celebrate at church.*
- ▶ Review the first part of the Lord's Prayer, found on the prayer card and on page 96, with your child. **Say:** *Now we will learn the second part of the Lord's Prayer.* Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences on page 102. Invite your child to echo each line of the Lord's Prayer after you pray it aloud. Then pray the entire prayer together using the prayer card.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 103. **Ask:** *What do we need for our bodies to stay strong and healthy?* (food, water, exercise, fresh air, sleep) **Say:** *“Our daily bread” from the Lord's Prayer stands for all the things we need to stay healthy, not just the bread we eat.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions. Encourage your child to complete the activity by drawing a food-related scene, such as eating a family meal or shopping at a supermarket.

Respond: Page 104

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *sacrament*. **Say:** *We have talked about the sacraments and how we celebrate them at special times in our lives.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Loving Jesus, thank you for giving us the seven sacraments. Help us be more like you in everything we do.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



The Church Welcomes Us

Engage: Page 105

- ▶ **Ask:** *How can you help someone feel welcome? (smile, shake hands, talk to them) Act out your suggestions.* **Say:** *Jesus and his followers preached and baptized people so that they would welcome God's love.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the chant. Then repeat it, with your child shouting out each even-numbered line. **Say:** *Our Church welcomes us into God's family when we are baptized.*
- ▶ Repeat the chant, changing the name *Philip* to names of your family members. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Display a picture of a baby or a doll. **Ask:** *What does a baby need? (food, sleep, care, a name)* **Say:** *A baby also needs to be baptized.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 106. Have your child point to the word *Baptism*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. Then talk about what is happening in the picture. **Say:** *Baptism is one of the seven sacraments.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Use the Glossary to remind your child of the definition of Original Sin.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What does the priest pour over the baby's head when the baby is baptized? (holy water)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentence on page 107 to learn about the signs of Baptism. Then read aloud the directions and help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ After you read aloud the Reading God's Word feature, **say:** *The water of the Baptism ceremony gives us new life by making us one with the Holy Spirit.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 18 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a Baptism.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people and their actions.
- ▶ **Say:** *Baptism is the first sacrament we celebrate in the Church. Being baptized welcomes us into God's family, the Church.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 18. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section We Are Welcomed. **Ask:** *Why do we have Original Sin?* (Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden.) **Say:** *When we are baptized, we are freed from Original Sin.*
- ▶ If possible, show your child a picture of his or her Baptism. Then read aloud the section I Belong to the Church and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Help your child make a Baptism Book using six note cards, markers, and a stapler. On the first card, write *My Baptism Book* by _____. This is the cover. Then have your child decorate four note cards, each with one sign of Baptism: a water droplet, a candle, a bottle of Chrism, and a church. On the last card, include a picture of your child at his or her Baptism. Help your child staple the cards together to make a book.

Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **Ask:** *Where is the girl in the picture?* (in a forest or park) *Why do you think she is looking up?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *We give praise to God for the things that bring us joy.*
- ▶ Read aloud the page. Then invite your child to pray the prayer with you a second time. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What has God made or done for you that makes you want to shout for joy?* (Answers will vary.) Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 109. **Say:** *Praising God gives us a chance to express our joy!* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.

Respond: Page 110

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *Baptism*. **Say:** *We have talked about the gift of Baptism, which makes us part of the Church, and the signs of Baptism.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of Baptism. Being part of God's family fills us with joy.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.

Jesus Shares a Special Meal

Engage: Page 111

- ▶ **Say:** *Let's close our eyes and imagine we are at Mass. What do you see? What do you hear? Take turns describing the experience. **Say:** Celebrating Mass together is the most important way we talk to and listen to God.*
- ▶ Set a timer for one minute. Count how many items at Mass you and your child can name.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the song title. **Say:** *We can sing this song to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Sing the song together. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying Amen.*

Explore: Pages 112–113

- ▶ **Ask:** *If you could choose whatever you wanted to eat for supper, what food would you choose? (Answers will vary.) **Say:** Meals are a time for love and sharing.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 112. Then read aloud the story of the Last Supper, found in Luke 22:7–23, from a children's Bible or retell it from your Bible using simple language. Answer any questions your child may have about the story. Then read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *These are Jesus' words to the disciples who shared the Last Supper with him.*
- ▶ Help your child recall the seven sacraments. Then read aloud the title and the sentences on page 113. Point out the word *Eucharist*. Help your child find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *We celebrate the Eucharist as a Church family. The Eucharist brings us closer to Jesus.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. **Say:** *Jesus died on the Cross so our sins can be forgiven. We remember this at Mass in the celebration of the Eucharist.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 19 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of The Last Supper.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the people are doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus shared a special meal with his friends.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 19. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section A Special Meal. **Say:** *The Last Supper was the last meal that Jesus ate with his friends. Soon after the meal, Jesus died on the Cross. Jesus died so our sins can be forgiven and we can live with God the Father in heaven.*
- ▶ **Ask:** *Who leads us in celebrating the Eucharist at Mass?* (the priest)
- ▶ Read aloud the section Eucharist Match. Help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ After you read aloud the Reading God's Word feature, **say:** *When we go to Mass, we remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his friends.*
- ▶ If your child has no food allergies, give him or her a sample of unleavened bread, such as pita bread or matzo. **Ask:** *How is it different from bread we use for sandwiches?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *This bread is similar to the bread that Jesus broke when he said, "This is my body. Eat this. Remember me."*

Reflect: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Together look at page 114. **Ask:** *What do you think the children in the picture are saying to each other?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *Jesus showed his love by sharing the Sign of Peace with his friends.*
- ▶ Demonstrate sharing the Sign of Peace with your child. Then pray aloud the prayer Love and Peace. After giving your child time to pray silently, pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 115. Give each other the Sign of Peace. **Say:** *When we give the Sign of Peace, we share love with people as Jesus did.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child trace the word *Peace*. Read aloud the sentence together. Then invite your child to complete the activity.

Respond: Page 116

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *Eucharist*. **Say:** *We have talked about the special meal of the Eucharist, which brings us closer to Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of the Eucharist.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.

Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Engage: Page 117

- ▶ Make a paper calendar strip that shows the days of Holy Week. Have your child help you label the following days: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. **Say:** *The Church season leading up to Easter is called Lent. Let's read about this important Church season.* Add small symbols to help your child recognize each day.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. Point out the terms *Lent* and *Holy Week* and help your child find them in the Glossary. Discuss the definitions. **Ask:** *What is the last week of Lent called?* (Holy Week)
- ▶ Use your calendar strip to review the days and events of Holy Week. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Page 118

- ▶ **Ask:** *What helps us grow on the outside?* (fresh air, healthy food) *How can we grow on the inside?* (Be kind, be helpful, talk to and listen to God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. **Say:** *We can grow on the inside by growing closer to Jesus. During Lent, we pray, fast, and give alms.* Help your child understand these terms by completing the activity together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The Bible told of the events of Holy Week before they actually happened.*

Reflect: Page 119

- ▶ **Say:** *Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Let's read about what happens on Ash Wednesday.* Read aloud the title and the sentences. **Say:** *The cross on our forehead reminds us to turn our hearts to God by being more loving and caring during Lent.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Lent lasts for 40 days. We remember Jesus' suffering and Death, and we get ready to celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead on Easter.*



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 20 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Veronica holding a cloth bearing the likeness of Jesus.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the face on Veronica's cloth.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we comfort others, we are being like Jesus.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 20. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Discuss ways to comfort others, such as giving hugs and helping them when they are not feeling well.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Jesus Wants Us to Be Forgiveness. **Say:** *Jesus died because he wanted us to be saved.* Read aloud the section Lenten Paper Chain. Help your child prepare the paper strips. Add additional strips of paper to reach the number of days left until Easter. Then use the chain to help you count down the days to Easter.
- ▶ **Say:** *Let's make Helping Hands to remind us to help others during Lent and Holy Week.* Help your child trace around his or her hands on construction paper and cut out the tracing. On each hand, write a way to help someone, such as carry groceries or pick up toys. Display your helping hands and have your child choose a helpful task each day.

Respond: Page 120

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the terms *Lent* and *Holy Week*.
Say: *We have talked about Lent and what we can do to grow closer to Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently while you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, help me grow to be more giving and loving during Lent by helping others.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Unit 5



Before You Begin

Download and print:
Art Print BLMs Sessions 21–25

Morality, Our Lived Faith

Begin

- ▶ **Ask:** *How can you be a helper? (Answers will vary.)* **Say:** *Jesus gives us a way to live that leads us to him. We are going to learn about making good choices to help us live like Jesus. Saint Martin de Porres was an important saint who followed Jesus' example about how to live.*

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 121 and read aloud the unit title. Then read aloud the saint's name and look at his picture. **Say:** *Martin lived in Peru about 400 years ago. Use a map or globe to help your child locate the country of Peru. **Say:** Martin and his family did not have much. But Martin made good choices to help those who were weak, hungry, and homeless.*
- ▶ Invite your child to color the picture as you read aloud and discuss page 122. Help your child tear out and fold the Unit 5 saint booklet at the back of the book. Read aloud the pages, inviting your child to track the words with his or her finger. Then have him or her complete the activity on page D. **Say:** *Saint Martin de Porres helped many people in need. He lived his life like Jesus.*
- ▶ With your child, add Martin's feast day, November 3, to your calendar. Plan an event together to honor the ways of Saint Martin de Porres.

God Calls Us to Make Good Choices

Engage: Page 123

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some rules in our home? Why do we have rules?* (Rules keep us safe. Rules help us live together in peace and harmony.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the poem title. Invite your child to follow along as you read aloud the poem. **Say:** *God also has rules for us to follow. Following God's rules helps us make good choices. God's rules remind us to be helpful, kind, and truthful.*
- ▶ Repeat each of your family rules and together **say:** *That's a rule for us!* Then pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 124–125

- ▶ Present choices such as the following, and ask your child to raise his or her hand when a good choice is heard. **Say:** *Help Dad rake leaves, share a treat with my sister, take a book without permission, be unkind to a friend, listen to my teacher.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 124. Have your child point to the word *choice*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. Explain that a bad choice made on purpose is called a sin. **Say:** *A sin is a bad choice that can hurt God, someone else, or yourself.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Treat other people the way you want to be treated. That's a rule for us!*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 125. Remind your child that everyone makes bad choices once in a while. **Say:** *God always loves us, even when we sin.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the A Friend of God feature. **Say:** *Saint Francis of Assisi devoted his life to following God's rules, telling people about Jesus, being kind to others, and living simply.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 21 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of families or friends helping each other.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the people are helping each other.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we help one another, we are making a good choice.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 21. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Making Good Choices. **Say:** *Jesus asks that we treat others as we want to be treated. We call this the Golden Rule.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section The Right Thing. **Say:** *A good way to practice making a good choice is to picture yourself making good choices in the future.* Help your child complete the activity. Invite your child to live out his or her idea this week.
- ▶ Together make a Golden Rule Collage. From newspapers and magazines, cut out pictures of people helping each other and living out the Golden Rule. Take turns gluing the images to poster board. Fill in open spaces with words and symbols that convey love. Point to the pictures on the finished collage and **ask:** *How are these people following the Golden Rule?* (They are treating others how they want to be treated.)

Reflect: Pages 126–127

- ▶ Together look at page 126. **Say:** *These children are helping take care of their dog. We ask God to help us make good choices, especially when the good choice is not the easy choice.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the introductory sentence on page 126. Then have your child prepare for prayer. Pray aloud the prayer, pausing after each line. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ **Say:** *God gave us 10 rules called commandments. The Ten Commandments help us make good choices and live happy lives.* Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 127. Help your child find the Ten Commandments on page 192. Read aloud and discuss the Ten Commandments. Then have your child complete the activity on page 127.

Respond: Page 128

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *choice*. **Say:** *We have talked about making good choices and not making bad choices. Good choices show our love for God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently while you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Father, help us show our love for you and others through the good choices we make.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



God Calls Us to Love Our Family

Engage: Page 129

- ▶ Make a heart shape by touching your thumbs and pointer fingers together. **Say:** *I love my family.* Have your child repeat your words and action.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title, the song title, and the lyrics. Together repeat the lyrics and clap out a rhythm. **Say:** *This song thanks God the Father, Jesus his Son, and the Holy Spirit.* Make the heart shape and **say:** *Thank you, God, for my family.*
- ▶ Talk about things that you love about each member of your family. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 130–131

- ▶ **Ask:** *What groups do we belong to?* Make a list including the human race, your country, your community, and your parish. **Say:** *Let's find out about another group we belong to.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 130. **Say:** *You and I belong to our family, and we all belong to God's family!* Explain the idea of a family tree and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *One way to honor your father and your mother is to listen to them.*
- ▶ **Say:** *We learned about the Ten Commandments. There is another rule called the Great Commandment. Jesus wants us to love both God and others.* Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 131. Point out the word *honor*. Help your child find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. Then have him or her complete the activity. **Say:** *Showing love for your family is a way of honoring the Great Commandment.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Saint Anne and Saint Joachim are Jesus' grandparents.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 22 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a family on a picnic.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the family is doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we show love to God and our families, we are living how Jesus wants us to live.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 22. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Follow Jesus' Example. **Ask:** *What does it mean to obey our parents? (We do what they ask us to do.)* **Say:** *Our parents care for us, teach us, and help us follow Jesus.* Read aloud the section I Love My Family and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What are the names of Jesus' parents? (Mary and Joseph)*
- ▶ **Say:** *Earlier you drew a family portrait. Now paint yourself doing as God asks, helping and respecting a family member.* Give your child drawing paper, colored pencils or crayons, and watercolor paints. Invite him or her to paint a picture of himself or herself helping a family member. Offer suggestions of possible scenes.

Reflect: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Together look at page 132. **Ask:** *What is the family doing? (praying)* **Say:** *Families can pray together at times besides mealtime and bedtime. God is always there for us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences. Then pray aloud the prayer with your child. When you are finished, give your child time for silent prayer. Pray *Amen* together.
- ▶ Display a "Home Sweet Home" sign. **Ask:** *What does this sign mean? (Home is sweet because the people and things we love most are there.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and sentences on page 133. **Say:** *Animals live in families too. They help each other grow and learn.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the dot-to-dot activity. **Say:** *As you connect the dots to make the nest, think about prayers you can pray for members of our family.*

Respond: Page 134

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *honor*. **Say:** *We have talked about making good choices and honoring and loving our families.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently while you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, thank you for helping me show and share love as part of God's family.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



God Calls Us to Forgive

Engage: Page 135

- ▶ **Say:** *Forgiveness happens when we make peace with someone whom we have hurt or who has hurt us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title, the poem title, and the poem. **Ask:** *What did Zacchaeus say to Jesus? ("I'm sorry! Forgive me, please!")*
- ▶ Make up motions and gestures to go along with the poem, and read it aloud again. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ **Say:** *Zacchaeus took money that did not belong to him. He made bad choices that hurt people.* **Ask:** *How do you think he felt about what he had done? (He felt bad. He felt sorry.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 136. **Say:** *Sometimes we make bad choices. Sometimes we do and say things that hurt God, ourselves, or others. God wants us to make good choices and help others.* Read aloud the directions and discuss each situation. Then assist your child in completing the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. **Say:** *Jesus knows what is in our hearts. He forgives us when we are sorry for our sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 137. Have your child point to the words *forgiveness* and *peace*. Help him or her find the words in the Glossary. Discuss the definitions. **Ask:** *How do the characters in the cartoon feel? (Answers will vary.)* **Say:** *When you make a bad choice, you hurt others and you feel sad. Asking for forgiveness gives us peace.* Have your child complete the picture to show peace and happiness on the boy's face.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Remind your child that the Lord's Prayer teaches us about forgiveness.

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 23 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of two people hugging each other.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the people's faces.
- ▶ **Say:** *God wants us to forgive one another. A hug can be a sign of love, forgiveness, or thanks.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 23. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section God Forgives Us. **Say:** *Jesus knew that God's love is greater than any sin. That is why Jesus said we should forgive people who hurt us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Peaceful Hearts and invite your child to complete the activity. **Ask:** *How can your picture show that the heart is put back together and someone is forgiven?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Role-play simple scenarios with your child where one person says "I'm sorry" and the other person forgives him or her. Examples of situations could include cutting in line, arguing over a toy, and taking something that is not yours. **Ask:** *What can we say that will help us forgive each other and bring peace to our hearts?* ("I'm sorry." "Please forgive me.")

Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Say:** *The boy in the picture is ending his day with a prayer. He can share with God the best parts of his day, and with God's help, he can promise to try harder tomorrow.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences. Explain that the Examen gives us steps to think about what we did during the day and the choices we made. Then read aloud each line of the Daily Examen. Give your child time to reflect after each sentence. Together pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 139. **Say:** *Let's go through these questions again to help us avoid sin.* Then have your child complete the activity.

Respond: Page 140

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *forgiveness* and *peace*. **Say:** *We have talked about asking for forgiveness and forgiving others. When we receive forgiveness, we feel at peace.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently while you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear God, thank you for your love and forgiveness. Help me remember to make good choices.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



God Calls Us to Help

Engage: Page 141

- ▶ **Ask:** *How can we make the world a better place?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *Placing other people's needs before our own needs is a good place to start!*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the poem title. **Ask:** *Who teaches us about caring and sharing?* (Jesus) Then read aloud the poem.
- ▶ Talk about ways you can make your neighborhood a better place, and make a plan to carry out one of your ideas. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 142–143

- ▶ Make a two-column chart with the headings *Wants* and *Needs*. Compare your wants to basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and love. Write them on the chart.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 142. Have your child point out the word *needs*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. Use your chart to call out wants and needs. **Say:** *Raise your hand when I call out a need.* Then read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Revisit the meaning of *needs* as necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God is happy when we do good things for others.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 143. Discuss each of the corporal works of mercy found in the box, and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Help your child find some places on a map or globe where Catholic Charities does work.

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 24 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Vincent de Paul helping people in need.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people and their actions.
- ▶ **Say:** *Just like Saint Vincent de Paul, we are called by God to help those who are poor and give them what they need.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 24. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Helping Those in Need. **Ask:** *How can we be more like Saint Vincent de Paul?* (We can help people in need of clothing, food, and love.)
- ▶ Read aloud the section Giving Others What They Need. Remind your child that there are many ways we can help others. Provide magazines and newspapers for your child to cut out pictures to complete the activity.
- ▶ **Say:** *Close your eyes and imagine you are with Saint Vincent de Paul. You see him caring for those in need. He turns to you and asks if you can help. How might you help him? What can you do to help those in need?* (Answers will vary.) Discuss what it would feel like to work beside Saint Vincent de Paul. Conclude by thanking God for caring.

Reflect: Pages 144–145

- ▶ Together look at page 144. **Ask:** *What are the people in the picture doing?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *Jesus teaches us to reach out with love to people in need.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the introductory sentence on page 144. Point out the Leader and All parts and help your child learn his or her part. Pray aloud the prayer, pausing to let your child respond. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 145. **Ask:** *What does it feel like to feel God's love?* (happy, peaceful) Have your child complete the activity.

Respond: Page 146

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *needs*. **Say:** *We have talked about helping others as Jesus teaches us to do. When we help those in need, we spread joy and love.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently while you pray aloud. **Say:** *Jesus, let your example remind us to be caring and to share when we see people in need.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.



Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some signs of the spring season? (spring blossoms, baby animals)* **Say:** *Our Church celebrates a season called Easter where we feel joy and think about things being new again.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. Have your child point to the word *Easter*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *We feel joyful at Easter because Jesus rose from the dead.*
- ▶ Together find Easter on a calendar. Count out 50 days to identify the season. Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is a promise? (A promise is when you assure someone that something will be done.) Have you ever made a promise? What is it like to keep a promise? (Answers will vary.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. **Say:** *Jesus kept his promise that he would always be with us.*
- ▶ Point out the word *Alleluia*. Help your child find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *We say and sing Alleluia often at Easter.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Everyone was surprised and confused when they didn't find Jesus' body in his tomb.* Read to your child the story of the Resurrection, found in Matthew 28:1–8, from a children's Bible or retell it from your Bible using simple language. Encourage your child to ask questions.

Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ Talk about how your family celebrates Easter. **Ask:** *What are our family's Easter traditions? (Answers will vary.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. **Say:** *Jesus gives us new life when we celebrate his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. **Say:** *The paschal candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World. He is always with us, lighting our way.*

Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 25 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus' friends finding angels in Jesus' tomb.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what he or she sees (or what is missing) in the tomb.
- ▶ **Say:** *Easter, the day we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, is the most important holiday in our Church. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 25. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Jesus Is Risen. **Say:** *Easter is such a joyful season that the Church celebrates for 50 days! We celebrate the knowledge that Jesus is with us always.*
- ▶ In advance, prepare an outline of a cross on paper and tear tissue paper into small pieces. Read aloud the section Easter Cross. Demonstrate steps as needed to help your child complete the activity. Display the Easter Cross in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The woman who found the empty tomb may have been scared and confused, but Jesus was soon there to comfort her.*
- ▶ Play a recording of a joyful "Alleluia." **Say:** *Alleluia means "Praise the Lord." We sing "Alleluia" to praise God and to celebrate the new life Jesus gave us when he kept his promise and rose from the dead.* Encourage your child to sing along as you play the song again. Remind your child to listen for songs with the word *Alleluia* when you sing them at Mass during Easter season.

Respond: Page 150

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *Easter* and *Alleluia*. **Say:** *We have talked about how Jesus kept his promise to be with us always. We say and sing "Alleluia!" because we are so happy that Jesus has risen.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently while you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Father, thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus. His life fills us with joy and peace.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.