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# Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

## Begin

- ▶ Ask: *What does it feel like to be part of a family?* Say: *We will learn more about Jesus and his family.* Read aloud the unit title on page 44. Say: *This unit will help us understand that Jesus wants everyone to be part of God's family.*

## Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Anne and Saint Joachim [JOH-uh-kihm] on page 44. Say: *Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were the parents of Mary, who became the mother of Jesus.* Ask: *Who is the child in the picture?* (Mary) Say: *Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were loving parents. They helped Mary learn about God.*
- ▶ Turn to page 45. Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Say: *The word devoted means "to be faithful and loyal."*
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Remind your child about the definition of a saint. Ask: *What is a patron saint?* (a saint who watches over a special group) Ask: *Why do you think Saint Anne is the patron saint of mothers?* (Anne was Mary's mother and raised her to be devoted to God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Explain what the word *indebted* means. Ask: *Why do you think Saint John Damascene said this?* (Without Joachim and Anne, Mary, the Mother of God, would not exist.)
- ▶ With your child, add Joachim and Anne's feast day, July 26, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love that Saint Joachim and Saint Anne had for their family.

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**Unit Opener: Page 46**

- ▶ Ask: *What are some of the best times you think we have had as a family?* Together recall favorite times and discuss why they are important to you. Say: *Jesus was part of a family too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph on page 46. Ask: *What does faithful mean?* (devoted, true, loyal) Say: *Jesus wants you to obey, just as Mary obeyed her parents. Mary respected and listened to her mother and father.* Explain that Saint Anne and Saint Joachim knew that Mary was special and helped her dedicate her life to God.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and invite your child to do the activity. When he or she is finished, discuss the picture he or she drew. Talk about the family memory and why it is special to him or her.
- ▶ Direct your child's attention to the Reading God's Word feature and invite him or her to read aloud the passage from Ephesians. Say: *We have rules to stay safe. When you obey and honor them, it helps you have a good and happy life.*

(Continued on the next page)

## Jesus Is Faithful

### Engage: Page 47

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Galatians 3:26–29. Then say: *The Word of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God*.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus teaches us what to do and what not to do to be his followers*. Read aloud the paragraph on page 47. Ask: *What does Jesus' grace help us do?* (be kind and respectful to one another) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us love everyone in God the Father's family*. Pray aloud the prayer. Then pause for additional reflection. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

### Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Ask your child to name rules he or she follows at school, at home, or in sports. Record the rules by category. Ask: *Why do we need rules?* (Rules help us know how to behave with one another or how to play a game.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 48. Guide your child to look up the term *Ten Commandments* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: *The Ten Commandments are God's special rules to help us live good lives, be kind to one another, and act more like Jesus*. Read aloud each commandment. Discuss the sentence below it, explaining how your child might obey this rule.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the Sixth through Tenth Commandments on page 49. Ask: *Which commandments teach us to love God?* (the first three) *Which teach us to love and respect ourselves and others?* (the last seven) Say: *When we follow the Commandments, we are being like Jesus*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *It is important to remember that God is always with us. God is our Creator, Savior, and Advocate. God always forgives us*.

### Art Exploration: Page 50

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of a young Jesus talking to teachers in the Temple.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people Jesus is talking to as well as the surroundings. Say: *Jesus gives us a good example. When we obey our parents, we obey God*.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 50. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Then read aloud Jesus with the Teachers. Ask: *Why were Mary and Joseph so worried about Jesus?* (They could not find him.) *How did Jesus explain why he went to the Temple?* (He was doing what God wanted him to do.)

- ▶ Read aloud *Lost and Found*. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas. Ask your child to imagine he or she is in the Temple with Jesus. Say: ***Look around. What do you see and hear?*** Invite your child to have a silent conversation with Jesus. Say: ***You can ask Jesus questions just like he asked the teachers in the Temple.*** Close with a prayer asking God to help your child listen and obey his parents.

### Reflect: Pages 51–52

- ▶ Together look at page 51. Ask: ***What do you think the boy is thinking about?*** Remind your child that he or she can always tell Jesus what he or she is thinking about. Say: ***Jesus is always with you. He loves when you spend time with him.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 51. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently. Pause to give your child time to reflect. Allow time for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Close your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the title and the two paragraphs on page 52. Say: ***The Fourth Commandment tells us to honor and obey our parents, just as Jesus did. We can ask God to help us obey our parents, even when it might be difficult.***
- ▶ Read aloud *At Church* and have your child complete the activity. Then invite your child to read aloud the sentences. Remind your child that Jesus prayed in the Temple, just as we pray in church together at Mass. Say: ***We can also pray in other special places. What are some places you like to be quiet with God?*** Discuss other special places where you can be quiet with God, such as a backyard or a garden. Say: ***Remember, God is always with us. We can talk with God anywhere and anytime.***

### Respond: Pages 53–54

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can follow the Ten Commandments. Say: ***Following the Ten Commandments helps us be caring and happy members of God's family.*** Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 54. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember to be like Jesus by following God's commandments. Choose one commandment to focus on this week, like telling the truth. Following the commandments helps us stay close to God and live with joy and love.***

## Jesus Saves Us

### Engage: Page 55

- ▶ Invite your child to make an “I Show Kindness” booklet. Help him or her fold paper in half to form the pages of the booklet. Ask your child to draw a picture of himself or herself helping a family member or neighbor on each page. Say: ***Jesus showed his love to people in need. You are showing your love on these pages.***
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 19:1–10. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Say: ***Zacchaeus was someone who was never invited to dinner, but Jesus did, and it changed Zacchaeus’s life forever. He became a friend of Jesus’ from then on.*** Read aloud the paragraph on page 55. Say: ***We can show love to our families, friends, and neighbors. In this session, we learn ways to show our love to others.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let’s ask Jesus to help us make good choices.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

### Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Display a crucifix. Ask: ***Where have you seen crucifixes displayed?*** (in church, on rosaries) ***What does a crucifix symbolize?*** (faith, God, Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud page 56. Ask: ***How did Jesus show his love for people who were sick?*** (He healed them.) Say: ***Jesus is the Son of God. He became man to show us how much God the Father loves us. When Jesus healed people, he showed God’s healing presence to the world.*** Ask: ***How did some people show they were angry with Jesus?*** (They put him to death on the Cross.) ***Who raised Jesus from the dead?*** (God the Father)
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is with Us on page 57. Ask: ***Where is Jesus now?*** (in heaven and with us, always helping us and caring for us) Say: ***Jesus teaches us how to love others.***
- ▶ Read aloud Follow Jesus’ Example. Have your child complete the activity. Discuss the responses.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: ***It is always best to be honest.*** Point out that when we tell the truth, our hearts feel happy.

### Art Exploration: Page 58

- ▶ Find 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 how the artist chose to show Jesus. Say: ***The message of Jesus’ love is for all people in every part of the world.***

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 58. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Then have your child read aloud Jesus Heals. Guide your child to look up the word *miracle* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***What are some examples of Jesus' miracles?*** (Jesus healed those who could not see and those who could not walk.) Say: ***John the Baptist was a holy man who taught about the Messiah, another name for anointed one or Savior.***
- ▶ Read aloud Love Through Actions. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***This passage is from the Old Testament, written long before the time of Jesus.*** Ask: ***What do you see that is the same as the passage from Luke?*** (The blind see; the deaf hear.) Say: ***This was written by the prophet Isaiah. He foretold the coming of the Savior who would heal people.***
- ▶ Have your child fold construction paper in half to make a card. Using art supplies, have him or her draw a picture and write a cheery message inside. Tell your child to address the card to *Dear Friend*. Encourage him or her to give it to a child who misses school because of illness.

### Reflect: Pages 59–60

- ▶ Together look at page 59. Ask: ***The girl in the picture is not speaking. What do you think she is saying to God with her heart?*** Say: ***Open your heart to Jesus and he will understand.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraphs on page 59. Say: ***Today we're going to pray to Jesus, asking him to show us ways to care for people in need.*** Pray aloud the prayer slowly and with expression. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray *Amen* and join your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Write "What would Jesus do?" on a sheet of paper. Say: ***It is important to do our best to act like Jesus.*** Read aloud page 60 and have your child complete the activity. Ask: ***Have you ever been in a situation like any of these? What did you do?***

### Respond: Pages 61–62

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can help someone in need. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***Let's take some time to thank Jesus for being our example and showing us how important it is to care for others.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 62. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember to act with kindness and love to everyone. Ask God to help you follow Jesus' example.***

## Jesus Calls Us to Love

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Mark 12:28–34. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *When you hear the word neighbor, what do you think of?* (a person who lives nearby) Read aloud the paragraph on page 63. Say: *Jesus wants us to think of everyone in the world as our neighbors. Name some ways you want to be treated.* (with kindness, protected, encouraged) *When you treat everyone like that, even people you don't like, you are following the greatest commandment.*
- ▶ Say: *Let's ask God to help us love and care for others.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Ask: *Who is a leader at your school?* (principal, headmaster) Say: *Like schools, the Church also has many leaders.* Display a picture of the current pope and tell your child his name.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 64. Guide your child to look up the word *pope* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- ▶ Ask: *What makes a good leader?* (listening, being encouraging, being helpful) Ask: *Who leads the Church now?* (the pope) *Where does the pope live?* (Vatican City) Say: *The pope asks us to do things Jesus wants us to do.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *How are our Church leaders like Jesus?* (They teach and share God's message.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 65. Guide your child to look up the words *bishop* and *crozier* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *Like the pope, bishops are important Church leaders.* Tell your child the name of the current bishop in your diocese. Explain that there are many parishes and bishops all around the world.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *What matters is not so much the sin, but that we ask God for forgiveness and work hard not to do the same thing again.*

### Art Exploration: Page 66

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

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 66. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions. Guide your child to look up the word *parable* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then invite your child to read The Parable of the Banquet. Ask: ***How do you think the host of the dinner party felt when his guests did not come?*** (sad, angry, disappointed) ***Who came to the banquet?*** (those who were poor, sick, blind, and lame) ***What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this parable?*** (God wants to be close to everyone.)
- ▶ Read aloud God’s Invitation and have your child write a thank-you note to God.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that God invited him or her to a banquet. Ask: ***What would you bring to share with the other guests?*** Invite your child to speak heart-to-heart, telling him how it feels to gather at his table. Close with a prayer of thanks to God and a promise to accept his invitation to follow him.

### Reflect: Pages 67–68

- ▶ Together look at page 67. Ask: ***What do you think the boy in the picture is doing?***  
Say: ***You can talk to God as you talk to a friend.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph on page 67. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate. Give your child time to speak silently with Jesus. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud page 68. Ask: ***What is the name of our parish priest?*** Explain that priests work with bishops and the pope to guide the Church and lead it in the celebration of the sacraments. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. Ask: ***How did Saint Martín de Porres follow God?*** (by caring for others) Say: ***Like Jesus, Martín cared for people who needed help the most. He wanted to help them know that God cared for them.***

### Respond: Pages 69–70

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific activities in which he or she can include others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***Everyone on earth is our neighbor and God wants us to treat others as we want to be treated.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 70. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Find a way to be a friend and helper each day. Remember to share God’s love with everyone you meet.***



## God's Life for Us

### Engage: Page 71

- ▶ Hide one piece from a jigsaw puzzle. Together with your child, put the puzzle together, noting the missing piece. After you find the piece, ask: ***How does it feel to have found the missing piece?***
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 18:15–17. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ***.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 71. Ask: ***Why do you think Jesus loved children?*** (Children made Jesus feel happy.) Ask: ***What did the disciples try to do?*** (stop people from bringing their children to Jesus) Ask: ***Who is welcomed into the Kingdom of God?*** (everyone) Say: ***Jesus said the Kingdom of God belongs to all of us***.
- ▶ Say: ***Remember that you have a special place in Jesus' heart and in the Kingdom of God***. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together ***Amen***.

### Explore: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Discuss stories or nursery rhymes that teach a lesson, such as “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” or “The Little Red Hen.” Say: ***Jesus told many parables. Parables are special stories that teach important lessons***.
- ▶ Read aloud page 72. Say: ***In this parable, Jesus used the sheep to represent all of us. He wants us to know that God will do whatever it takes to keep us close to him. If we stray, the Father will always reach out to help us come back to him***.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Then have your child read it aloud with you.
- ▶ Read aloud Shepherding God's People on page 73. Guide your child to look up the word *deacon* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***Priests and deacons are a very important part of our Church***.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Emphasize that God's love is unconditional and that no matter what, he is always going to love and guide us.

### Art Exploration: Page 74

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the job of a shepherd involves. Say: ***As a shepherd cares for his flock, Jesus cares for us***.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 74. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 74. Ask: ***What is one way Jesus cares for us? Why do you think a shepherd is a good way to describe Jesus?*** (He leads us, feeds us, and protects us like a shepherd does for his sheep.)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud The Good Shepherd and complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a poster with the caption *I Can Be Like Jesus*. Ask your child to draw pictures or cut out and glue magazine pictures to show ways he or she cares for others. Suggest that your child focus on actions that promote caring just as Jesus cares for us. Display the poster in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 75–76

- ▶ Together look at page 75. Remind your child that every time he or she prays, the bond of love between him or her and God gets stronger.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Guide your child to look up the word *psalm* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then read aloud the second paragraph. Say: ***Let's take some time to pray to God, our Good Shepherd. We're going to pray a prayer from Psalm 23. This psalm is found in the Bible.*** Read aloud the psalm. Then allow time for silent prayer. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God Is Our Shepherd on page 76. Ask: ***How is God like a good shepherd?*** (He cares for every person.) ***How can you be a good shepherd at school?*** (by caring for classmates, making sure no one is left out or left behind.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity. Help your child work through the maze. Say: ***The Good Shepherd cares for his sheep and watches over them.*** Ask: ***Who cares for us in a similar way?*** (God the Father)

### Respond: Pages 77–78

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can take care of others in his or her life. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 78. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember that Jesus welcomes us just the way we are. We learned that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and we are all members of his flock. He cares so much about each one of us.***

## Celebrating Advent

### Engage: Page 79

- ▶ Light a candle and ask: *Why do people use candles?* (to make a room light if it is dark; for decoration) Say: *Our church uses candles during Advent. In this session, we will learn about Advent—the time of year when we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 5:14–15. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Say: *December 21 is the day that has the least amount of sunlight. When it is dark, we can have trouble seeing. During Advent, we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World.* Read aloud the paragraph on page 79. Ask: *How can we let our light shine?* (by spreading Jesus’ message of love and forgiveness)
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can light up the lives of his or her family members during the season of Advent. Say: *Let us open our hearts to Jesus and his light.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

### Explore: Page 80

- ▶ Together list a typical daily schedule. Ask: *When do you make time to play with friends or talk to family members?* Say: *Just as we need to make time for things that are important to us, we need to make time for Jesus in our lives.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and the first paragraph on page 80. Say: *It is important to take time for Jesus because he is our way to true happiness and peace.* Discuss the two questions on the page.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Offer an example by saying: *One way I can light the way for others is by being a leader. When someone is left out, I will be his or her friend.* Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Ask: *How can you live as a child of light?* (always set a good example, listen to my parents, show kindness)

### Reflect: Page 81

- ▶ Together make a diorama by cutting a one-inch hole in the front of a shoe box. Then cut a door into the lid by cutting three sides of a rectangle that can open and shut. Glue figures from a Nativity scene into the box. Let your child look at it with the door on the lid open and closed. Ask: *Why do we need light?* (to see in the dark)
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. Say: *As we see different candles and festive lights at Advent, we are reminded that Jesus lights our way.*

- ▶ Have your child read aloud *What We Experience* and complete the activity. Remind him or her that there are 3 violet candles and 1 rose-colored candle in an Advent wreath.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Ready for Sacraments* feature. Review the meaning of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Emphasize the joy in forgiving others and being forgiven.

### Art Exploration: Page 82

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of an Advent wreath.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, focusing on the candles and the shape of the wreath. Say: ***The green Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning or end, just as God has no beginning or end. Each candle represents one week of Advent. The three violet candles remind us to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming through prayer and good works. The rose-colored candle symbolizes that our waiting will soon end.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 82. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Lighting the Way for Jesus*. Say: ***Light is often used to describe warmth, goodness, and love.*** Ask: ***What can we do to make room for Jesus' light in our hearts?*** (pray, do good deeds)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Making Room for Jesus' Light* and complete the activity.
- ▶ In the center of a paper plate, have your child draw a picture of a way your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus during Advent. Have your child glue on silk green leaves to cover the plate rim. He or she can cover four empty toilet tissue tubes with three purple sheets and one pink sheet of construction paper and glue them to the paper plate to represent Advent wreath candles. Share the wreath with other family members.

### Respond: Pages 83–84

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can shine a light for others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus is the Light of the World. During Advent, we celebrate that Jesus came to save us.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 84. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***During Advent, think of ways that you can be the light of Jesus in the world.***