

Multimedia for each lesson are accessed by scanning the QR code on the Children's Book page. If you don't have access to a QR code digital device, contact your child's catechist for assistance.

Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Unit Opener: Pages 44–46

- ▶ Discuss with your child the responsibilities that he or she has around the home, such as doing chores and practicing good hygiene. Explain how you depend on your child to take care of these responsibilities himself or herself. Invite your child to turn to page 44 and read aloud the unit title. Say: ***We are going to learn how Jesus depends on us as members of the Church to carry on his mission.***
- ▶ Draw your child's attention to the picture on page 44. Ask: ***What is Saint Alphonsus Liguori doing?*** (blessing the man, caring for a person in need) Say: ***Saint Alphonsus is known for ministering to people who were poor and for being a great teacher.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 45. Ask: ***How did Saint Alphonsus know that he should be a priest instead of a lawyer?*** (He prayed to know God's will; he had a vision from God.) Say: ***Sister Marie Celeste inspired Saint Alphonsus to found the Redemptorists, who became known for their preaching and missionary work.*** Explain that Alphonsus discovered a spiritual void among the people and began teaching them the Gospel of Jesus.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the second two paragraphs. Point out that a Doctor of the Church is recognized as a model teacher of the faith. Say: ***We remember Saint Alphonsus Liguori because he helped bring people back to God, and he taught people how to stay close to Jesus always.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Discuss what it means to live on earth as a pilgrim.
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 46 and read aloud Called to a Mission. Ask: ***What do you think of when you hear the word mission?*** (Accept reasonable responses.) Say: ***Why might it have been difficult for Saint Alphonsus to follow God's call?*** (He had to quit his career.) ***Who helped him?*** (the Holy Spirit)
- ▶ Read aloud Mission, Possible! and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***The prophet Isaiah shows us how to respond to God's call: by saying, "Here I am!"*** Read aloud the verse again using a call-and-response format: Say, "Whom shall I send?" and have your child respond, "Here I am!"

New Life in Jesus

Engage: Page 47

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Colossians 1:15–20. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Explain how some people wear locket with pictures of loved ones, or show your child such a locket of your own. Say: **We want those we love to be near to us at all times. Thankfully, our God is present to us throughout our lives.** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 47. Ask: **How is Jesus present to us today?** (in the Church, the Eucharist, and in all creation)
- ▶ Say: **Let's ask Jesus to help us share God's presence with others.** Pray aloud the prayer, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Invite your child to retell the story of Adam and Eve. Say: **Adam and Eve disobeyed God, which caused a break in the relationship between God and humanity.** Read aloud Jesus' Mission on Earth on page 48. Ask: **Why did Jesus live among us?** (to reconcile us to God) Explain that *reconcile* means to reestablish or heal a once-close relationship. Invite your child to locate the words *mystery* and *Incarnation* in the Glossary and review the definitions.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus' Church Continues His Mission. Ask: **How does the Church continue Jesus' mission?** (It teaches the faith taught by Jesus to his Apostles; it speaks for justice and works for peace.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Mission on page 49. Ask: **How does the Holy Spirit help in Jesus' mission?** (The Holy Spirit guides the Church in carrying on Jesus' teachings.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Meet a Holy Person. Invite your child to look up *canonize* in the Glossary. Ask: **Why is Saint John XXIII important in Church history?** (His papacy was a turning point. He helped renew the Church.)

Art Print: Page 50

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus showing his disciples that they are the building blocks of the church.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting. Point out and discuss any symbolism that is present in the picture. Say: **We are the stones upon which the Church is built, and Jesus holds the Church together. Jesus is like the capstone, the crowning point of a church building.**

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 50. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage in Jesus' Role and Our Roles in the Church. Then invite your child to read aloud the rest of the section. Ask: **What is our role in the Church?** (to be living signs of God's presence in the world) Say: **The Holy Spirit strengthens our commitment to the Church, which helps us carry on Jesus' mission.**
- ▶ Read aloud Building Your Life and give your child time to complete the activity on a separate sheet of paper. Discuss his or her drawing.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Reading God's Word. Say: **Those who put their faith in Jesus put their faith in someone who is solid and sure.**
- ▶ Invite your child to sketch or paint a picture of your church. Invite your child to consider elements he or she thinks are important to a church, such as believers, priests, sacraments, faith, praise, and community. Encourage your child to write these words or draw things that represent those words in and around the bricks of his or her church building.

Reflect: Pages 51–52

- ▶ Pray the prayer on page 51 ahead of time to become familiar with it.
- ▶ Look at page 51 together. Ask: **What is the child in the picture doing?** (praying) Say: **Prayer is how we talk to God. Talking to God is like talking to a good friend in some ways.**
- ▶ Invite your child to find a comfortable position and invite him or her to read silently the first two paragraphs. Say: **We pray the Apostles' Creed to remind us of our faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and in the teachings of the Church.** Pray aloud the Apostles' Creed while your child prays along silently. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 52. Ask: **Why is the Apostles' Creed important?** (It summarizes the basic teachings of the Church.) Read aloud the activity directions. Give your child time to complete the activity. Together, find the passages from the Apostles' Creed on page 51 that support your child's answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: **Where does the word creed come from?** (the Latin word *credo*, which means "I believe") Invite your child to find the Nicene Creed on page 249 and compare it to the Apostles' Creed.

Respond: Pages 53–54

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 53. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss what it means to be an active participant in worship.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 54. Discuss what it means to live out Jesus' mission, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***We are living stones of Jesus' Church. Jesus wants us to carry out his mission, and we depend on him for guidance and wisdom in the process.***

Meeting Jesus

Engage: Page 55

- ▶ Read aloud the session title, then invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Mark 16:19–20. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask your child how he or she can communicate with someone who is not in the same room. (Possible answers: phone, e-mail, social media) Say: ***Jesus has given us a remarkable way to remain in contact with him: the seven sacraments!*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on the page.
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus is with us always. Let's ask him to help us recognize how he is present in our lives.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the section title and the first paragraph.
- ▶ Read aloud page 56 while your child follows along. Together, make a chart that shows how each sacrament is celebrated and shows its signs. Emphasize that Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are known as the Sacraments of Initiation.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Invite your child to share memories of witnessing new Church members celebrating the sacraments.
- ▶ Continue reading about the sacraments on page 57 and filling in the chart. Say: ***Sacramentals help us grow in our faith and love for Jesus.*** Ask: ***How else does Jesus show us he cares for us?*** Discuss your child's answers.

Art Print: Page 58

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a group of people at the bedside of Jairus's ill daughter.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe what he or she sees in the picture, including the expressions on the people's faces. Say: ***Having faith in God means putting our trust in him. When we pray to God for help, we know that God is listening.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 58. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter. Discuss the account of Jesus and Jairus's daughter. Then read aloud Christ's Presence in the Sacraments. Ask: ***How does Jesus touch our lives today?*** (through the sacraments) Say: ***Sacraments are blessings from God.***

- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity on a separate sheet of paper. Discuss his or her letter together.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Explain that "revealed his glory" means that Jesus revealed God's power and presence to his people. Say: ***Jesus performed many miracles to invite people to believe in the Father who sent him.***
- ▶ Provide your child with scissors, construction paper, and glue. Invite your child to make a mosaic that shows how he or she feels about receiving one of the sacraments, such as the Eucharist or Penance and Reconciliation.

Reflect: Pages 59–60

- ▶ Invite your child to take a few moments to think of what he or she is thankful for or what makes him or her feel blessed. Give your child several note cards and invite him or her to write on each card a different blessing for which he or she is thankful. Invite your child to thank God for the blessings he or she wrote.
- ▶ Invite your child to get comfortable as you read aloud the two paragraphs on page 59. Allow time for your child to reflect on how he or she needs Jesus' care. Then pray aloud the prayer. Allow a moment of silence at the end of the prayer for personal reflection. Encourage your child to speak with Jesus silently. Close the prayer by saying: ***Let's look for all the ways Jesus touches our lives every day.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the section title and first paragraph on page 60. Say: ***Blessings are favors or good things.*** Read aloud Find Your Blessings and give your child time to complete each section of the activity. Discuss how both of you have received and given blessings to others.

Respond: Pages 61–62

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 61. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss what your child might say and do to comfort someone who is sick.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 62, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Our greatest blessing from our heavenly Father is Jesus. I hope you feel his presence every day through all your senses!***

Baptized into Christ

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Read aloud the session title, then invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 8:26–40. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: **When parents adopt a child, they must fill out official forms showing that they are bringing the child into their family. In Baptism, God brings us into his family.** Invite volunteers to read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: **When we become members of God's family, what do we then want to do?** (share the Good News of Jesus with others)
- ▶ Say: **Let's thank Jesus for the gift of Baptism.** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Share how you experience the baptismal font in your church with all five senses. Discuss how the water feels and sounds and how the oils smell for the sacrament. Encourage your child to describe when he or she has seen the baptismal candle and white garment.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 64. Ask: **How does Baptism affect our lives?** (It is a call to a new life; it is necessary for salvation; it unites us with the Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus; it welcomes us into the Church; it helps us share in the life of the Trinity here on earth and eternally in heaven.) Say: **The white garment symbolizes purity of spirit, and the candle symbolizes God's light within us. The oil symbolizes healing with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: **The Paschal Candle represents the light of Christ.**
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first section on page 65. Say: **We are identified as children of God by the permanent spiritual mark that Baptism makes on us.** Invite your child to read aloud What Baptism Calls Us to Do and look up the word *stewardship* in the Glossary. Point out that volunteering or otherwise being involved in your local parish can be examples of stewardship. Then read aloud How Are You a Steward? and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: **We know that infants have not committed any personal sins. However, they inherit, as we all do, the taint of Original Sin. Baptism gives each infant the grace to be free from Original Sin and the opportunity to live as a free child of God.**

Art Print: Page 66

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Peter preaching with Mark to a crowd.
- ▶ Ask: **Who is in this picture?** (Peter and Mark) Encourage your child to describe in detail what Peter and Mark are doing. Say: **Mark may have written his Gospel based on Peter's preaching.** Explain that Peter taught that our sins can be forgiven and that we can receive the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 66. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Peter Calls for Repentance and Baptism. Ask: **What did Peter call the people to do?** (to repent and be baptized.) Read aloud Jesus, Salvation, and the Sacraments of Initiation. Ask: **What are the effects of the Sacraments of Initiation?** (They make us members of the Church and bring us closer to God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine being one of the people in the crowd listening to Peter and Mark. Invite your child to draw himself or herself as part of the scene. Discuss how your child might have reacted to being present for Peter's teaching.

Reflect: Pages 67–68

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 67. Say: **During this time of prayer, we will focus on what we have learned and think of ways to include these lessons in our daily lives. Today we thank Jesus for welcoming us into his Church.** Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Pause for a moment, then read aloud the second paragraph yourself. Allow your child time to think about the question.
- ▶ Have your child get into a comfortable position. Invite your child to close his or her eyes or focus on the picture. Pray aloud the prayer and the Sign of the Cross. Allow a few moments for personal reflection. Say: **Now let's take our prayerful spirits and learn how we can live what Jesus taught us.**
- ▶ Read aloud We Are a Light for the World on page 68. Then read aloud the first box in the activity and guide your child by encouraging him or her to think of Bible stories about Jesus' life and teaching. Provide your child with a Bible bookmarked at one of the Gospels if he or she is having trouble thinking of examples. Then allow time for your child to complete the rest of the activity.

Respond: Pages 69–70

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 69. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Invite your child to identify his or her talents and share what you think some of his or her talents are. Discuss how these talents can be used to serve God’s kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 70, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let’s remember that since our Baptism, we carry the light of Christ everywhere we go. Let’s also remember our call to stewardship, living lives of service to others.***

Growing in the Spirit

Engage: Page 71

- ▶ Read aloud the session title, then invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 20:19–23. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Explain why some people wear eyeglasses. Say: ***Glasses help us see more clearly. All of us need help with our spiritual eyesight. The Holy Spirit helps us see the presence of Jesus.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 71. Ask: ***When has God helped you see things in a new way?*** (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to help us be faithful Christians.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Draw your child's attention to the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes on pages 268–69 in the book. Ask: ***What lessons for living our lives can we learn from reading the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes?*** (that we should respect God and others and treat people fairly)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Our Mission as Christians. Ask: ***What is our mission as Christians?*** (holiness; living a life dedicated to God and to the Church's mission) Read aloud Confirmation and Our Mission. Review the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Look up each gift in the Glossary and discuss the definitions.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: ***What are other ways people might signify the coming of the Holy Spirit?*** (doves, illuminated clouds, running water)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 73. Ask: ***What are two actions that occur during Confirmation?*** (laying on of hands and anointing with Chrism) Ask: ***How does the Holy Spirit help us?*** (He helps us believe, pray, love, perform good acts, and form a closer bond to Jesus. Confirmation gives us sanctifying grace.) Invite your child to review the definition of *sanctifying grace* by looking it up in the Glossary.

Art Print: Page 74

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the disciples joyfully receiving the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Ask: ***Whom do you see in this picture?*** (the disciples) Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of the disciples.
- ▶ Say: ***The Holy Spirit gives us grace to believe and know the Father and Son.*** Invite your child to turn to page 74. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud Given a Mission. Ask: ***What is our mission as disciples of our Church?*** (to live like Jesus, be dedicated to God, and help others) Say: ***The Holy Spirit is present with us to help us with our mission just as the Spirit was present to help the Apostles.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete it. Discuss other ways you can act out your mission.
- ▶ Remind your child about some of the symbols that represent the Holy Spirit; fire, wind, and a dove. Ask your child to think about which symbol most vividly embodies the idea of the Spirit for himself or herself. Invite your child to draw a self-portrait and include the symbol of the Holy Spirit in the picture.

Reflect: Pages 75–76

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 75. Suggest that your child focus on his or her meditative breathing during prayer today.
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Before praying the prayer, introduce children to the word *kindle*. Explain that it means “to spark or stir up” or “to brighten something.” Say: ***We can use this prayer to call on the Holy Spirit when we need courage, understanding, or any of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.***
- ▶ Explain that your child should respond to the versicle lines [marked “V.”] in the prayer by praying aloud the response lines [marked “R.”]. After praying aloud the first part of the prayer together, have your child close his or her eyes. Then, in a soft voice, pray aloud the second part of the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Confirmation Is a Call. Ask: ***How does Confirmation deepen our baptismal commitment?*** (It calls us to participate more fully in the Church’s mission.) Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: ***The Holy Spirit is like the wind. You may not be able to see the Spirit, but if you pay attention, you can feel his presence.***

Respond: Pages 77–78

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 77. Review the Words I Learned in this session, referring to the Glossary if necessary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Invite your child to share about a time when he or she forgave someone and discuss how he or she felt beforehand and afterward.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 78, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 79

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 1:18–25. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Invite your child to describe something that he or she is looking forward to with excitement. Ask what he or she is doing to prepare. Say: ***When Joseph learned Mary was pregnant, he began making preparations. During Advent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 79. Ask: ***How do we prepare a loving home in our hearts for Jesus?*** (Accept reasonable answers.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's pray together to ask Jesus to be with us during Advent.*** Pray aloud the prayer while your child prays along silently. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Page 80

- ▶ Talk about how your church changes during Advent. Ask your child what songs are sung and what colors are used in decorations and the priest's vestments.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud We Prepare During Advent. Say: ***During Advent, we are called to take time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. We can always ask for God's help as we do this.***
- ▶ Read aloud Four Weeks to Prepare and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss the ideas that he or she wrote.
- ▶ Read aloud God's Gift of Eternal Life. Emphasize that the letter your child will write is personal and that you will not ask him or her to share it with you. Give your child time to complete his or her letter.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***God is always guiding our steps and watching out for us. During these four weeks of Advent, we can rest easy knowing that God is right beside us.***

Reflect: Page 81

- ▶ Invite your child to name a favorite activity or event that helps your family prepare for Advent, such as attending a Nativity play. If he or she cannot think of one, brainstorm a list of ideas together.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Mass During Advent. Say: ***John the Baptist called people to prepare themselves for the Messiah. We are called to do the same.***

- ▶ Read aloud *What We Experience*. Discuss the connection between the sacraments and Advent. Emphasize that God is present in the sacraments and that celebrating them helps us prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Did You Know?* feature. Explain that Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday in Advent and is still celebrated today. Point out that *Gaudete* is a word from the Latin Mass that means “rejoice.”

Art Print: Page 82

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a family walking in the snow to attend Christmas Eve Mass.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the weather conditions and the time of day.
- ▶ Say: ***There are many ways we prepare our hearts during Advent in order to grow closer to God.*** Invite your child to turn to page 82. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud *Celebrating Advent*. Ask: ***What gifts does the Church give us to perfect our relationship with God?*** (the sacraments) ***How do Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist prepare us for Jesus?*** (Baptism makes us part of God’s family; Reconciliation repairs our relationship with God; the Eucharist reminds us that Jesus died for our sins.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her idea for a new Advent tradition to introduce to your family.
- ▶ Show your child a selection of sacramental symbols, such as a cross, chalice, or dove. Give your child a bar of soap and a plastic knife or toothpick and ask him or her to carve a design into the soap. Invite your child to share what each symbol represents in his or her carving.

Respond: Pages 83–84

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 83. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus* and encourage your child to think about what he or she might say to someone else in your family.
- ▶ Read aloud *Signs of Advent* and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss *With My Family* on page 84, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together.