



# God, Our Creator and Father

## Begin

**Say:** *The title of this book is Finding God. Ask: Who is God? (our Father and Creator) Where do we find him? Discuss with your child where you each find God in your everyday life. Tell your child that you find God in him or her and in your love for him or her. Read aloud the unit title. Say: Let's begin this book together by talking about God as our Father and Creator. God created everything that is. His creation shows his love for us.*

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture. **Ask:** *Why do you think the artist shows a light around Saint Ignatius's head? (because he is holy) Say: Artists use a halo to show that someone is holy.*

Invite your child to read aloud the paragraph on page 1 about Saint Ignatius of Loyola. **Ask:** *Why do you think Ignatius recognized God in every living creature? (All living things are part of God's creation.)*

Turn to page 2. Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Ignatius's family was wealthy. Ask your child to read aloud the second paragraph. Say: A monastery is a place where some men live apart from the everyday world to give their lives to God. Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask: What did Ignatius say we should do if we want to know God? (We can start by taking care of the world around us.)*

**Ask:** *What are exercises? (doing something, practicing) Tell your child that Saint Ignatius wrote *Spiritual Exercises* to help people practice their faith—talking to God, listening to God, loving God, and finding God in all things.*

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

## Created to Be Happy

### Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Invite your child to join you for a walk around your neighborhood. Take turns pointing out the beauty and goodness of God's creation.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What can this child do to care for God's creation? (water the vegetables) How can we care for God's creation? (pick up litter, water plants, take care of animals) In this session we will learn about the wonders of God's creation and how we are called to take care of it.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what you saw on your walk and the goodness of God's creation. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ On a sheet of paper, take turns with your child writing statements about things you believe, such as *I believe family is important* and *I believe in my child*.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 4. **Ask:** *What is an apostle? (a special follower of Jesus') What is a creed? (a statement that tells what people believe) What is the Apostles' Creed? (a statement of what the apostles and Catholics believe)* Read aloud the first three lines of the Apostles' Creed. Then say the three lines of the Apostles' Creed without looking at the page, alternating lines with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *We find God in his creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 5. **Say:** *A psalm is a prayer in the form of a poem or song that uses colorful language to praise God.* Invite your child to read aloud the adapted psalm with you.
- ▶ Discuss beautiful things you saw this week. Read aloud Your Own Song of Praise and invite your child to write his or her own song of praise. Write your own song and share it with your child.

### Art Exploration: Page 227

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a garden with flowers, leaves, and birds.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors, flowers, plants, animals, and sky.

- ▶ **Say:** *Each of these things was created by God and can tell us about him. For example, the different beautiful flowers tell us that God gives us life and gives us a variety of beautiful living things to enjoy and care for.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 227. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud God's Wonders. **Ask:** *How can we give glory to God for his creation? (through prayer, by taking care of his creation)*
- ▶ Read aloud Small Wonders. **Ask:** *What does the word wonders mean? (something different, special)* Discuss other small wonders you and your child have noticed.  
**Say:** *All the wonderful things in nature, even the tiniest of wonders, reflect the beauty of God's creation. God must love us very much to have given us all these beautiful things.*
- ▶ Take a walk with your child or look out the window, and have your child complete the activity I Spy a Small Natural Wonder.
- ▶ Consider playing I Spy with your child, such as "I spy something that is green and has three round leaves." Use clues to guide your child to see the small natural wonders of creation.
- ▶ With your child use watercolor paints, crayons, markers, or colored pencils to make garden scenes of your own. Include in your pictures both big and small wonders from God, as well as your family enjoying God's gifts.

### Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Ask:** *What do you think the child in the picture is feeling?*  
**Say:** *Prayer is a special time to be aware of God's presence.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph. Invite your child to read the prayer with you. Read aloud the last paragraph. Invite your child to spend a few moments in silence, using his or her own words, thoughts, and feelings to talk to God. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading on page 7. **Ask:** *How do we get to know one another? (through our words and actions)*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph. **Ask:** *Why did God create all things? (because of his love)*  
*How can we know God? (by reading the Bible)*
- ▶ Read Loving God's Creation and have your child complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God's creation and explain each drawing.

### Respond: Page 8

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be kind to people, animals, and all of God's creation.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

## Created to Be Together

### Engage: Page 9

- ▶ Discuss helpers in your community, such as police officers or crossing guards.  
**Ask:** *Who are helpers in our Church community?* (altar servers, catechists, lectors)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how to give praise to God and how to share God's love with others and help people in need.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about the people who help others at church. **Ask:** *How can you serve your Church community?* (help with a service activity, such as a food drive) Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 10–11

- ▶ With your child talk about your own experiences praying. **Ask:** *When do you like to pray? Is it quiet? Do you tell God about your day?*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 10. **Ask:** *Who are the three Persons of the Holy Trinity?* (God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) Point to the symbol that represents the Trinity. **Say:** *The hand represents God, the cross represents Jesus, and the dove represents the Holy Spirit. Let's think of the Trinity as we pray the Sign of the Cross together.* Pray the prayer together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Praying together the Sign of the Cross unites our Church community.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 11. **Ask:** *What does the Glory Be to the Father help us remember about God?* (He created us; he is with us now and always will be.) *What do the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be to the Father have in common?* (They praise God as the Trinity.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *John wrote several letters to his friends about the importance of spreading God's love. We can read his letters in the Bible. Together find the verse in your Bible.*

### Art Exploration: Page 228

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Elizabeth spinning wool.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Saint Elizabeth's appearance, clothing, and actions.

- ▶ **Say:** *Although Elizabeth appears young, she had the power and the courage to change her world because she believed she was an instrument of God's love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 228. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of Sharing God's Love. **Say:** *Elizabeth's family was wealthy.* **Ask:** *How did she help others?* (started a hospital, cared for people who were sick or poor)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the adaptation from John. **Ask:** *How do we bring God's love to life?* (by loving one another)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Showing Your Love and then complete the activity. Remind your child to begin with small actions and words to spread God's love.
- ▶ Ask your child to consider the painting of Saint Elizabeth and to recall his or her idea about showing love to a friend. Invite your child to use watercolor paints to make a self-portrait featuring his or her idea for sharing God's love. Display the picture in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 12–13

- ▶ Together look at page 12. **Ask:** *Where is the girl in the picture?* (in a forest) Remind your child to take several deep breaths before he or she prays. Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *Now we'll pray our special prayer of praise to the Trinity.*
- ▶ **Say:** *I'll read parts of the prayer and then I'll pause so you can imagine what I describe.* After praying *Amen*, read aloud the last paragraph. Invite your child to spend a few minutes in silence to thank God. Pray aloud *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 13. **Say:** *We have heard many Bible stories about Jesus.* **Ask:** *How does Jesus act in these stories?* (kind, loving, understanding) Read aloud *What Would Jesus Say?* Have your child complete the activity and discuss the answers. Ask your child if he or she has heard these sentences at school, on the playground, or in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud *Kindness Counts*. Give your child crayons or markers to complete the drawing activity. Discuss your child's picture.

### Respond: Page 14

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

## God Is Our Father

### Engage: Page 15

- ▶ Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What is this girl doing? (praying)* **Say:** *Jesus taught us how to pray to God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Talk about why we pray. Share this easy recall for ways of prayer. Please: prayers for oneself or another person; Thanks: prayers of gratitude; Ow!: prayers for forgiveness and sorrow; Wow!: prayers of adoration and praise. **Say:** *In this session we are going to learn about a special way in which Jesus taught us to pray.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of an example of each type of prayer. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 16–17

- ▶ Ask your child to describe his or her friends. **Ask:** *How are they alike? How are they different?* **Say:** *Even though you and your friends have different backgrounds, you are able to play together.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 16. **Ask:** *What does reveals mean? (making known what was not known before)* Point out the vocabulary word, *Abba*, in dark type. **Say:** *This is how Jesus referred to God, just as some children refer to their fathers as Dad. God our Father loves and cares for us just as our families and friends love and care for us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *In the Lord's Prayer, we praise God. We ask him to give us what we need, and we ask for his forgiveness.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 17. **Say:** *When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we are telling God we love him.* Pray the Lord's Prayer together slowly.
- ▶ Read aloud Forgive Each Other. Invite your child to complete the activity and share your experiences together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Demonstrate the *orans* position. **Say:** *The priest uses this position when praying the Lord's Prayer and when giving the Final Blessing at Mass.*

### Art Exploration: Page 229

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of children making peace with one another.

- ▶ **Say:** *Whom do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail. **Ask:** *What do you think happened? What can you tell about the children's feelings?*
- ▶ **Say:** *God wants us to know that we will always be loved, even when we sin. He wants us to love others even when we're angry or disappointed with them.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 229. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Caring Friends. **Ask:** *How can we care for one another? (by listening to and helping one another) What do we ask for in the Lord's Prayer? (to forgive us as we forgive others)*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for What Would You Do? Give your child time to answer the questions and then discuss them.
- ▶ Ask your child to reflect on a situation when he or she was hurt by someone and then how it felt to make peace. Direct your child to draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper. On one side have your child draw a picture showing how it felt to be hurt. On the other side, have your child draw how it felt when the problem was resolved. **Say:** *God's hands lifted away your heaviness.*

### Reflect: Pages 18–19

- ▶ Together look at page 18. **Ask:** *What are the man and the boy doing? How would this setting make you feel?* Remind your child to picture having a conversation with Jesus before he or she begins praying.
- ▶ Read aloud page 18, pausing after each part of the Lord's Prayer. Then give your child time to talk to Jesus in his or her own words. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the introduction and the activity What Would You Do? on page 19. Ask your child to write a response to each situation and then discuss each response. Give your child time to draw the scene for one of the answers. **Say:** *It is always better to forgive than to stay angry and hold a grudge.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God helps us and shows us mercy. He wants us to help others and forgive them and show mercy.*

### Respond: Page 20

- ▶ 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 describe specific situations in which he or she can forgive someone.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

## Jesus Is with Us

### Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Discuss with your child any babies that you or your child knows. Invite your child to write short prayers for the special little ones in their life or write prayers for all babies. **Ask:** *How can you help care for a new baby? (sing to and play with the baby)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Have your child imagine helping Mary and Joseph get ready for Jesus. Discuss your child's answers. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us and to teach us how to live.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about welcoming Jesus into his or her life and heart. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Discuss what it means to trust. **Ask:** *What are some things that you trust me to do for you?*
- ▶ Read aloud Trust in God on page 22. **Ask:** *What did the angel tell Joseph? (that Mary would have a baby through the Holy Spirit) What does the name Jesus mean? (God saves us.)* **Say:** *Joseph trusted God and knew God wanted the best for Joseph and his family.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *Can you tell me three of the names for Jesus that are on this page? (Emmanuel, Savior, Son of God)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 23. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *How do you feel knowing that God sent his Son to be with you always? (secure, confident)* Invite your child to write about a time he or she trusted someone. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Trust that the Lord is always with you.*

### Art Exploration: Page 230

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of angels.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the angels' names, clothes, and faces.
- ▶ **Say:** *An angel is a messenger from God. Joseph trusted the angel who told him Mary would have a baby.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 230. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What does Emmanuel mean?* (“God is with us.”) *What does Christ mean?* (“the anointed one”)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Names. Help your child find the meaning of his or her name in a book or on a Web site.
- ▶ Provide art materials and instruct your child to draw a self-portrait. Then mount the drawing on a sheet of construction paper and write your child’s full name on the sheet. Ask your child to write around the figure all the names to which he or she might answer, such as nicknames and names like *brother, daughter, niece, or friend.*

### Reflect: Pages 24–25

- ▶ Together look at page 24. **Ask:** *What words would you use to describe how the girl in the picture feels?* **Say:** *She is opening her arms because she feels God’s love all around her.*
- ▶ Remind your child of the first phrase of the Apostles’ Creed that they learned in Session 1. Read aloud the first paragraph slowly. Together pray aloud the second sentence of the Apostles’ Creed. Then invite your child to read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** *You can be close with Jesus at any time.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 25. **Ask:** *What are some ways that Jesus lived a good life and cared for others?* (He taught others about God, helped Mary and Joseph, healed sick people) *What are some ways that Joseph and Mary lived a good life?* (They took care of each other and Jesus, and they trusted in God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of Good Examples. Have your child complete the activity and explain the reasons for choosing the pictures he or she circled. **Say:** *Remember that one way to pray is to say a prayer of thanksgiving. This is the kind of prayer you will write in the next part of the activity.* Read aloud the second paragraph and give your child time to reflect and write. Invite your child to share his or her prayer.

### Respond: Page 26

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

## ***Celebrating Ordinary Time***

### **Engage: Page 27**

- ▶ Look at a calendar together. **Ask:** *How many seasons are there? (four) Discuss important holidays and celebrations we celebrate each season.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate both periods of Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. **Ask:** *When do we celebrate Ordinary Time? (between Christmas and Ash Wednesday, and between Easter and the first Sunday of Advent) **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Ordinary Time—the time of year when we learn to be grateful for our Church community.**
- ▶ Have your child make a time line that shows each month of the year. Encourage him or her to make Ordinary Time stand out. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Page 28**

- ▶ Talk about the community in which you live. **Ask:** *What makes up a community? (people sharing common interests) *What is a Church community? (people serving Jesus together)**
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Say:** *One way Church communities can be Christ to the world is by working in soup kitchens. **Ask:** *What are some other ways they can be Christ to the world? (outreach programs, mission trips)**
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Be Like Christ. **Say:** *One way I can be more like Christ in my home and work is by being patient with others. Invite your child to complete the activity and discuss his or her response.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How do you feel when someone tells you thank you? How do you think God feels when we remember to say thank you to him?*

### **Reflect: Page 29**

- ▶ Together look at a recent parish bulletin. **Ask:** *What kind of information do you read in the parish bulletin? Discuss the various items in your bulletin.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What do the activities found in a parish bulletin say about the Church community? (Parish members look to serve others in the community and around the world)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *How would Sunday Mass feel different if you attended alone?*
- ▶ Read aloud My Parish and have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child's answers.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *A parish missal contains the information needed to participate in Mass and states the season or feast being celebrated that week. Together look for that same information in your parish bulletin.*

### Art Exploration: Page 231

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a celebration of the Eucharist.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the Bread and Wine.
- ▶ **Say:** *Every Sunday during Mass, we acknowledge God's presence in our lives with the celebration of the Eucharist. When we gather at Mass, we are surrounded by the Church community.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 231. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Rejoice and Be Glad. **Say:** *During Ordinary Time we celebrate our Church community.* **Ask:** *How does the Church community spread love?* (through religious education classes, parish activities, visiting those who are sick)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Give Thanks for Your Gifts and complete the activity. **Say:** *We will celebrate Ordinary Time by being aware of and thankful for that gift.*
- ▶ Ask your child to trace his or her hand on several sheets of paper. Then have him or her use markers to decorate the hands with symbols, words, and art representing the gifts he or she contributes to the community. Cut out the hands. Arrange them as a mural on a wall in your home as a reminder of how your child can help the community.

### Respond: Page 30

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



# Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

## Begin

**Ask:** What do you like to do with your best friend? What do the two of you have in common? How would you feel if your best friend moved away? Read aloud the unit title on page 31. **Say:** This unit helps us learn about Jesus' friendships with the apostles and the disciples. We can be good friends and followers of Jesus as well as good friends to one another.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture. **Say:** Saints Scholastica and Benedict were brother and sister as well as best friends. Read aloud the text on page 31. **Ask:** What is a religious community? (a group of men or women who live, work, and pray together to serve God and others)

Turn to page 32 and point out the picture. **Say:** This is what an artist thought these saints looked like as children. Scholastica holds a dove, a symbol of her spirit. Benedict holds a raven that once saved his life.

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** Remember our discussion about how important friends are to us. Have your child read aloud the remaining paragraphs. **Ask:** What was so important about this storm? (It showed that God had heard Scholastica's prayer.)

With your child add Scholastica's feast day, February 10, and Benedict's feast day, July 11, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the friendship of Saints Scholastica and Benedict.

## Jesus' Good News

### Engage: Page 33

- ▶ Together with your child read one of Aesop's fables. When you are finished, **ask:** *What is the moral of this story? What does this story help us learn?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *Jesus knew people enjoyed stories, so he told a lot of them. Jesus told us parables to teach us about God and his creation. In this session we will learn about some of his parables.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about fables he or she has heard. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 34–35

- ▶ Ask your child to act out these similes: busy as a bee, quick as a wink, drink like a fish, eat like a bird. **Say:** *Sometimes we can explain something by comparing it to something else.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 34. **Say:** *This parable helps us understand the Kingdom of God.* **Ask:** *What did Jesus say that a tiny mustard seed could do? (Even though a mustard seed is small, it can spread far and serve many.) What are small acts we might do to serve the kingdom? (respect elders, greet neighbors)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 35. **Say:** *What did Jesus do to show us how to serve the Kingdom of God? (He worked hard, practiced his faith, and loved all people.)*
- ▶ Read aloud A Small Act of Kindness. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can help those in need? (donate toys, give money or items to charity, spend time with those who are lonely)* **Say:** *When others see our good deeds, it encourages them to do good deeds as well.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Random Acts of Kindness and complete the activity. Encourage him or her to share the responses with you.

### Art Exploration: Page 232

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Benedict and his sister Saint Scholastica.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the background and how people are dressed.
- ▶ **Say:** *Saints Benedict and Scholastica grew up to found monasteries and convents. They dedicated their lives to God.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 232. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first three paragraphs. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Under Saint Benedict's direction, his twin sister founded a convent. From their followers came many more monasteries, convents, and schools.* **Ask:** *Why was Saint Benedict's work like planting a mustard seed? (The small seed of his monastery sprouted many branches.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What's Your Motto? Give your child time to think about what his or her personal motto might be and then complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud Did You Know? **Say:** *Benedictions, or blessings, are signs, or sacramentals, of God's love reaching us through the actions of the Church.*
- ▶ Tell your child to imagine he or she has an animal friend, like Saint Benedict's raven, who could watch over him or her and warn of danger. Ask your child to sculpt this animal out of modeling clay and think of a story in which the animal helps him or her. Encourage your child to share the story and clay animal with family members.

### Reflect: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Together look at page 36. **Ask:** *How is the boy in the picture aware of the presence of God in his life?* Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Have your child find a comfortable position as you read aloud the first three paragraphs. After each question, give your child time to reflect. Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask your child to think of what he or she can do to serve God's kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud Yeast Is Like the Mustard Seed on page 37. **Say:** *When dough is baked without yeast, the bread is flat. But if we add a little yeast to the dough, it rises and bakes into a bread loaf that is much larger than before it was baked.* **Ask:** *How does this story help us understand how to serve the Kingdom of God? (Each little thing that we do for others helps us serve the Kingdom of God.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Can You Be Like Yeast? Give your child time to write his or her ideas. Invite your child to share his or her response with you. Encourage your child to do the one small thing he or she wrote about.

### Respond: Page 38

- ▶ 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 do small things to help others.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

## Following Jesus

### Engage: Page 39

- ▶ Ask your child think of a person who is very important to him or her. Have your child write the person's name on a sheet of paper. **Say:** *Think of words that tell why you trust this person. The words should start with the letters of the person's name.* Have your child share his or her "trustworthy" word picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What are these children doing? (helping one another cross the stream) Why do you trust Jesus? (He loved others and always did what was right.)*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of other people he or she trusts, along with Jesus. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 40–41

- ▶ Ask your child to name some favorite personal objects. **Ask:** *How would you feel if you had to give these objects away?*
- ▶ Read aloud page 40. **Ask:** *What was more important for the young man—keeping his money or following Jesus? (keeping his money) What do you think the young man will do next?* Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs on page 41. **Ask:** *What does it mean to sin? (to make a choice that hurts our friendship with God and with other people) Who gives us the grace to turn back to God? (the Holy Spirit)* **Say:** *Conversion means "change." It is a change of heart that directs us away from sin and toward God.* Have your child read aloud the third paragraph and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we offer the Sign of Peace, we recognize those around us as brothers and sisters of Jesus.*

### Art Exploration: Page 233

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of someone praying.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the background and how he or she knows the person is praying.
- ▶ **Say:** *Following the Ten Commandments helps us stay close to God. There are also many places and times that we can feel close to God.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 233. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Showing Our Love. **Say:** *When we are close to God, we show our faith by our actions.* **Ask:** *What are some ways that faith is shown through actions?* (follow the Ten Commandments, pray often, keep an open heart, be ready to help)
- ▶ Read aloud Paying Attention and have your child read aloud each situation. Have him or her consider the situations and circle the answer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Take a moment to think of the people and things you treasure most. If you share your treasure with others, your love will spread.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about when and where he or she likes to pray. Ask him or her to draw or paint a picture of this place. Encourage your child to express why he or she chose that spot.

### Reflect: Pages 42–43

- ▶ Together look at page 42. **Ask:** *What sounds do you think you might hear if you were in the place shown in the picture?* Remind your child that silence is welcome during prayer so that God can speak to your child's heart.
- ▶ Softly and slowly read aloud the reflection. Pause at the end to allow your child to answer the questions silently. Close the reflection time by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Obey the Ten Commandments on page 43. **Say:** *By following Jesus' example, you are taking the next step in being a good Christian.*
- ▶ Read aloud What I Want and What I Need and have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to give reasons for the choices.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *What can our family do to feed people who are hungry?*

### Respond: Page 44

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

## Jesus Gathers Disciples

### Engage: Page 45

- ▶ **Ask:** *How do friends show they care for each other?* Discuss ways you both have shown that you care for your friends. Have your child make a card out of construction paper for a friend he or she is thankful for.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What are these children doing?* (picking up litter) **Say:** *The way Jesus cared for and loved others shows us how we should treat friends. In this session we will learn that Jesus wants us to know that we can accomplish much when we work together.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of other friends he or she would like to send thank-you cards to. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 46–47

- ▶ Discuss what it is like to go fishing. **Say:** *Sometimes you catch a few fish, and sometimes you don't catch anything.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 46. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *The Gospel tells us the Good News about God's mercy and love, as well as stories of Jesus' life and teachings. These stories are in four books in the New Testament. The books are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.* **Ask:** *What is an apostle?* (a special friend of Jesus') Read aloud the rest of page 46. **Ask:** *Why might it be hard for Peter to trust Jesus?* (He did not know Jesus.) *Why did Peter tell Jesus to leave him?* (He felt he was not good enough to be a follower of Jesus')
- ▶ Read aloud page 47. **Ask:** *What does it mean that Jesus accepted Peter as he was?* (Jesus knew Peter was trying his best to be a good person.) **Say:** *Jesus knows we aren't perfect, but he accepts us the way we are.*
- ▶ **Say:** *In the early years of the Church, Christians used the shape of a fish as a symbol of their faith.* Have your child make a fish out of a 12-inch craft stem. Tell him or her to bend the stem in half and twist it together near the end to make a tail. Pull the middle apart to resemble a fish. Have your child hang the fish in his or her room.

### Art Exploration: Page 234

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the apostles and the disciples spreading God's Word.

- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of the speakers and the crowd.
- ▶ **Say:** *All of us can be disciples by proclaiming God's message and by doing good deeds to serve the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 234. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first two paragraphs. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *Whom did Jesus choose to proclaim God's kingdom? (Peter, the other apostles, and the disciples) Who helps do Jesus' work now? (priests, nuns, deacons, family members)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Lean on Me and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The pope is the head of the Church. He follows in Saint Peter's footsteps.*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw a picture of a present-day disciple. Explain that it could be a priest, teacher, godparent, or even himself or herself. Then ask him or her to write a sentence or two explaining how the person in the picture is a disciple.

### Reflect: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Together look at page 48. **Say:** *Imagine you are the girl in the picture. Use your senses to describe what she sees, hears, feels, and smells.*
- ▶ **Say:** *When we quiet ourselves for prayer, we can listen for Jesus' call and respond to him in our hearts.* Read aloud the reflection and ask your child to imagine the scenes. Pause after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Close by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 49. **Say:** *Jesus knew that he could accomplish more with the help of his friends, the apostles.* Ask your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Why did Jesus need more workers? (It takes many people to accomplish a big job.)*

### Respond: Page 50

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

## Jesus Dies and Rises

### Engage: Page 51

- ▶ Invite your child to trace around his or her hand on a sheet of paper and cut it out. On each finger have your child write a word that tells how to show love. (hugging, giving, sharing, comforting) **Say:** *Our actions show our love for others.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *How does the girl show she cares? (by being gentle and caring to the lamb)* **Say:** *Jesus proclaimed his love for us in a very special way. In this session we will learn about how Jesus proclaimed his love for us.*
- ▶ Invite your child to try each of the suggestions on his or her "hand" this week as a way to show love to others. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 52–53

- ▶ Together recall times each of you has wanted to proclaim good news about something that happened. Explain that *proclaim* means "to announce publicly."
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs on page 52. **Say:** *The term Paschal Mystery describes how Jesus saved us through his life, Death, and Resurrection.* Point to the picture. **Ask:** *What does the cross represent? (Jesus' Death) How does Jesus share his life with us? (He sent us the Holy Spirit.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does Jesus mean when he says that if we believe in him, we will never die? (If we are faithful to God and serve others, we will live with Jesus in Heaven forever.)*
- ▶ Read aloud We Believe in the Paschal Mystery on page 53. **Say:** *This states our belief in God the Creator; his Son, Jesus Christ; and the power of the Holy Spirit. Each sentence describes part of the Paschal Mystery. We proclaim our belief in the Paschal Mystery when we pray the Apostles' Creed.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *This summarizes the basic meaning of the Paschal Mystery.*

### Art Exploration: Page 235

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Paul with his letters that helped spread God's Word.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Saint Paul is holding.

- ▶ **Say:** *Christ died for our sins and three days later rose from the dead. If we believe this, we will be saved.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 235. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Read aloud the scroll and the last paragraph. **Ask:** *What was Saint Paul worried about? (that people had forgotten what he had told them about Jesus' Death and Resurrection) Why did Jesus die? (because he loved us and wanted us to know and love God)*
- ▶ Read aloud *What Would You Say?* and have your child complete the activity. Discuss other things you want people to know about Jesus.
- ▶ Give your child a brown paper bag and invite him or her to draw a map showing Paul's travels. Provide a map and give your child time to review other maps online for reference. When the map is finished, crumple the bag to give it an "ancient" look.

### Reflect: Pages 54–55

- ▶ Together look at page 54. **Say:** *The cross in the picture serves as a symbol of the Paschal Mystery.* Remind your child that when we pray the Apostles' Creed, we are affirming the basic truths of our faith.
- ▶ Together pray the first part of the Creed. Then read aloud the first paragraph on page 54. Pray aloud the new part of the Creed together. Read aloud the last paragraph. Give your child time to reflect and then close by praying together *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first three paragraphs on page 55. **Ask:** *What happens to a caterpillar in the chrysalis? (It turns into a butterfly.)* **Say:** *After waiting in its chrysalis, the butterfly rises up to an even more beautiful life, just as Jesus did on Easter. When we see a butterfly, it reminds us of Jesus and his new life after he rose from the dead. The butterfly is a symbol of Jesus' Resurrection.* Read aloud *Color the Butterfly*. Give your child crayons or markers to color the butterfly.

### Respond: Page 56

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

## ***Celebrating Advent***

### **Engage: Page 57**

- ▶ Together with your child, share family memories of past Advent seasons you have celebrated.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text on page 57. Discuss the pictures. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate the season of Advent on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Advent—the time of year when we pray and prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Advent by thinking of a special way to show love for his or her family on each Sunday before Christmas. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Page 58**

- ▶ Together recall symbols of Advent that your family displays, such as the figures in a Nativity scene or an Advent calendar. **Say:** *Families have their own ways of preparing during Advent.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Prepare During Advent. **Ask:** *How can we open our hearts to make room for Jesus? (by helping others) How were Mary and Joseph faithful to God? (Mary agreed to become the mother of Jesus. Joseph agreed to marry Mary and become the foster father of Jesus.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Prepare, We Remember and complete the activity. Help your child complete the third sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus' birth was a sign to the world that God loves us. The story of his birth is told each year at Christmas Mass.*

### **Reflect: Page 59**

- ▶ Together sing or read aloud the lyrics to "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." **Say:** *God sent his Son, Jesus, to show us how to live and to save us from our sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent and What We Experience on page 59. **Ask:** *What are some items that you see in our church during Advent? (evergreen trees, poinsettias, tree with tags of children's names so that parishioners can purchase gifts) What is the color of the priest's vestments or altar cloth during Advent? (purple)*
- ▶ Have your child complete the My Advent Hymn activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *Why is the arrival of Jesus so important? (It shows God's love for us.)*

### Art Exploration: Page 236

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a family preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *While we wait for the anniversary of Jesus' birth, we work to fill our hearts and actions with God's love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 236. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Advent. **Ask:** *What does Advent prepare us for?* (the anniversary of Jesus' birth, Christmas)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Family Traditions. Discuss your own traditions as your child completes the activity.
- ▶ Together with your child play a memory game. **Say:** *I'm preparing myself during Advent, and I'm going to . . .* (make an Advent wreath, go to church, pray the Rosary) Take turns saying the sentence starter and then complete it with your idea. Each time you say the sentence starter, repeat the ideas mentioned prior to your new idea until your list gets too long to remember. See how many ideas you and your child can come up with.

### Respond: Page 60

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can put someone else's needs first.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

Write the word *mission* on a sheet of paper. **Ask:** *What is a mission?* (a job or goal to achieve) **Say:** *In Unit 2 we learned that Jesus sent his apostles and disciples on a mission. What was the mission?* (to proclaim God's Word and to continue the work of Jesus Christ) Read aloud the unit title on page 61.

**Say:** *Since then, many members of the Church have accepted a mission to continue the work for Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. In this unit we will learn more about the Catholic Church and its gifts, as well as about important leaders of the Church.*

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture. **Say:** *Katharine Drexel accepted a mission from the pope to serve the Kingdom of God.* Have your child read aloud the text. **Say:** *People who go places to help people and tell about God are missionaries.*

Turn to page 62 and point out the picture. Have your child read aloud the first three paragraphs. **Say:** *Katharine Drexel continued the work of Jesus Christ through her generosity to Native American and African American people.*

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Ask:** *What group did she organize to help others?* (Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) *What is Jesus' mission for you?* (be generous and kind, help and respect others, obey your parents, share God's love)

With your child add Saint Katharine's feast day, March 3, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the generosity of Saint Katharine Drexel.

## *Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit*

### **Engage: Page 63**

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine that today is your birthday and that we are throwing you a big party. How do you feel? (excited, loved) What other kinds of events make you feel this way?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Ask:** *What is a disciple? (a person who is a follower of Jesus')* **Say:** *The disciples were excited when the Holy Spirit visited them. In this session we will learn how the Holy Spirit is part of our lives.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how the Holy Spirit helps him or her. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Pages 64–65**

- ▶ Place a fan in front of your child. Turn it on its highest setting for a few seconds. **Say:** *There was a strong wind when the Holy Spirit first visited the disciples.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 64. **Ask:** *What amazed the crowd about the disciples? (The crowd spoke different languages, but each person could understand everything the disciples said.)* Point out the picture. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit was making it possible for the disciples to reach all people with God's message.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Accepting Jesus' Mission on page 65. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Every Christian has a duty to give witness to the Good News about Jesus, which is that he loves us and wants us to love God and one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Holy Spirit Builds the Church. **Ask:** *How does the Holy Spirit continue to build the Church today? (by giving us the strength to spread God's Word)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus' Mission in Our Lives and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *On Pentecost Sunday, priests wear red vestments in memory of the tongues of fire at the first Pentecost.*

### **Art Exploration: Page 237**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a dove representing the Holy Spirit.

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting.
- ▶ **Say:** *Sometimes we feel closest to God and the Holy Spirit when we are with God's wonderful creations in nature.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 237. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Holy Spirit Is with Us*. **Ask:** *What does the Holy Spirit help us do?* (to live prayerful lives and to guide us on our journey to Heaven) Give your child time to complete the sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud *Doves*. **Ask:** *What does a dove remind you of?* (peace, hope, forgiveness, inspiration, the presence of the Holy Spirit) Have your child complete the activity and invite him or her to share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. **Say:** *A shrine is a place that is set aside for people to visit because it is associated with a special person or event.*
- ▶ Remind your child that a dove is often used to represent the Holy Spirit. Before taking a walking tour around your home, hide several doves made out of white paper inside or outside. Give your child time to see if he or she can find the hidden doves. Remind him or her that the Holy Spirit is always with us.

### Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Ask:** *How does the mother in the picture comfort her daughter?* **Say:** *We open our hearts to the Holy Spirit so our actions show the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ Have your child get comfortable as you read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to pray aloud the prayer with you. Read aloud the last sentence and give your child time to reflect. Lead him or her in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit* on page 67. **Ask:** *What happens when we let the Holy Spirit guide our actions?* (We see the results of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Spirit in Our Actions*. Give your child time to complete the activity and invite him or her to share the sentences with you.

### Respond: Page 68

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

## The Catholic Church

### Engage: Page 69

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are important jobs to have in our neighborhood? (teachers, crossing guards, police officers, firefighters) Why are these jobs important to our community?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Say:** *This family is a member of both the community they live in and of the Catholic Church, their church community. In this session we will learn that a church is not just a building. The word Church describes our community as we gather to pray and praise God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of things to do in your Church community. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 70–71

- ▶ **Ask:** *What does a coach do? (helps train and support the team and serves as a leader)*
- ▶ Read aloud *Serving the World in God's Name* on page 70. **Say:** *It takes many people to lead the Church. Ask: Who is the Vicar of Christ? (the pope)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Leading the Church*. Help your child fill in the names of your parish, pastor, bishop, and pope.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Why did Jesus tell Peter to feed his sheep? (He wanted Peter to take care of his followers.)*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud *Our Holy Catholic Church* on page 71 with your child. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Name some keywords for each of the Marks. (one: one faith, one life; holy: Body of Christ, sacraments; catholic: accepts everyone, universal; apostolic: apostles, Church leaders)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *We pray for the Church, its leaders, and others during the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass.*

### Art Exploration: Page 238

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Peter.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the objects shown in the artwork.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus told Peter he was the rock on which Jesus would build his Church and that Jesus would give Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 238. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Peter and the Church. **Ask:** *To what object did Jesus compare Peter? (a rock) What will Jesus give Peter? (keys to the Kingdom of Heaven)*
- ▶ Read aloud Symbols of Peter and have your child complete the sentences. Share your own responses to the questions.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *When we look at a rock, we can think of how Jesus chose Peter to be the foundation on which to build the Church.*
- ▶ Invite your child to make a key out of modeling clay that hardens. While the clay is still moist, make a hole with a pencil. Then have your child thread string through the hole to hang the key. Tell your child to keep the key as a symbol of faith.

### Reflect: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Together look at page 72. **Say:** *The boy in the picture looks happy and calm.* Tell your child to focus on his or her breathing before praying.
- ▶ Remind your child that you have been learning the parts of the Apostles' Creed together. Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Repeat each line of the last part of the Apostles' Creed after me.* Then invite your child to pray the entire Creed with you. Read aloud the last paragraph pausing, after each sentence. Allow time for your child to talk to Jesus silently and then pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 73. Read aloud the words in the box and have your child answer the questions. Read aloud the directions at the bottom of the page. Ask your child to share his or her answer with you.

### Respond: Page 74

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

## The Church Prays

### Engage: Page 75

- ▶ Show your child pictures of signs that do not have words on them, such as a railroad-crossing sign or a poison sign. Together identify the meaning of the signs. **Say:** *These signs give us directions and protect us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point to the picture. **Say:** *Like the stop sign, God's signs give direction and send important messages to us. In this session we will learn more about God's messages.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about signs that God gives us. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ **Ask:** *When you go to Mass, who is there with you? (family, friends, the priest, Jesus)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is Present in the Sacraments on page 76. **Ask:** *What do the sacraments do for us? (They help us grow in faith and live as God wants.)*
- ▶ Call attention to the picture of the child receiving Holy Communion at the top of the page. Focus the discussion on how your child felt on the day of his or her First Holy Communion. Ask your child to read aloud My First Holy Communion and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs on page 77. **Ask:** *What is grace? (the gift of God that fills us with God's life and makes us his friends)* **Say:** *Both objects and actions can be sacramental.* **Ask:** *What action is a sacramental? (a blessing)* **Say:** *A blessing is a prayer that calls upon God to care for a person, a place, a thing, or an activity.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Sacramental at Your House and have your child write his or her description. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Sacramental help prepare us to receive the grace of the sacraments.*

### Art Exploration: Page 239

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus healing the servant through the Roman officer's faith.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of Jesus and the soldier.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus Christ reaches out to all people.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 239. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage. **Ask:** *Why did Jesus heal the man's servant?* (Jesus was impressed by the man's faith, and he wanted to show that his mission was to all people.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the last paragraph and complete the activity. Discuss the ideas that your child has written, such as sharing, kind words, and helping others.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, we ask for God's healing grace.*
- ▶ Provide art supplies for your child. **Say:** *The picture does not show the servant because Jesus is healing him from a distance.* Invite your child to imagine he or she is present when the servant realizes he is well again. Encourage your child to draw the scene.

### Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Say:** *It is important to feel comfortable as you prepare to pray. Let's relax our neck, shoulders, arms, and legs. Let's close our eyes and take three deep breaths.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs in a reverent tone, pausing after the questions. Read aloud the last paragraph. Pause so that your child has time to talk to Jesus. Lead your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 79. Have your child complete the sentences and fill in the puzzle. Together unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence next to the puzzle.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does Jesus' answer mean to you?* (When we are helping people, Jesus is working through us. The Kingdom of God is among us.)

### Respond: Page 80

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

## Mary Is Holy

### Engage: Page 81

- ▶ Write the word *mother* vertically down the side of a sheet of paper. Together think of words and phrases beginning with each letter that describe why mothers are special.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *We are going to talk about a mother whom everyone shares.* **Ask:** *Who is she? (Mary)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about how Mary was blessed by God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to transfer the words about mothers from your paper to a large poster board to display in your home. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Together find images of Mary in books and online. **Ask:** *Where else can we see images of Mary? (statue in church, statue or painting in a museum, on Mass cards)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Church Celebrates Mary and We Are All One* on page 82. **Say:** *Mary is an excellent example of what it means to be a saint because she devoted her life to serving God.* **Ask:** *How can we be like Mary? (trust in God always, care for others, listen to God)* **Say:** *When we pray together as the Church, we become one body with those who have already died.* **Ask:** *What is one word to describe the Communion of Saints? (togetherness, one, united)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *In 1846 the U. S. bishops placed our country under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate her Immaculate Conception on December 8.*
- ▶ Read aloud *We Pray the Rosary* on page 83 and point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *We just finished learning the last part of the Apostle's Creed, so you now know all the prayers used for the Rosary.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The Rosary is such an important prayer that the Church encourages us to pray it. October 7 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.*

### Art Exploration: Page 240

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary receiving good news from an angel about God's blessing.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how Mary feels about the angel.
- ▶ **Say:** *God called Mary to be the mother of his Son, of the Church, and all of God's children*

- ▶
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 240. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Mary, Full of Grace*. **Ask:** *What did Gabriel say to Mary? (that she was going to have a baby) How did Mary react? (happy, excited, felt blessed)*
- ▶ Read aloud *Mary As Our Mother* and have your child complete the activity. Together discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Why did Elizabeth say that Mary was blessed? (Because Mary trusted in God, he gave her his most precious gift of all—his Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about what it would be like to visit a mother and her new baby. **Ask:** *What would you say and do? Would you ask to hold the baby, help with chores, bring food, ask questions?* Role-play visiting Mary and baby Jesus, improvising a conversation with her.

### Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Say:** *As you pray each Hail Mary, think about one of the five Joyful Mysteries and its importance in the lives of Mary and Jesus.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Try to picture each event I describe.* Invite your child to close his or her eyes as you read aloud each description of the Joyful Mysteries, pausing between each one. Read aloud the last paragraph and give your child time to reflect. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Mary's Song of Praise* on page 85. **Ask:** *Why were Mary and Elizabeth so happy? (They were going to have very special children.) Who were these children? (Jesus and John the Baptist)* **Say:** *Mary prayed the Magnificat to praise God for the great things he had done for her.*
- ▶ Read aloud *I'm Thankful for...* Give your child time to reflect before he or she makes the list.

### Respond: Page 86

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show love for Mary and follow her example of faith and love.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the *With My Family* suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

## ***Celebrating Christmas***

### **Engage: Page 87**

- ▶ Play or sing a song about the birth of Jesus, such as "Silent Night." **Ask:** *What is this song about?* (the birth of Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *When does the Christmas season begin?* (at the celebration of Mass on Christmas Eve) *When does it end?* (at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord) *Who are the Magi?* (the three Wise Men) **Say:** *In this session we will learn about how Christmas is the time of year when we celebrate Jesus' birth and learn how we can be more like Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to listen to the words of a Christmas carol about Jesus' birth that you have never heard before. **Ask:** *How does this song help prepare you for Christmas?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Page 88**

- ▶ Discuss how your family celebrates Christmas with other people in your family or with your neighborhood. **Ask:** *What are some of our Christmas traditions?*
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate During Christmas. **Ask:** *How is celebrating the Eucharist different on Christmas than on any other Sunday?* (We are celebrating Jesus and his birth on Christmas.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Christmas Morning and complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the sentences with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *How has what was foretold in the Book of Micah been fulfilled in the birth of Jesus?* (Jesus has come to be a leader of the people.)

### **Reflect: Page 89**

- ▶ Look at pictures of two different Nativity scenes and discuss how they are the same and how they are different. **Say:** *All Nativity scenes have the same essential pieces: Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. **Ask:** *What is the Hebrew meaning for Bethlehem?* (house of bread) *Who is the Bread of Life?* (Jesus) *As the Bread of Life, what does Jesus come to bring to all who hunger?* (bread)
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Discuss the symbols of Christmas that your child might see at Mass, such as a Nativity scene, evergreens, lights, and the color white. Then invite your child to read aloud Your Nativity Scene and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The modern word Christmas comes from the Old English word Cristes Maesse, meaning "Mass of Christ."*

### Art Exploration: Page 241

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the night Jesus was born.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the expression on the people's faces.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we celebrate Christmas, it reminds us of how much God loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 241. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Christmas. **Ask:** *What does the Feast of the Epiphany celebrate?* (When the Wise Men visited Jesus, he was revealed to the whole world.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Gift of Jesus. **Ask:** *What do you think the Scripture reading means?* (that God and love are the same)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Gift for Baby Jesus. Give him or her time to draw the picture. Ask your child to explain the gift he or she chose for Jesus.
- ▶ Play a Christmas song, such as "O Come All Ye Faithful," which expresses the joy of Jesus' birth. Together sing along. Play other favorite Christmas carols and discuss the lyrics.

### Respond: Page 90

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can help people in your community who are in need.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



# Sacraments, Our Way of Life

## Begin

Together write a letter to a family member who lives far away. Have your child include sentences about what he or she has learned about God, Jesus, and the Church. Read aloud the unit title on page 91. **Say:** *In this unit we will learn more about sacraments that help us love and forgive others.*

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture and read aloud the text.

**Ask:** *What do we call someone who travels to spread the faith? (a missionary)* **Say:** *We will learn about the missionary Saint Paul, his travels, and the letters he wrote.*

Turn to page 92 and point out the picture. **Say:** *This picture shows Saint Paul preaching.*

Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *How did Paul know Jesus was calling him? (A light blinded him. He heard Jesus' voice.)*

Have your child read aloud the last paragraph. Point out the map. **Say:** *This map shows where Paul traveled. During his travels Paul started churches, preached to people, and wrote letters.* **Ask:** *Where can we find Paul's letters? (in the Bible) Point out Paul's letters to the Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, and Romans.*

With your child add Paul's feast day, June 29, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the writings of Saint Paul the Apostle.

## ***Sacraments of Initiation***

### **Engage: Page 93**

- ▶ Together with your child, look up online how to say *welcome* in different languages. Make a colorful *Welcome to Our Home* poster using all of your “welcome” words.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child’s responses. **Say:** *When we become new members of a group, we usually go through an initiation.* **Ask:** *What is an initiation?* (an introduction to a group) **Say:** *In this session we will learn that through the Sacraments of Initiation, we are welcomed into the Church as children of God.*
- ▶ **Ask:** *When we welcome someone, what are we telling him or her?* (that we care, accept, and are happy to have him or her with us) Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Pages 94–95**

- ▶ Discuss groups to which you both belong. **Ask:** *Did the group have a special ceremony or activity to welcome you when you first joined?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *We Belong* on page 94. **Ask:** *How do we begin our lives as the People of God?* (We are baptized.)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature. **Say:** *During the Easter Vigil, people who have prepared to become Catholics celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.*
- ▶ Read aloud *Christian Initiation* on page 95. **Ask:** *What do we begin in Baptism?* (a new life in Jesus Christ) *Who strengthens us in Confirmation?* (the Holy Spirit) *What do we receive in the Eucharist?* (the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Reading God’s Word* feature. **Say:** *It is through the Sacraments of Initiation that we become one with God and with the Church.*

### **Art Exploration: Page 242**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Philip welcoming the court official to the Church through Baptism.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and what Philip is doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *The disciple Philip continues Jesus’ mission.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 242. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Philip and the Court Official. **Ask:** *How was Jesus denied justice? (He was an innocent man who was punished and killed.)* **Say:** *The man asked to be baptized because he understood that Jesus died for us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Welcome to the Church. Give your child time to complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine this scene happening today. **Ask:** *Where could a similar scene happen? (bus, train, car)* **Say:** *Philip and the official might be wearing suits. The Baptism could take place in a park.* Give your child time to imagine. Then invite him or her to pray: *God, help me see everyone I meet as one with you.*

### Reflect: Pages 96–97

- ▶ Together look at page 96. **Say:** *The girl in the picture looks happy because she believes in God. Let's fold our hands in a prayerful position to prepare to pray.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Respond with the words "I do" as I ask each question.* Ask the three questions, pausing after each one so that your child can reply. Read aloud the last paragraph. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Sacraments in My Life on page 97. After he or she completes this section, go over the answers.
- ▶ Read aloud Remembering a Special Day. Recall events with your child before he or she begins the drawing.

### Respond: Page 98

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

## ***Celebrating Reconciliation***

### **Engage: Page 99**

- ▶ Wear a bandage and ask: *What does a bandage do? (helps a wound heal) What kind of hurt has nothing to do with our bodies? (hurt feelings)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Say:** *These people are sharing reconciliation, which happens when you forgive someone and let go of bad feelings after arguing. Hugs and apologies are like forgiveness bandages. In this session we'll read about forgiveness.*
- ▶ Ask your child to decorate a bandage and wear it as a reminder to offer someone his or her forgiveness. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Pages 100–101**

- ▶ Share a sign of peace with your child. **Say:** *We exchange this sign of peace to share with each other the peace that Jesus shares with us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 100. **Ask:** *When do we receive the gifts of peace and forgiveness? (in the Sacrament of Reconciliation)*
- ▶ Read aloud The Peace of Forgiveness on page 101. **Ask:** *When we totally reject God, what kind of sin do we commit? (mortal sin) What are less serious sins called? (venial sins)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus' Words of Forgiveness and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *When do we share the Sign of Peace at Mass? (after praying the Lord's Prayer and before we receive Holy Communion)*

### **Art Exploration: Page 243**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a group of people happy to be with one another.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors and emotion.
- ▶ **Say:** *Forgiving people can be hard, but being a member of God's family means sometimes making hard choices.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 243. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Peaceful Ending. **Ask:** *What gives us a feeling of peace? (when we confess our sins and receive forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation)*

- ▶ Read aloud Forgiveness. **Ask:** *What did you do to bring about a peaceful ending? Was it difficult?* Give your child time to write about his or her experience and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This psalm expresses how God wants to give peace and forgiveness to his people. We receive both when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Brainstorm various peace symbols. Give your child art supplies to make a bumper sticker using one of these symbols. Have your child fold a sheet of drawing paper in half to make a long rectangle. Ask him or her to write the message neatly and then illustrate the bumper sticker. Display the "sticker" in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Together look at page 102. **Say:** *The boys in the picture are showing that they care about each other. They are being like Jesus and following in his footsteps.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Lead your child in praying the Act of Contrition. Spend time in silence, thanking Jesus for his gift of forgiveness. Then pray together *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Bringing Peace to Others on page 103. **Ask:** *How do you feel when someone you've hurt forgives you?* (happy, peaceful)
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the situations presented in Choose Peace. Guide your child to see which choice brings peace to both people. **Say:** *Remember that God wants us to forgive everyone, whether or not the person asks for our forgiveness.*

### Respond: Page 104

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

## ***Celebrating the Eucharist***

### **Engage: Page 105**

- ▶ Discuss your favorite family dinners. **Ask:** *Who is there? What do we like to eat? What do we talk about?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *The meal we share with our parish family is called the celebration of the Eucharist. In this session we will learn about a special meal that we share with our parish family and why building a strong community is so important.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she celebrates Sunday (the Lord's Day) with your family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Pages 106–107**

- ▶ Look at the picture on page 106. **Ask:** *What very special meal does this show? (the Last Supper) Who is seated with Jesus? (the apostles)*
- ▶ Read aloud Do This and Remember Me and point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *During Mass the priest prays these words during the consecration of the bread and wine.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does this passage mean to you? (Jesus gives us himself in the form of bread; he is our nourishment; he gives us life.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Imitate Jesus on page 107. **Ask:** *How is Christ present with us at Mass? (He is in the people gathered, the priest, the Scripture readings, and the Eucharist.)* **Say:** *Worship is the adoration and praise we give to God. We celebrate the Eucharist regularly to worship God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we sing or say these words, we are praising God.*

### **Art Exploration: Page 244**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a child receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the child is wearing and doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we receive Holy Communion, we are one with Jesus. All Catholics are part of one big family.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 244. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Mass Makes Us One Family*. Discuss your experiences of attending Mass in other churches or countries.
- ▶ Read aloud *Your Special Day*. Allow time for your child to write about his or her First Holy Communion. Together look at photos of your child's First Holy Communion and share your memories of that day.
- ▶ Invite your child to collect pictures from magazines and newspapers of people sharing a meal at home, in church, or in restaurants. Have your child make a collage and write words that summarize his or her feelings about First Holy Communion, such as *family, Mass, Holy Communion, sharing, or Jesus*.

### Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **Say:** *We have read and talked about how Jesus gave himself to us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.* Take time to thank Jesus for the gift of himself.
- ▶ Have your child get comfortable. Read aloud each paragraph. Pause after each one so that your child can reflect. Pray together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *We Celebrate the Lord's Day* on page 109. **Say:** *Catholics all over the world celebrate the Mass on the Lord's Day in a similar way. We listen to the same readings in the Liturgy of the Word. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.*
- ▶ Read aloud *Days of Celebration*. **Say:** *An obligation means a duty to do something. As Catholics, it is our special duty to attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation, just as we do on Sundays.*
- ▶ Read aloud *Holy Days Matching* and have your child complete the activity. Check the answers together.

### Respond: Page 110

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

## **Christian Living**

### **Engage: Page 111**

- ▶ Pack a small bag with items from professions in which people help others, such as a hammer, a whistle, or a ruler. **Ask:** *How would people in our community use these things to help others?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Ask:** *What does Christian living mean to you? (following Jesus by helping people and doing good for others)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about ways that people use their gifts to serve the community.*
- ▶ Talk about people in your community who help you and your child every day. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Pages 112–113**

- ▶ Discuss the special talents shared by your family members. **Say:** *Each of us has received different gifts, and we are each called to share these gifts in different ways.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Call to Share Our Gifts on page 112 and point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What do we call our way of life, the way we are asked to live to share our gifts? (our vocation)* Discuss how the people in the pictures serve God and the Church.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Think about a gift you have received from God. Think about how you can use it to serve God and others.*
- ▶ Read aloud Sacrament of Matrimony on page 113. **Say:** *Matrimony is one of two sacraments that bless a vocation. It blesses those who choose to marry.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Your Vocation and share what his or her future vocation might be. Ask how this relates to his or her gifts and how your child might serve God and others.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Ask:** *What was Andrew Kim Taegon's vocation? (priest) What does his life show us? (how to be strong in answering God's call)*

### **Art Exploration: Page 245**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of someone helping prepare a meal.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what each child is doing.

- ▶ **Say:** *We are called upon to be helpful to our families and communities because we are all part of God's creation.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 245. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud *Many Gifts, One Spirit*. **Ask:** *What does Saint Paul say the Holy Spirit does for us? (gives us different gifts, helps us use our gifts to serve others) What are some ways we can bring joy to the work God gives us? (play music, work with friends, pray, sing, smile, be thankful)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Working Together* and complete the activity. Encourage him or her to share the responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature. **Say:** *Next time we go to Mass, pay close attention to see if you can hear the Dismissal of the Mass.*
- ▶ Ask your child to illustrate one of his or her responses in *Working Together*, using drawing paper, crayons, or markers. Display the artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Together look at page 114. **Ask:** *What gift does the boy in the picture share with others? (his music) Say:* *Remember to thank Jesus for your talents and for his guidance in using them to help others.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs, pausing after each question. Allow your child time to think about different vocations. Lead him or her in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud *What Will I Do?* on page 115.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Sharing Gifts and Talents with Others*. Help your child answer the questions. Ask him or her to read aloud the complete sentences.

### Respond: Page 116

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

## ***Celebrating Lent and Holy Week***

### **Engage: Page 117**

- ▶ Display a picture of a palm from a palm tree. **Ask:** *When do we see palms in our church? (on Palm Sunday)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** *What do we prepare for during Lent? (the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection at Easter) What do we remember during Holy Week? (Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection) Say:* *In this session we'll learn about Lent and Holy Week—a time of year when we learn how to be more like Jesus by helping others.*
- ▶ Together use a calendar to help you make a time line that shows Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Page 118**

- ▶ **Ask:** *What does it mean to “put yourself in someone else’s shoes”?* (imagine you are in someone else’s position, feeling or reacting how that person might to something that has happened) **Say:** *Lent is a time to be aware of other people’s situations.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Grow in Virtue During Lent and Holy Week and answer the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Almsgiving. Emphasize the importance of helping people in need of love, food, and shelter this Lent.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. **Ask:** *How can our family give to others this Lent?* Discuss your child’s ideas.

### **Reflect: Page 119**

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is a prayer of intercession?* (a prayer that asks God for help on behalf of another) **Say:** *Lent is a good time to pray prayers of intercession.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. **Say:** *During Lent we strive to think of others, not just ourselves. One way we can help others in need is to pray for them.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *What do you notice about decorations in church during Lent?* (The church is plain. There are no flowers. The priest wears purple vestments.)
- ▶ Read aloud Let Us Pray to the Lord and ask your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Many events in the Old and New Testaments contain the number 40. For example, Lent lasts for 40 days, the great flood lasted for 40 days, the people of Israel wandered the wilderness for 40 years, and Christ prayed in the desert for 40 days.*

### Art Exploration: Page 246

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus on the cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how it makes him or her feel.
- ▶ **Say:** *During Lent we remember Jesus' strength and suffering as we prepare our hearts for Easter.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 246. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus in the Desert. **Ask:** *How can we honor Jesus' sacrifice?* (fast, practice positive new habits, care for people who need help, pray, go to church, be grateful for Jesus, think about how we treat others) *What does it mean to fast?* (to eat less, to not eat, to stop doing something) **Say:** *The word fast can also mean "to hold tight." You can make a Lenten promise and try to hold tight to that promise. We are called to spend 40 days paying attention to how we treat others.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Lenten Promise. Ask your child to spend some time thinking of a meaningful Lenten promise and write about it. Invite him or her to share with you his or her idea for honoring Jesus during Lent.
- ▶ Give your child drawing paper, a paintbrush, and watercolor paints. Ask your child to paint Jesus in the desert as a reminder to keep the Lenten promise he or she wrote about. Encourage your child to keep his or her Lenten promise.

### Respond: Page 120

- ▶ 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 reach out to others by being a good listener.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



# Morality, Our Lived Faith

## Begin

**Say:** *I'll give you clues about a special family member. Call out her name when you know the person. She loves you even when you do something wrong. She prays that you will always love God.* (Possible answers: mother, grandmother, stepmother) Read aloud the unit title on page 121. *In this unit we will learn that God and Jesus are with us with every choice we make. The saint we will read about was also a mother.*

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture and read aloud the text. **Ask:** *Who was Saint Monica's son?* (Saint Augustine) *What was Monica's prayer for him?* (She wanted him to be baptized.)

Turn to page 122 and point out the pictures. Read aloud the first paragraph.

**Ask:** *How do we know that Saint Monica loved Jesus very much?* (She wanted her family to share in Jesus' love and prayed for her family members to be baptized.)

Have your child read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** *What are some ways Monica showed her love for Augustine?* (never stopped praying for him, continued to hope for his conversion) **Ask:** *How did God answer her prayers?* (Augustine was baptized and became a great bishop and teacher.)

Read aloud the third paragraph. **Say:** *Some people do not know about Jesus' never-ending love for them. Like Monica, we can pray for them.*

With your child add Monica's feast day, August 27, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the patience of Saint Monica.

## ***Faith, Hope, and Charity***

### **Engage: Page 123**

- ▶ Have your child trace his or her hand on construction paper and then cut out the paper hand. **Say:** *Let's think of a handful of ways you can help those in our parish or community.* Write an idea on each finger of the paper hand.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we will learn ways to follow the guidance that Jesus provides and to use God's gifts to lead good lives.*
- ▶ Choose one of the ideas on the paper hand and plan to do it together. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Pages 124–125**

- ▶ **Ask:** *How did Mary trust in God? (accepted God's invitation to be Jesus' mother) How did Joseph trust in God? (took care of Mary and Jesus)*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Saints Who Showed Hope in God on page 124 and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What does it mean to follow "the right path"?* (follow God's rule, live by Jesus' example, have faith in God) Talk about ways your family has helped your child follow Jesus. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. **Say:** *Saint Monica and Saint Augustine were good examples of the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Important Virtues on page 125. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What are three of the most important virtues?* (faith, hope, and charity)
- ▶ Read aloud A Person of Virtues. Have your child complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Saint Paul wrote this in a letter to his friends in Corinth, a city in southern Greece. He wanted them to know how important it is for Christians to love one another.*

### **Art Exploration: Page 247**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus and his heart, which is the symbol for the virtue of charity.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Jesus' pierced hands and the heart he is holding.
- ▶ **Say:** *Charity is how Jesus wants us to show our love for one another.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 247. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Symbols of the Virtues. **Say:** *Think about each virtue and how to make it present in your life.*
- ▶ Read aloud Matching Virtues. Allow time for your child to write his or her answers and then check them together.
- ▶ Using art supplies, have your child draw the symbol for the virtues of faith, hope, and charity and give the poster a title. Encourage your child to be creative and add details he or she thinks would enhance the poster. Display the poster in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 126–127

- ▶ Together look at page 126. **Say:** *The boy and his dog are enjoying a walk. During this peaceful walk, the boy might be saying a prayer of thanks. When you pray, stay calm by inhaling the strength of the Holy Spirit and exhaling any concerns.*
- ▶ Read aloud the reflection slowly and thoughtfully. Pause between sentences so that your child has time to thank God for his gifts.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud She Lived Like Jesus on page 127. **Say:** *On October 11, 2009, Jeanne Jugan was declared a saint.*
- ▶ Read aloud Living Like Saint Jeanne Jugan and have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to share the story behind the picture.

### Respond: Page 128

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

## Making Good Choices

### Engage: Page 129

- ▶ Display a variety of small, healthful treats. **Say:** *You get to choose what treat you would like. Then say: We make choices every day. This choice was easy, but some are difficult.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Making decisions is like deciding which path to take. In this session we will learn how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit help us make good moral choices.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about whom they might ask for advice when making a hard choice. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 130–131

- ▶ **Say:** *You made an easy choice when you picked your treat. Ask: Did your choice involve right or wrong? (No.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 130. **Ask:** *Who can help us examine our choices? (the Holy Spirit) Discuss how Ana's response corresponds to each question.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Saint Paul tells us that our words and actions reflect our willingness to follow Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 131. **Ask:** *What does it mean to follow the moral law? (do good and avoid evil) Say: God gave us these commandments to help us love others.*

### Art Exploration: Page 248

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus alone in the desert.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the gloomy colors and the body language of Jesus'.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Some decisions are difficult to make. Knowing we are loved by God always makes us feel better. God shows his love through our friends and family.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 248. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is Tempted. **Say:** *In making these choices, Jesus never doubted his Father's love.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Prayer of Petition and have your child write a prayer. Ask your child to share the prayer with you.

- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *What did Jesus teach us?* (to follow God's will, to resist temptation)
- ▶ Ask your child to think of a time that he or she was tempted to make a bad choice, but instead did the right thing. Have your child paint a self-portrait showing the struggle to make the choice or the feeling of relief for making a good choice. Display the artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Together look at page 132. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is on a morning walk. Remember that each day is a new gift from God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph softly and slowly. Invite your child to pray aloud the Morning Offering with you. Then read aloud the last paragraph slowly. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect. Together pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Follow the Commandments on page 133. **Say:** *When we face difficult choices, the commandments can help us with our decisions.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud And the Correct Commandment Is ... Remind your child to look back at page 131 or page 212 if he or she needs help remembering the numbers of the commandments. Check the answers together.

### Respond: Page 134

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

## Living as God's Children

### Engage: Page 135

- ▶ Together look through a family photo album. Recall happy times that your family has spent with one another.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *How can you tell the people in this family are enjoying themselves? (They are laughing.)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn more about living as God's children.*
- ▶ Together plan a family get-together for the near future. Think about an activity that will make everyone in your family happy. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ Display a greeting card. **Ask:** *When do you send cards? (for birthdays, when someone is sick, to congratulate) Why do you give cards? (to show you care)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Call to Care on page 136. **Ask:** *What is another word for justice? (fairness)*
- ▶ Read aloud My Letter of Thanks. After your child completes the letter, invite him or her to share it with you.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint Louise de Marillac Cared on page 137. **Ask:** *What do the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul do? (work in orphanages, hospitals, and schools)* **Say:** *Louise de Marillac is an example of how the smallest effort spreads God's love to many people.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *A burden is something that is difficult to carry. When we help people with their problems, we are sharing their burdens.*

### Art Exploration: Page 249

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Paul.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors and the halo around Saint Paul's head.
- ▶ **Say:** *Paul was happy when he saw how his Church family grew in its faith.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 249. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage of Saint Paul's Joy. **Ask:** *How did Paul's friends know he loved them? (He wrote them letters.)* **Say:** *Paul started churches in many places. He stayed close to his Church family, just as we are close to those we love.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Check the Sunday Connection at [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com) to find a Second Reading from Paul for an upcoming Sunday.
- ▶ Give your child a cross that is cut from construction paper. In advance cut out two-inch pieces of its interior, allowing the paper to serve as "lead" for a stained-glass window. Ask your child to cut and tape colored cellophane behind the cross, making a faux stained-glass picture to hang in one of your windows.

### Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Say:** *These are photos from one family. We can show our love for our family members by holding each of them in our hearts as we pray. We can look at them with Jesus' eyes of love, and we can ask Jesus to bless them.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph slowly, pausing for a few seconds between sentences so that your child can reflect on your family. Continue with the second and third paragraphs. Pause for personal reflection. Lead your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 139. **Say:** *When we work together with family members, we show one another that we care. By sharing the work, we help bring peace to our families. Work through each situation together, coming up with ways your child could help in each situation.*

### Respond: Page 140

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

## *All Life Is Sacred*

### **Engage: Page 141**

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you remember about our study of God's creation? (God created the world out of love for us; all of God's creation is good; we know God through his creation.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Imagine how much God loves us to entrust his world to our care. All life is sacred. We can show how much we care for God's gifts by helping and respecting others. In this session we will learn more about God's creation.*
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine he or she is outside. **Ask:** *What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel and smell?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Pages 142–143**

- ▶ **Ask:** *How did Saint Louise de Marillac show her love for others? (helped Saint Vincent DePaul work with people who were poor, helped found an order of sisters to work with people who were poor)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Life of Caring on page 142. **Say:** *Frederic and his friends proved that they could make a difference in the world.* **Ask:** *What parables have we read about small acts of love reaching many people? (parables about the mustard seed and yeast)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God's love lives in all of us. Praise God by sharing that love with others.*
- ▶ Read aloud Treat Others with Respect on page 143 and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *Why are all people important? (God makes us sacred from the first moment of life.)* **Say:** *Every choice we make affects other people.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Make Choices That Show Respect and complete each sentence. Discuss his or her responses.

### **Art Exploration: Page 250**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people sharing God's creation and helping one another.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of the people and the mood of the picture.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus calls us to share with one another in any way we can.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 250. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud *Small Acts Make a Big Difference*. **Ask:** *When we have a large task in front of us, what are ways to accomplish it?* (begin with a small step, work with others)
- ▶ Read aloud *Small Steps and Teamwork*. Have your child complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Together with your child, trace around one of your feet on a sheet of construction paper. **Say:** *Inside your footprint write a way in which you can take a step toward making a better world.* Cut out your footprints and decorate them. Make a path of footprints in your home. Write a shared goal at the end of the path. Invite other family members to add footprints to the path.

### Reflect: Pages 144–145

- ▶ Together look at page 144. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is at her school. We are blessed to be able to go to school and learn about the world around us, God's creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph slowly and reverently. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on God and his creation. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud *Praise for God's Creation* on page 145. **Say:** *We have said that God must love us very much to entrust the care of his world to us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Parts of Creation*. Give your child time to complete the activity. Encourage him or her to think of other plants and animals not pictured on the page for each letter.

### Respond: Page 146

- ▶ 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 brighten the day of someone who is sick.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the *With My Family* suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.

## ***Celebrating Easter***

### **Engage: Page 147**

- ▶ Display Easter symbols such as a decorated egg, lilies, or a picture of a lamb.  
**Ask:** *What important day of the Church year do these symbols represent? (Easter)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate on Easter? (the Resurrection of Jesus) Is Easter on the same date each year? (No, it is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring.)* **Say:** *In this session we'll learn more about Easter.*
- ▶ Together find the date for Easter on a calendar. Have your child count the next 50 days to identify Pentecost Sunday. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Page 148**

- ▶ **Say:** *Think of a time someone hurt your feelings, but you forgave him or her.* **Ask:** *Did you want to forgive the person or were you still mad? How did it feel?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Show Mercy During Easter and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What did Jesus do when Thomas saw and believed that Jesus had risen? (Jesus showed him mercy.)*
- ▶ Read aloud The Mercy of Friendship. Invite your child to write a prayer for a friend who needs compassion and forgiveness.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *When we have doubts about God, what can we do to strengthen our faith? (pray to God, think about his gifts)*

### **Reflect: Page 149**

- ▶ Discuss where you have seen lambs during Easter. (chocolate lambs, cake lambs, butter lambs) **Say:** *These Easter traditions symbolize Jesus, the Lamb of God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Easter. **Say:** *At one time lambs were sacrificed as religious offerings. We use this symbol today because of the great sacrifice Jesus made by dying on the cross for our sins.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *Why is joyful music played? (because the parish rejoices that Jesus is with us always) What is the liturgical color for the season? (white)*
- ▶ Read aloud What Lamb of God Means to You. Invite your child to share his or her paragraph with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' Ascension into Heaven 40 days after his Resurrection.*

### Art Exploration: Page 251

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Christian symbols.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including each symbol.
- ▶ **Say:** *These symbols give us a message. The person and animals represented in the painting all have wings, which are symbols of heavenly power. They have books, which are the Scriptures.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 251. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the sections Celebrate Easter and The Resurrection.  
**Ask:** *Why did God send Jesus? (to show us his mercy and love.) How can we live as disciples? (by committing ourselves to the service of others)*
- ▶ Read aloud In Celebration of Easter. Give your child time to draw a picture and share it with you.
- ▶ Recall the Art Print. Using colored pencils and drawing paper, invite your child to draw his or her own symbols for Easter. Use the symbol to decorate your home.

### Respond: Page 150

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