



Unit 2



Before You Begin

Download and print:
Art Print BLMs Sessions 6-10

Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

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

Introduce the Saint

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



Mary Says Yes to God

Engage: Page 33

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

Explore: Pages 34–35

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



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 6 Blackline Master

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

Reflect: Pages 36–37

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

Respond: Page 38

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



Joseph Says Yes to God

Engage: Page 39

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

Explore: Pages 40–41

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



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 7 Blackline Master

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

Reflect: Pages 42–43

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

Respond: Page 44

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



Jesus Is Our Friend

Engage: Page 45

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

Explore: Pages 46–47

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



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 8 Blackline Master

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

Reflect: Pages 48–49

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

Respond: Page 50

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



Jesus Heals Us

Engage: Page 51

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

Explore: Pages 52–53

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



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 9 Blackline Master

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

Reflect: Pages 54–55

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

Respond: Page 56

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



Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 57

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

Explore: Page 58

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

Reflect: Page 59

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



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 10 Blackline Master

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

Respond: Page 60

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