



## Unit 3



### Before You Begin

Download and print:  
Art Print BLMs Sessions 11–15

# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

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

## Introduce the Saint

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



## God Gathers Us

### Engage: Page 63

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

### Explore: Pages 64–65

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



### Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 11 Blackline Master

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

### Reflect: Pages 66–67

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

### Respond: Page 68

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



## Jesus Calls His Disciples

### Engage: Page 69

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

### Explore: Pages 70–71

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



### Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 12 Blackline Master

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

### Reflect: Pages 72–73

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

### Respond: Page 74

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



## God Sends the Holy Spirit

### Engage: Page 75

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

### Explore: Pages 76–77

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





### Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 13 Blackline Master

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

### Reflect: Pages 78–79

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

### Respond: Page 80

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



## Jesus Leads Us

### Engage: Page 81

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

### Explore: Pages 82–83

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





### Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 14 Blackline Master

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

### Reflect: Pages 84–85

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

### Respond: Page 86

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



## Celebrating Christmas

### Engage: Page 87

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

### Explore: Page 88

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

### Reflect: Page 89

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



## Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 15 Blackline Master

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

## Respond: Page 90

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