

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

The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

Unit Opener: Pages 86–87

- ▶ Invite your child to talk about what he or she likes to do with a good friend. Then ask: ***What do you think makes someone a good friend? What makes you a good friend to someone else?***
- ▶ Read aloud the unit title on page 86. Say: ***Our new unit will help us understand that Jesus gives us the Church as a sign of his love for us and for the whole world. Jesus chose a good friend to help him lead his people.***
- ▶ Focus your child's attention on page 87. Read aloud the saint's name. Ask: ***Why do you think Jesus and Peter were good friends?*** (Possible responses: They trusted each other, they traveled together, they both wanted to help people.)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Say: ***Fishing was a good business for Peter. He was able to make a living from it. He would spend every day going out to sea in his boat and bringing in his catch at the end of the day. Imagine what it was like for Peter to leave his work and follow Jesus.*** Ask: ***Do you think it was easy?*** (No.)
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: ***How did Peter feel about his friend Jesus?*** (Peter loved Jesus. He trusted Jesus.) ***What did Jesus do when Peter didn't do the right thing?*** (Jesus forgave Peter.) ***Why should we forgive others?*** (We want to be like Jesus.)
- ▶ Read the last paragraph. Say: ***Jesus knew Peter would be a strong leader for his people.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask your child what question Jesus may have asked Peter to get this response.
- ▶ With your child, add Peter's feast day, June 29, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor the work of Saint Peter.

Unit Opener: Page 88

- ▶ With your child, talk about people who help him or her learn lessons. Ask: ***Who teaches you things?*** (parents, teachers, priests) ***What kinds of things do you learn from these people?*** (how to treat one another, how to read, lessons about God)
- ▶ Tell your child that Jesus is our teacher. Say: ***Jesus teaches us about God, his Father. We learn from Jesus how to show God's love to others.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and two paragraphs. Tell your child that Saint Peter shows us how to follow Jesus. Say: ***Peter said yes to God. He followed Jesus and learned lessons about how to live. Peter then taught others how to show God's love.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child complete the activity. Then ask him or her to read aloud the sentence in the footprint.
- ▶ Say: ***We do God's will when we love and help one another.*** Read aloud the psalm in the Reading God's Word feature. Then have your child pray it together with you.

Following Jesus

Engage: Page 89

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Luke 5:1–11. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord**. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Have your child watch as you drop a small pebble into a bowl of water. Ask: **What happened?** (The pebble created ripples of water that spread out.) Say: **Just as the pebble spread ripples of water, we can spread the Good News of Jesus.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 89. Ask: **What does it mean that, as followers of Jesus, we should spread the Good News?** (We should share our love of Jesus with others.)
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Pray aloud the prayer while your child follows along. Then pause for additional reflection. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 90–91

- ▶ Ask: **What do we do at Mass?** (hear stories about God, pray, sing) Say: **We have talked about how the Mass is a special kind of liturgy. Liturgy is prayer that we pray with Jesus' friends.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title on page 90. Have your child look at the photos. Explain that the photos show people around the world at church. Say: **Jesus' followers all over the world, including us, make up the Church.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 90. Have your child repeat the boldface word, *Church*, after you. Then write *Church* and *church* on a sheet of paper. Refer to the words as you say: **Church, with a capital C, is a community of people who follow Jesus. Church, with a small c, refers to a special building in which we pray and celebrate Mass.**
- ▶ Have your child repeat the boldface word, *catholic*, after you. Then write *catholic* and *Catholic* on the paper. Refer to the words as you say: **Catholic, with a small c, means "all over the world." Catholic, with a capital C, refers to members of the Catholic Church. We are blessed to be part of the Catholic Church. Together with people all over the world, we spread Jesus' message of love.** Ask: **Who is the head of the Church?** (Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph on page 91. Ask: **What have you heard about guardian angels?** (Possible answers: A guardian angel is an angel sent by God to protect me. It is an angel that guards me.) Explain that even though we can't see our guardian angel, the angel is with us all the time.

- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Invite your child to draw a picture of what his or her guardian angel might look like. Turn to the Prayer to One's Guardian Angel on page 248. Help your child learn this prayer by heart.
- ▶ Invite your child to look at the picture of Saint Michael as you read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. Say: ***Saint Michael is an archangel, one of the chief angels. We can also ask Saint Michael to protect us.***

Art Print: Page 92

- ▶ Have your child look at the picture on page 92. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the work that Andrew and Peter did.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the story about Jesus and the fishermen. Say: ***The fishermen became Jesus' disciples. They spread the news of God's love.***
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Asks Us to Follow. Ask: ***What are some things you can do to follow Jesus?*** (care for others, be respectful, learn more about Jesus, attend Mass, obey parents)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Allow time for your child to draw his or her picture.
- ▶ Using a washable inkpad, have your child make horizontal fingerprints on drawing paper. After each painting dries, help your child turn the fingerprints into fish by adding fins, gills, and eyes, using thin black markers. Help your child write this caption under his or her pictures: *Fishermen followed Jesus. I follow Jesus too!* Display the art in your home.

Reflect: Page 93

- ▶ Together look at page 93. Say: ***The boy in the picture looks like he was playing. Let's find out why he stopped.*** Read aloud the paragraph. Then say: ***Let's get ready for our prayer time. Close your eyes and fold your hands.***
- ▶ Pray aloud the first paragraph of the prayer. Pause to allow your child time to think about his or her response. Encourage your child to talk to Jesus in his or her heart and to listen for what Jesus wants him or her to know about God's love.
- ▶ Pray aloud the second paragraph of the prayer. Pause to allow your child time to reflect silently. Then ask your child to open his or her eyes. Close the quiet time by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

Reflect: Page 94

- ▶ Ask your child to name things he or she sees in a church, such as an altar, candles, a cross, a steeple, statues, and pews. Remind your child that the word *church* when describing a building begins with a small *c*.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph. Ask: ***Who makes up the Church, the word that begins with a capital C?*** (Jesus' followers, us) ***What are followers of Jesus called?*** (the Body of Christ)
- ▶ Ask your child to name people whom he or she sees at Mass, such as priests, a deacon, catechists, altar servers, choir members, ushers, families, and friends. Say: ***These are all people in our Church, our community of believers.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Call attention to the drawing. Ask: ***Does the word for this church begin with a capital C or a small c?*** (small *c*) Say: ***When you add people to the picture, will the word Church begin with a capital C or a small c?*** (capital *C*) Have your child complete the activity.

Respond: Pages 95–96

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 95. Review the Words I Learned with your child. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can help and be nice to people.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and invite your child to complete the activity. Then ask your child to read aloud his or her call from Jesus.
- ▶ Point to the prayer and have your child pray it together with you. Conclude the prayer by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 96. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then plan to complete the activity together at Mass on Sunday.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.

Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

Engage: Page 97

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud 2 Corinthians 13:11–13. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Ask: **How can you show your love to someone who is far away?** (send them a gift or a card) Say: **It feels good to know that someone loves us. God shows his love for us by sending us the Holy Spirit.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 97. Ask: **What does the Holy Spirit do for us?** (guides us, makes us strong, gives us peace, fills us with joy, unites us as followers of Jesus)
- ▶ Say: **Let's ask the Holy Spirit to come to us so we remember to love as Jesus did.** Pray aloud the prayer. Then pause to allow your child to pray silently. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 98–99

- ▶ Ask: **What is happening in the photos on pages 98 and 99?** (Children are reading or praying, singing together, and helping a man.) Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Then say: **The Holy Spirit loves us very much, just as God the Father and Jesus the Son do. The Holy Trinity loves and cares for us always. All Three Persons of the Holy Trinity are always with us.**
- ▶ Ask: **What happens at a Baptism?** (Holy water is poured over a person's head. A candle is lit.) Read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: **Who comes to us when we are baptized?** (the Holy Spirit) Say: **Once the Holy Spirit is with us, he never leaves us.**
- ▶ Read aloud the third paragraph. Point out the boldface word, *parish*, and have your child repeat it after you. Say: **We belong to a parish.** Ask: **What is the name of our parish?** (Accept correct response.) **Is the Holy Spirit in our parish?** (Yes, the Holy Spirit is everywhere.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: **The Holy Spirit is invisible but strong.** Have a race with your child by using drinking straws to blow cotton balls across a table. Say: **Our breath can't be seen, but it moves our cotton balls. The Holy Spirit can't be seen, but he is always with us.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph on page 99.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Help your child read the words that tell how the Holy Spirit helps us act. Then allow time for your child to color the words.

Art Print: Page 100

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture or symbol of the Holy Spirit, such as a dove, a gust of wind, or flames. Ask: **What do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the picture or symbol and to tell what the symbol represents. Say: **A dove, wind, and flames are symbols of the Holy Spirit. A symbol helps us imagine something we can't see.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the story from Acts of the Apostles. Point out the boldface word, *Pentecost*, and have your child repeat it after you. Say: **Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples. We call this day Pentecost.**
- ▶ Read aloud the next section. Ask: **What does the word courage mean?** (brave, not showing fear) Say: **The Holy Spirit comes to us in Baptism. The Holy Spirit gives us courage.**
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Invite your child to color the symbols of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: **It is the Holy Spirit that helps us be loving and kind toward one another.**
- ▶ Help your child tear red, orange, and yellow construction paper into small pieces. Help him or her arrange and glue the pieces on black construction paper to make the shape of a large flame. Help your child use white chalk to write this caption below the picture: *Jesus' disciples saw flames when the Holy Spirit came.*

Reflect: Page 101

- ▶ Together look at the picture. Say: **The girl might be thinking about how the Holy Spirit is always with her.**
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Say: **Remember to be very still as you prepare to pray. Think about the Holy Spirit as I pray aloud.** Read aloud the paragraph in a prayerful manner. Then pray aloud the first paragraph of the prayer. Pause for a few moments, allowing your child time to pray silently.
- ▶ Ask your child to open his or her eyes. Say: **Now we're going to review a prayer we've learned already.** Pray aloud the Sign of the Cross with your child, without using gestures. Then say: **Now, let's pray the Sign of the Cross again, this time using gestures.** Check that your child uses the correct gestures. Conclude prayer time by praying together *Amen*.

Reflect: Page 102

- ▶ Prepare and hide from your child a gift of a pencil, a sticker, or another inexpensive item, wrapping the item in a box or gift bag. Then surprise your child by showing him or her the wrapped gift. Ask: **What do you think this gift is?** (Accept reasonable

responses.) ***Is it a surprise?*** (Yes.) Have your child open the gift. Ask: ***How does it feel to receive something as a surprise?*** (good, fun, exciting)

- ▶ Say: ***The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples as wind and flames of fire. Jesus' disciples were surprised, but they no longer felt afraid to talk about Jesus. The Holy Spirit brought them peace.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Say: ***Now let's learn more about the Holy Spirit's arrival.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then read aloud the words in the word bank. Tell your child the picture at the beginning of each sentence is a clue to the word that belongs in the blank. Have your child complete the activity. Encourage your child to give reasons for the choices made.

Respond: Pages 103–104

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 103. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can help others without being asked.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child name people to whom he or she could show love and ways he or she could show that love. Invite your child to complete the activity. When he or she is finished, invite your child to share what he or she wrote.
- ▶ Say: ***Remember that the Holy Spirit will guide you in making good choices. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us be loving.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Then say: ***Spend a few moments praying silently.*** Pause briefly. Close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 104. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then find a time to complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.

Jesus Teaches Us to Share

Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Luke 19:1–10. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord**. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 105. Say: **Jesus welcomed all people. He helped people change their hearts and show love to others.**
- ▶ Read aloud the last two paragraphs. Say: **We believe in God the Father, Jesus his Son, and the Holy Spirit**. Ask: **What name do we have for these Three Persons?** (the Holy Trinity) **What do we call God's family?** (the Church)
- ▶ Tell your child that at Mass we stand and pray our beliefs after the priest explains how the Bible readings help us live the way Jesus wants us to live.
- ▶ Say: **Let's ask Jesus to help us be good followers**. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

Explore: Page 106

- ▶ Have your child look at the picture on page 106. Ask: **What's happening in the picture?** (People are eating, talking, and sharing.)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the two-paragraph story. Ask: **Why did people like this way of life so much?** (They shared everything. They told stories about Jesus. They shared their love for Jesus.) Ask: **Why did more and more people become followers of Jesus?** (They liked that Jesus' followers shared and took good care of one another.)
- ▶ Say: **We are so blessed that the same Holy Spirit who visited Jesus' disciples is with us today and every day!**
- ▶ Say: **I'm going to read a passage from the Bible**. Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: **The Holy Spirit helps us be happy and share our happiness with Jesus and with others.**
- ▶ Cut out four flames from red construction paper. Remind your child of the symbolism of the tongues of fire at Pentecost. Have your child write on the flames the following words describing how the Holy Spirit helps us act: *loving, kind, peaceful, caring*. Discuss the meaning of each word, if necessary. Then pray together with your child that the Holy Spirit might increase these actions in him or her each day. Display the flames in your home.

Explore: Page 107

- ▶ Ask your child to say his or her first and last names. Then say: **Names are important. Our individual names tell people who we are. Groups of people have names too. These types of names can tell people what we believe. Let's learn more about names.**
- ▶ Point out the two boldface terms on page 107, *Christians* and *Sign of Peace*. Have your child repeat them after you.
- ▶ Then read aloud the title and first paragraph. Ask: **What new name have we learned for people who want to live as Jesus Christ taught us to live?** (Christian) Say: **We are Catholics.** Ask: **Are we Christians too?** (yes) Say: **Catholics are Christians who are members of the Catholic Church.**
- ▶ Read aloud the second and third paragraphs. Say: **When we celebrate Mass, we have a nice way to share and pray together.** Demonstrate the Sign of Peace. Then share the Sign of Peace with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Invite your child to complete the activity and read aloud the word.

Art Print: Page 108

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of a group of people riding on a train or subway. Ask: **What do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the people are the same and different. Say: **Jesus tells us that everyone is our neighbor. God wants us to love our neighbors.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Ask: **Whom does God want us to love?** (our families, one another, our neighbors, everyone) Say: **Jesus wants us to love everyone. When we love everyone, we are following Jesus. Loving our neighbors can be easy. We can smile and say hello. This week let's be even kinder to our neighbors.**
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Allow time for your child to complete the sentences and the drawing. Invite him or her to share them with you.
- ▶ Invite your child to think of a person that he or she likes to spend time with. Have your child draw a picture of the two of them taking a ride on some sort of transportation. Help your child complete this caption on his or her artwork: *I like to share time with [name of person]. It doesn't matter where we go!* Display the picture in your home.

Reflect: Page 109

- ▶ Together look at the picture. Say: **The boy in the picture looks happy to be alone with Jesus. Be still and open your heart to Jesus when you pray.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Say: **Today's prayer was written by Saint Richard who lived long ago.** Pray aloud the first paragraph of the prayer while your child prays with you in the quiet of his or her heart. Then have your child pray aloud the first paragraph of the prayer with you.

- ▶ Remind your child that Jesus loves him or her and will always help your child; all he or she has to do is ask.
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph of the prayer and allow time for your child to be with Jesus. Then invite your child to think about one thing he or she would like Jesus to help with. Say: **Take time to speak to Jesus in your heart. Listen closely to Jesus as he speaks to you in your heart.** Pause for a few seconds for silent prayer. Close quiet time by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

Reflect: Page 110

- ▶ Tell your child something you would like one of your friends to share with you, such as a favorite book or recipe. Ask: **What's one thing you'd like a friend to share with you?**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Explain that there's always something we can share with our friends and family. Point out that it can be something tangible, such as a book or toy, or something intangible, such as our time or a hug.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then read aloud the sentence in each box. Ask your child for examples of things they can share in each instance and write your child's ideas on a sheet of paper. Give your child crayons or markers and have him or her complete the activity. Discuss the responses and encourage your child to try to share these things this week with others.

Respond: Pages 111–112

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 111. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways or things he or she can share with others.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child complete the activity by filling in the blanks as you read aloud the sentences to him or her.
- ▶ Have your child prepare for prayer. Then have him or her pray aloud the prayer. Close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 112. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then choose when to complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.

God Chooses Mary

Engage: Page 113

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud John 2:1–11. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Think of someone famous whom your child admires. Then ask: **What might you do if you found out that your best friend knows (name)?** (ask him or her to introduce me) Say: **Just as we can ask people we know to connect us to someone we want to know, we can ask Mary to help us grow closer to her Son, Jesus.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 113. Say: **Mary saw the need of the couple at the wedding. She sees our needs too.** Ask: **How can Mary help us?** (She can ask her Son, Jesus, to help us.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Pause briefly, and then conclude the prayer by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

Explore: Page 114

- ▶ Discuss things that make you and your child happy. Say: **We can find happiness in many different ways. A hug from a friend, a smile, or a kind word have the power to make us happy.**
- ▶ Have your child describe the photo. Talk about how happy the children look and what they might be happy about.
- ▶ Read aloud the boldface word, *grace*, and have your child repeat it after you. Say: **Let's find out if our new word has something to do with why these children look so happy.**
- ▶ Read aloud the four paragraphs. Ask: **Who gave Mary the gift of grace?** (God) Say: **Grace is a gift from God that fills us with God's life and makes us his friends. We don't have to do anything to earn this gift. God gives it to us because he loves us.** Ask: **Do the children in the photo have the gift of God's grace?** (Yes.) **Do we?** (Yes.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: **Mary was humble. She didn't think she was better than other people. God loved Mary and gave her the gift of grace. He gave her the gift of being Jesus' mother.**

Explore: Page 115

- ▶ Tell your child something wonderful about a special woman in the family who treats your child lovingly. Say: **Mary was a good mother to Jesus. She brought the same kind of joy to Jesus' life as (name) brings to your life.**
- ▶ Point to the picture of Mary. Ask: **What are some things that you notice about Mary?** (Mary is holding baby Jesus protectively. She looks happy and loving. Jesus looks happy.)

- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Say: ***Mary loved Jesus, and she also knew he was God's Son. Mary became the first and greatest of Jesus' followers.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Say: ***Statues of Mary are important to Catholics. Let's look for one in our church the next time we are there.***

Art Print: Page 116

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a newspaper, a book, or online a picture of the angel Gabriel visiting Mary. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the angel looks and acts toward Mary. Say: ***The Holy Spirit was there to guide Mary when she said yes to God. The Holy Spirit guides and helps us too.***
- ▶ Read aloud An Angel Visits Mary. Ask: ***How do you think Mary felt after Gabriel gave her the message?*** (happy, special, blessed) Say: ***Mary's love for God was strong. She knew she could trust him. She wanted to please God. That's why she was happy to do what God wanted.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child color the picture. Remind your child to say yes to God as Mary did.
- ▶ Cut out a large rectangular shape from a sheet of black construction paper to resemble a window frame. Give your child a sheet of wax paper that fits in the frame. Ask your child to draw and color pictures of Mary and the angel Gabriel on the wax paper, using crayons. Help him or her tape the black frame to the wax paper. Hang the "stained-glass window" against your window at home.

Reflect: Page 117

- ▶ Together look at the picture. Ask: ***Who might the girl in the picture be thinking about?*** (Mary) Say: ***We love Mary so much that we have a special prayer called the Hail Mary.***
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Read aloud the title and paragraph. Then pray aloud the Hail Mary while your child prays along silently. Then invite your child to pray aloud the Hail Mary with you. When you are finished, say: ***Speak with Mary in your heart and tell her how glad you are she said yes to God.*** Pause briefly for silent prayer before praying the Sign of the Cross and *Amen* together.

Reflect: Page 118

- ▶ Say: ***We should be ready to say yes to God like Mary did.*** Ask: ***Why should we say yes?*** (to do what God wants us to do, to be like Mary)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Ask: ***Why did Mary want to serve God?*** (because she loved God) ***How can we serve God?*** (by listening to God, by helping others, by being kind and caring, by doing what God wants us to do)

- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Give your child crayons or markers and have him or her complete the activity. When your child is finished, ask: **What did Mary say to God?** (YES!) **What do we say to God?** (YES!)

Respond: Pages 119–120

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 119. Review the Word I Learned with your child. Say: **Grace is a gift from God that fills us with God's life and makes us his friends.** Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can say yes to God and your family.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Help your child identify ways to show love for others. Then invite him or her to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: **Let's thank Jesus for helping us say yes to God.** Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then say: **Take a moment to tell Jesus silently what is in your heart.** Pause briefly before praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 120. Next, read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then plan to complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.

Celebrating Christmas

Engage: Page 121

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Luke 2:8–14. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Say: **If I lost my wallet and you found it and returned it to me, what would it mean if I said, “You’re an angel!”** (that I brought good news) Say: **The angels brought the good news of Jesus’ birth to the shepherds.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 121. Ask: **What song did the angels sing?** (Gloria) **How can we imitate the angels at Mass during Christmas?** (by singing joyfully)
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Then invite your child to prepare for prayer. Pray aloud the prayer. Say: **Now thank God in your heart for sending his Son, Jesus, to us.** Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

Explore: Page 122

- ▶ Ask: **What are some Christmas decorations you see in stores or in our neighborhood?** (Santa, snowmen, wreaths, trees) Describe a Nativity scene (statues of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus in a manger, animals) and explain that many people decorate their homes with Nativity scenes to remind them of Jesus’ birth.
- ▶ Read aloud *We Celebrate During Christmas.* Point out the two boldface terms and have your child repeat them after you. Ask: **What liturgical season do we celebrate from December 24 through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord?** (Christmas) **Why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus?** (because he is the Son of God who came to save us)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Explain how to find each word, if necessary. Then have your child complete the word search.
- ▶ Read aloud the Scripture verse in the Reading God’s Word feature. Ask: **How is Jesus, the Son of God, part of your life?** (Possible answers: I pray to Jesus. We have a picture of Jesus in our house. Jesus is always with me.)

Reflect on the Mass: Page 123

- ▶ Ask your child to imagine what the Christmas season would be like if we had no trees, wreaths, or lights. Ask: **How would the season of Christmas feel to you?** (strange, sad, no fun)
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Point out the boldface word, *celebrant*, and have your child repeat the word after you. Say: **The celebrant is the priest or bishop who leads people in praying the Mass.** Say: **The special clothes that the priest or bishop wears during Mass are called vestments.** Ask: **Why does the priest wear different color vestments at different times of the year?** (to show which season or feast we are celebrating in the liturgical calendar)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then have your child use markers or crayons to color the Nativity scene.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: **What people and animals would be included in a live Nativity scene?** (Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, donkeys, sheep, cows)

Art Print: Page 124

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, and animals. Ask: **What do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including people, animals, and symbols such as halos and a star. Say: **Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are the Holy Family. We honor the Holy Family, as well as our own family, on the first Sunday following Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family.**
- ▶ Say: **Another important feast day comes at the end of the Christmas season in January.** Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 124. Say: **On the Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate the Three Wise Men's visit to Jesus.**
- ▶ Read aloud The Gift of Jesus. Ask: **How did the tradition of Christmas gift giving begin?** (the Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus) Say: **When Jesus asks us to love God above all else, he is telling us that only God's love can make us truly happy. Jesus tells us that money, possessions, and power are not as important as God's message.**
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ Give your child a star of Bethlehem cut out from yellow cardstock. Have your child decorate the star with glitter and sequins to make it shine for all to see. Punch a hole at the top of the star and help your child loop a piece of yarn through the hole. Hang the star from a high place in your home.

Respond: Pages 125–126

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary on page 125. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest other ways he or she can share Christmas joy.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 126. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then plan a time to complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.