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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 of Saint Isidore the Farmer on page 2. Ask: *What do you think was Saint Isidore's job?* (farming) Turn to page 3. Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Ask: *Where did Saint Isidore live?* (Spain) *What did Saint Isidore do while he was farming?* (pray) Say: *A saint is a person who lived a life of special faith and goodness. The Church has honored many saints. Saint Isidore loved God and showed care for the earth and its creatures. He and his wife, Maria, were kind to others, especially those who were poor and hungry.*
- ▶ Say: *God wants us to take care of the earth. Saint Isidore can teach us about loving the earth.* Read aloud the last paragraph. Say: *A patron saint watches over special groups of people, places, or animals.* Ask: *Which groups does Saint Isidore watch over?* (farmers and laborers)
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Say: *Jesus says that there are many people who need to hear the Good News, but only a few people to spread his message of love and kindness.* Ask: *How can you spread the Good News?* (Be kind to others; tell others about Jesus; read about Jesus and try to live as he did.)
- ▶ With your child, add Isidore's feast day, May 15, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint Isidore.

Unit Opener: Page 4

- ▶ With your child, think of someone in your family or neighborhood who could use a “Thinking of You” card. Encourage your child to make a card for that person by using construction paper, markers, or crayons. Have your child write this sentence inside the card: *God is good and wonderful, and so are you.* Encourage your child to give the card to its recipient. Point out that God creates things out of love for us, just as your child made the card.
- ▶ Discuss with your child the different ways he or she might pray: silently, spoken aloud, in song, or in quiet reflection. Say: ***Saint Isidore cared for the earth and everything in it with love. He prayed while he worked.*** Invite your child to read aloud Labor of Love on page 4. Discuss with your child why it is important to treat all living things with care and respect. Say: ***Saint Isidore understood that the earth and living things are a gift to us from God. He cared for creation to show his love for God.***
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and invite your child to do the activity. When he or she is finished, discuss the picture he or she drew. Say: ***You are being kind like Saint Isidore.***
- ▶ Point out the picture at the bottom of page 4. Say: ***The boy is showing kindness to his pet rabbit. In this session, we will learn what God makes and why he makes those things.***
- ▶ Direct your child’s attention to the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: ***The Book of Psalms in the Bible contains prayers. We can pray any time to express our thanks and love to God.*** Read aloud the psalm. Then pray the psalm together to express praise to God for his creation.

(Continued on the next page)

God Creates Us

Engage: Page 5

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Genesis 1:26–27. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: ***God has given us all of creation as a gift and asks us to care for it.*** Read aloud the paragraph on page 5. Ask: ***What would happen to our world if we didn't take care of it?*** (It would become polluted and unable to support life.) Say: ***Let's thank God for his creation, including our wonderful selves!*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Cut out paper hearts. Ask your child to write the names of people he or she loves on the hearts. Then ask your child to write a way to show his or her love. Display the hearts in your home.
- ▶ Show an image of a shamrock. Ask: ***How many leaves does a shamrock have?*** (three) Say: ***A shamrock is one plant, but it has three parts.*** Read aloud the first paragraph of Our Loving God on page 6. Guide your child to look up the word *creation* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***Who is our Creator?*** (God) ***What does he create?*** (heaven, earth, people, animals, plants)
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: ***Who are the Three Persons of the Trinity?*** (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) Ask: ***How is the shamrock like the Trinity?*** (It has three parts, and they're connected to form one object.) Say: ***This is just as the Holy Trinity is Three Persons in one. God is with you always, no matter where you are. God is there to help and guide you.***
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Discuss examples of the good things God creates, such as a beach or a baby brother.
- ▶ Read aloud God's Blessings on page 7. Guide your child to look up the word *holy* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***What is one way to be holy?*** (to love all God's creation)
- ▶ Read aloud God's Blessings Help Us and have your child complete the activity. Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Guide your child to look up the terms *Eucharist* and *Penance* and *Reconciliation* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: ***Sacraments give us the grace we need to live holy lives.***

Art Exploration: Page 8

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of God's creation. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the shining sun, trees and flowers blooming, and animals in nature. Say: *God shows his love for us by creating the world where we live.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 8. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions. Read aloud God Made Heaven and Earth. Ask: *How did God feel when he finished creating everything?* (He felt pleased.) *What did God ask Adam and Eve to do?* (take good care of the earth) Say: *When we receive a gift, we take good care of it. We take good care of the earth because it is a gift from God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Taking Care of God's Earth. Discuss the question. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Ask your child to study the picture of God's creation. Say: *Imagine that God has invited you into this scene.* Ask your child to use his or her senses while walking through the scene, appreciating what he or she sees, hears, touches, tastes, and smells. Say: *Take a moment to speak heart-to-heart with God and share with him the things you like most about all that he creates.*

Reflect: Pages 9–10

- ▶ Together read aloud the title on page 9. Say: *To give glory to someone means to give him or her the highest praise.* Ask: *What do you see in the picture that is God's creation?* (people, mountains, a lake, trees, sky) *Why do we give glory to God for creation?* (because he creates it for us and it's wonderful)
- ▶ Read aloud the two paragraphs. Then pray aloud the prayer and have your child repeat it. Give your child time to reflect. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud Glorify God for Creation on page 10. Invite your child to use markers or crayons to complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God's creation and explain his or her drawing. Say: *Seeing the beautiful world helps us see how much we are loved by God.*

Respond: Pages 11–12

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 11. 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 God's world. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: *Let's give thanks for the gifts of creation.* Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 12. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *Wherever we go, let's remember to show love and care for the people, earth, and living things God gave us.*

God Gives Us Jesus

Engage: Page 13

- ▶ Ask: *How does it feel to receive a gift?* Discuss examples of “gifts of themselves,” such as reading a book aloud to a little sister, helping with chores, or playing a game with a grandmother. Invite your child to write the names of family members or neighbors on squares of construction paper. On the other side, have your child draw a picture of a gift of himself or herself to give to each person.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 1:26–33. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *God the Father sent his only Son, Jesus, so that he could be present with us always*. Then read aloud the paragraphs on page 13. Say: *Jesus is sometimes called Emmanuel, which means “God-with-us.”*
- ▶ Ask: *What gifts does God give us?* (our family and friends, animals, beaches, forests) Say: *Let’s thank God the Father for his most precious and special gift, his Son, Jesus*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 14–15

- ▶ Have your child draw a picture of his or her favorite possession and place the picture in a sealed envelope addressed to a loved one. Say: *Now imagine that sending the picture of your favorite possession was equal to giving it away*. Ask: *How would it feel to give away this precious gift?*
- ▶ Read aloud page 14. Ask: *To whom did God the Father give his Son?* (everyone in the world) *Who is God the Father’s Son who became man?* (Jesus) Say: *Imagine what it will be like to live with God in heaven*.
- ▶ Read aloud page 15. Guide your child to find the words *Blessed Sacrament*, *consecration*, *tabernacle*, and *genuflect* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *When something is consecrated, it is made to be special to God through prayer*. Ask: *What does it mean to honor someone?* (to show respect) Discuss the picture of the tabernacle on page 15. Say: *The Blessed Sacrament is kept in the tabernacle after Mass*.
- ▶ Read aloud We Genuflect. Demonstrate how to genuflect and have your child practice genuflecting. Then have your child write his or her response to the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *Preparing to receive these sacraments is a joyful, challenging, and exciting journey*.

Art Exploration: Page 16

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of the Holy Family. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of Jesus and his parents. Say: *God's greatest gift to us is his Son, born into a special family here on earth.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 16. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Story of Joseph. Ask: *Why did Joseph name the child Jesus?* (An angel told him in a dream.) Guide your child to find the word *Savior* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: *The name Jesus was chosen because Jesus is our Savior.*
- ▶ Read aloud Families Are Special. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with family members.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *These words from the Bible tell us that Jesus promises to be with us always.*
- ▶ Ask your child to use watercolor paints or markers to make his or her own version of the Holy Family. Remind your child to sign his or her artwork. Discuss the ideas that your child has about the painting as well as how he or she thinks Joseph and Mary cared for Jesus.

Reflect: Pages 17–18

- ▶ Together look at page 17. Ask: *What do you think the girl in the picture is thinking about?* Say: *Jesus is always with you and loves to spend time with you.*
- ▶ Slowly read aloud the paragraph. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray *Amen* and join your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Talk about the meaning of your child's name. Then read aloud page 18. Ask: *What does the name Emmanuel mean?* ("God with us") *What does the word Savior mean?* ("one who saves")
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for Names for Jesus. Help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Discuss names and nicknames of family members. Remind your child that there are many names for Jesus.

(Continued on the next page)

Respond: Pages 19–20

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 19. 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 do a kind deed and show love today. Then invite your child to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 20. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *God the Father gave us his Son, Jesus, to save us. This is God our Father's greatest gift. At Mass, we can receive his Son, Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament. We are joyful because we know that we are becoming more like Jesus and that someday we will live forever with him in heaven.*

God Is Our Father

Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Invite your child to help you plan a meal. Make each person a special place mat, using construction paper and markers. Together set the table for your meal and remind your child that God provides for his creation just as you are providing a meal for your family.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 6:9–15. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus taught us that we can trust God our Father to help us*. Read aloud the paragraph on page 21. Ask: *How many things do we ask God to help us within the Lord's Prayer?* (seven)
- ▶ Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us know God our Father better and to love him as Jesus does*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Together make a list of the things you would do to care for a real or an imaginary pet. Discuss why it is important to be a loving caregiver.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 22. Ask: *Who feeds and cares for birds and flowers in nature?* (God) Say: *Jesus wants us to know we are very important to God our Father. We can trust God to care for us the way he cares for the birds and flowers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for God's Love and Care. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *We pray this prayer during Mass to be one with God and one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 23. Guide your child to look up the words *petition* and *praise* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Ask: *What are some reasons we might pray a prayer of petition?* (to ask for help with our cares or worries, to ask God to bless our families) *For what can you praise God?* (my family, home, pet) Say: *The Lord's Prayer is a prayer of praise because we honor God. It is also a prayer for petition because we ask for God's help. Jesus reminds us to listen to God our Father. He teaches us to trust in God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *Baptism celebrates the beginning of our life as Catholics. As you prepare for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and of Reconciliation, your heart shares the excitement your godparents and I had on the day you were baptized.*

Art Exploration: Page 24

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Earth. Say: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the land and the water. Say: *God takes care of all of his creation, including us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 24. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Together read aloud Trust in God. Ask: *What are some things God has created for us that show his love and care?* (people to care for us, nature, food)
- ▶ Read aloud Resting in God's Hands and discuss the question. Have your child write how it might feel to be held lovingly in God's hands. Compare his or her answer to your own.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *What does Peter tell us to do in his letter?* (give God all our worries) Say: *God loves us and provides for us. We can always trust in God's care and place our worries in his hands.*
- ▶ Invite your child to use art supplies to make an earth like the one in the picture. Ask him or her to draw or cut out pictures, such as animals and plants, to represent God's creation. Have your child include this caption: *God gives us the gift of his creation.* Display the art in your home.

Reflect: Pages 25–26

- ▶ Together look at page 25. Ask: *How does the boy show he is praying?* (hands together, eyes closed) Remind your child that he or she is in the holy presence of God while praying.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Teaches Us to Pray. Say: *The Lord's Prayer is an important prayer because Jesus taught it to us. It is important to take it to heart. I will help you.* Invite your child to pray the Lord's Prayer with you slowly and reverently. Allow time for silent prayer. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the paragraph on page 26. Say: *Find the place in the Lord's Prayer where we praise God.* ("hallowed be thy name") Say: *Find the place in the Lord's Prayer where we bring God our needs.* ("Give us this day our daily bread.")
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for Picture of Praise. Ask: *How do you feel when you are praising God?* Have your child complete the activity.

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Respond: Pages 27–28

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 27. 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 a parent. Then invite your child to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 28. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember to put your trust in God our Father, who loves you and knows what's in your heart. We praise God and tell him our needs when we pray the Lord's Prayer.***

God's Life for Us

Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Together cut out pictures from magazines or newspapers of people doing good things. Arrange the pictures into a collage and glue them onto a sheet of construction paper. Discuss how these people are filled with the Holy Spirit. Invite your child to think about ways your family celebrates the gift of life.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit so that we do not have to face life's challenges alone.*** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 29. Ask: ***What do we call the day when the Holy Spirit first came upon the disciples?*** (Pentecost) Say: ***The Holy Spirit shows us how to do good things for ourselves and others. Let's thank God our Father for sending the Holy Spirit.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 30–31

- ▶ Display your Bible. Say: ***The Bible is full of wonderful stories, many of them about Jesus. The story we are going to read is about Mary and Joseph bringing baby Jesus into the Temple.***
- ▶ Read aloud page 30 and discuss the picture. Guide your child to look up the words *Messiah* and *Temple* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: ***Messiah means both "Savior" and "anointed with oil."*** Ask: ***When Simeon looked at Jesus, what did he see?*** (the Messiah, the one who had come to save his people) Say: ***Because Simeon listened to the Holy Spirit, he was able to see who Jesus really was—our Savior.***
- ▶ Read aloud page 31. Guide your child to look up the terms *Holy Spirit* and *faith* in the Glossary. Discuss the definitions. Say: ***Faith is a gift from God that helps us believe in him and live as he wants us to live.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Care for Others and complete the activity. Say: ***God wants us to show love for others and to care for creation. The Holy Spirit helps us live this way.*** Encourage your child to follow through with the idea he or she wrote for the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Guide your child to look up the word *grace* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***God wants to fill our hearts with strength, joy, and the desire to love him.*** Discuss why it is important to thank and praise God for this fantastic gift.

Art Exploration: Page 32

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of Jesus as the Light of the World. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the contrast between the light and the darkness.
- ▶ Say: *Imagine the light of Jesus shining on you. When we shine with the light of Christ, the Holy Spirit is working in us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 32. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud The Work of the Holy Spirit. Say: *When we choose to help others, we shine with the light of Christ.* Ask: *Where would you like to shine the light of Christ?*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Shine a Light on Good Deeds and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *This Bible passage says that we can all be a light to the world. When we shine our light, we help other people learn about Jesus.* Encourage your child to take the Scripture to heart and pray it this week.
- ▶ Together sit in a dark room and shine a flashlight. Pass the flashlight back and forth as you complete this sentence: *The Holy Spirit shines through me with _____.* (Possible responses: love, peace, joy, kindness, patience)

Reflect: Pages 33–34

- ▶ Together look at page 33. Remind your child that he or she can ask the Holy Spirit for help anytime. Read aloud the paragraph. Then invite your child to slowly and reverently pray aloud the Prayer to the Holy Spirit with you. Allow your child time to pray silently. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the paragraph on page 34. Together brainstorm ways in which the Holy Spirit has guided you this week. Then have your child read aloud the directions and complete the activity. Praise your child for allowing the Holy Spirit to fill his or her heart and mind.

Respond: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 35. 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 look for God at home and in the world. Then invite your child to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 36. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *Remember, the Holy Spirit is with you always. You can ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with strength and joy and to guide your actions.*

Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 37

- ▶ Together with your child, look at a calendar. Ask: *Why do people use calendars?* (to record important events, to know when to complete tasks, to understand how much time has passed in a year) Together point out dates that are important to your family. Ask your child to look at your calendar and mark the dates on which you will celebrate Ordinary Time.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 26:26–30. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Say: *Bread is the most common food that feeds people all over the world. Jesus referred to himself as the “Bread of Life.”* Read aloud the paragraph on page 37. Ask: *At Mass, what do the bread and wine become?* (the Body and Blood of Jesus)
- ▶ Say: *Let’s thank Jesus for the gift of the Eucharist and ask him to be with us during Ordinary Time.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Explore: Page 38

- ▶ With your child, make a breakfast menu that shows your family’s favorite breakfast foods. Ask: *Why do we need to eat food?* (because we need food to help our bodies and minds work) Say: *All living things need food to survive and thrive.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Feeds Us. Guide your child to look up the terms *liturgical year* and *Bread of Life* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *Jesus is our spiritual food, and we thrive because we are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist.*
- ▶ Invite your child to look at the liturgical calendar on page 211. Point out the different seasons of the Church year and when Ordinary Time is celebrated. Say: *When we receive Holy Communion, Jesus comes to us. He is our spiritual food. We thrive when we are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist. We are filled with God’s grace.*
- ▶ Read aloud How Can I Grow? and guide your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: *Like the food we eat, Jesus also nourishes us. He puts love in our hearts and peace in our minds. He is our spiritual food.*

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Reflect: Page 39

- ▶ Together, recall watching parish members process to Holy Communion at Mass. Say: *Process means “to move in an orderly and ceremonial way.”* Read aloud the first paragraph on page 39. Ask: *What do you think is beautiful about Holy Communion?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Guide your child to look up the word *vestments* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Have your child turn to The Seven Sacraments on pages 256–259. Discuss each sacrament. Say: *God enters our lives through each sacrament. We grow in God’s love and grace as we participate in each one.*

Art Exploration: Page 40

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture that shows the breaking of the bread at Mass. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail.
- ▶ Say: *Ordinary Time is a time to remember that Jesus invites us to the table to break bread and be fed by him.* Have your child turn to page 40. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs of We Celebrate Ordinary Time. Ask: *How do we grow during Ordinary Time?* (by learning more about Jesus and showing our love for Jesus and others) Say: *Ordinary Time is for everyday living as followers of Jesus. It is a time to grow.*
- ▶ Read aloud the third paragraph. Guide your child to look up the word *chasuble* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Remind your child that the chasuble is worn by the priest celebrating Mass. Then read aloud Mass in Ordinary Time and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Give your child a small cardboard box, such as a tissue box, to decorate. Then give him or her four strips of colorful paper. Tell your child to write a short prayer on each strip as a reminder to follow, celebrate, thank, and imitate Jesus in our actions and ways we treat others. Encourage him or her to keep the prayers in the box and choose to say one each day. Close with your child by silently praying a prayer from the box.

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Respond: Pages 41–42

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 41. 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 perform a kindness for someone. Then invite your child to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 42. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *Next time we meet, be ready to tell me ways you've found to act more like Jesus. I know you will have a lot to share!*

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Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

- ▶ Ask: *What does it feel like to be part of a family?* Say: *We will learn more about Jesus and his family.* Read aloud the unit title on page 44. Say: *This unit will help us understand that Jesus wants everyone to be part of God's family.*

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Anne and Saint Joachim [JOH-uh-kihm] on page 44. Say: *Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were the parents of Mary, who became the mother of Jesus.* Ask: *Who is the child in the picture?* (Mary) Say: *Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were loving parents. They helped Mary learn about God.*
- ▶ Turn to page 45. Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Say: *The word devoted means "to be faithful and loyal."*
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Remind your child about the definition of a saint. Ask: *What is a patron saint?* (a saint who watches over a special group) Ask: *Why do you think Saint Anne is the patron saint of mothers?* (Anne was Mary's mother and raised her to be devoted to God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Explain what the word *indebted* means. Ask: *Why do you think Saint John Damascene said this?* (Without Joachim and Anne, Mary, the Mother of God, would not exist.)
- ▶ With your child, add Joachim and Anne's feast day, July 26, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love that Saint Joachim and Saint Anne had for their family.

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Unit Opener: Page 46

- ▶ Ask: *What are some of the best times you think we have had as a family?* Together recall favorite times and discuss why they are important to you. Say: *Jesus was part of a family too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph on page 46. Ask: *What does faithful mean?* (devoted, true, loyal) Say: *Jesus wants you to obey, just as Mary obeyed her parents. Mary respected and listened to her mother and father.* Explain that Saint Anne and Saint Joachim knew that Mary was special and helped her dedicate her life to God.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and invite your child to do the activity. When he or she is finished, discuss the picture he or she drew. Talk about the family memory and why it is special to him or her.
- ▶ Direct your child's attention to the Reading God's Word feature and invite him or her to read aloud the passage from Ephesians. Say: *We have rules to stay safe. When you obey and honor them, it helps you have a good and happy life.*

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Jesus Is Faithful

Engage: Page 47

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Galatians 3:26–29. Then say: *The Word of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God*.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus teaches us what to do and what not to do to be his followers*. Read aloud the paragraph on page 47. Ask: *What does Jesus' grace help us do?* (be kind and respectful to one another) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us love everyone in God the Father's family*. Pray aloud the prayer. Then pause for additional reflection. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Ask your child to name rules he or she follows at school, at home, or in sports. Record the rules by category. Ask: *Why do we need rules?* (Rules help us know how to behave with one another or how to play a game.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 48. Guide your child to look up the term *Ten Commandments* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: *The Ten Commandments are God's special rules to help us live good lives, be kind to one another, and act more like Jesus*. Read aloud each commandment. Discuss the sentence below it, explaining how your child might obey this rule.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the Sixth through Tenth Commandments on page 49. Ask: *Which commandments teach us to love God?* (the first three) *Which teach us to love and respect ourselves and others?* (the last seven) Say: *When we follow the Commandments, we are being like Jesus*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *It is important to remember that God is always with us. God is our Creator, Savior, and Advocate. God always forgives us*.

Art Exploration: Page 50

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of a young Jesus talking to teachers in the Temple.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people Jesus is talking to as well as the surroundings. Say: *Jesus gives us a good example. When we obey our parents, we obey God*.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 50. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Then read aloud Jesus with the Teachers. Ask: *Why were Mary and Joseph so worried about Jesus?* (They could not find him.) *How did Jesus explain why he went to the Temple?* (He was doing what God wanted him to do.)

- ▶ Read aloud *Lost and Found*. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas. Ask your child to imagine he or she is in the Temple with Jesus. Say: ***Look around. What do you see and hear?*** Invite your child to have a silent conversation with Jesus. Say: ***You can ask Jesus questions just like he asked the teachers in the Temple.*** Close with a prayer asking God to help your child listen and obey his parents.

Reflect: Pages 51–52

- ▶ Together look at page 51. Ask: ***What do you think the boy is thinking about?*** Remind your child that he or she can always tell Jesus what he or she is thinking about. Say: ***Jesus is always with you. He loves when you spend time with him.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 51. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently. Pause to give your child time to reflect. Allow time for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Close your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the title and the two paragraphs on page 52. Say: ***The Fourth Commandment tells us to honor and obey our parents, just as Jesus did. We can ask God to help us obey our parents, even when it might be difficult.***
- ▶ Read aloud *At Church* and have your child complete the activity. Then invite your child to read aloud the sentences. Remind your child that Jesus prayed in the Temple, just as we pray in church together at Mass. Say: ***We can also pray in other special places. What are some places you like to be quiet with God?*** Discuss other special places where you can be quiet with God, such as a backyard or a garden. Say: ***Remember, God is always with us. We can talk with God anywhere and anytime.***

Respond: Pages 53–54

- ▶ 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 follow the Ten Commandments. Say: ***Following the Ten Commandments helps us be caring and happy members of God's family.*** Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 54. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember to be like Jesus by following God's commandments. Choose one commandment to focus on this week, like telling the truth. Following the commandments helps us stay close to God and live with joy and love.***

Jesus Saves Us

Engage: Page 55

- ▶ Invite your child to make an “I Show Kindness” booklet. Help him or her fold paper in half to form the pages of the booklet. Ask your child to draw a picture of himself or herself helping a family member or neighbor on each page. Say: ***Jesus showed his love to people in need. You are showing your love on these pages.***
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 19:1–10. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Say: ***Zacchaeus was someone who was never invited to dinner, but Jesus did, and it changed Zacchaeus’s life forever. He became a friend of Jesus’ from then on.*** Read aloud the paragraph on page 55. Say: ***We can show love to our families, friends, and neighbors. In this session, we learn ways to show our love to others.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let’s ask Jesus to help us make good choices.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Display a crucifix. Ask: ***Where have you seen crucifixes displayed?*** (in church, on rosaries) ***What does a crucifix symbolize?*** (faith, God, Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud page 56. Ask: ***How did Jesus show his love for people who were sick?*** (He healed them.) Say: ***Jesus is the Son of God. He became man to show us how much God the Father loves us. When Jesus healed people, he showed God’s healing presence to the world.*** Ask: ***How did some people show they were angry with Jesus?*** (They put him to death on the Cross.) ***Who raised Jesus from the dead?*** (God the Father)
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is with Us on page 57. Ask: ***Where is Jesus now?*** (in heaven and with us, always helping us and caring for us) Say: ***Jesus teaches us how to love others.***
- ▶ Read aloud Follow Jesus’ Example. Have your child complete the activity. Discuss the responses.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: ***It is always best to be honest.*** Point out that when we tell the truth, our hearts feel happy.

Art Exploration: Page 58

- ▶ Find 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 how the artist chose to show Jesus. Say: ***The message of Jesus’ love is for all people in every part of the world.***

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 58. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Then have your child read aloud *Jesus Heals*. Guide your child to look up the word *miracle* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***What are some examples of Jesus' miracles?*** (Jesus healed those who could not see and those who could not walk.) Say: ***John the Baptist was a holy man who taught about the Messiah, another name for anointed one or Savior.***
- ▶ Read aloud *Love Through Actions*. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***This passage is from the Old Testament, written long before the time of Jesus.*** Ask: ***What do you see that is the same as the passage from Luke?*** (The blind see; the deaf hear.) Say: ***This was written by the prophet Isaiah. He foretold the coming of the Savior who would heal people.***
- ▶ Have your child fold construction paper in half to make a card. Using art supplies, have him or her draw a picture and write a cheery message inside. Tell your child to address the card to *Dear Friend*. Encourage him or her to give it to a child who misses school because of illness.

Reflect: Pages 59–60

- ▶ Together look at page 59. Ask: ***The girl in the picture is not speaking. What do you think she is saying to God with her heart?*** Say: ***Open your heart to Jesus and he will understand.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraphs on page 59. Say: ***Today we're going to pray to Jesus, asking him to show us ways to care for people in need.*** Pray aloud the prayer slowly and with expression. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray *Amen* and join your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Write "What would Jesus do?" on a sheet of paper. Say: ***It is important to do our best to act like Jesus.*** Read aloud page 60 and have your child complete the activity. Ask: ***Have you ever been in a situation like any of these? What did you do?***

Respond: Pages 61–62

- ▶ 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 help someone in need. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***Let's take some time to thank Jesus for being our example and showing us how important it is to care for others.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 62. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember to act with kindness and love to everyone. Ask God to help you follow Jesus' example.***

Jesus Calls Us to Love

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Mark 12:28–34. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *When you hear the word neighbor, what do you think of?* (a person who lives nearby) Read aloud the paragraph on page 63. Say: *Jesus wants us to think of everyone in the world as our neighbors. Name some ways you want to be treated.* (with kindness, protected, encouraged) *When you treat everyone like that, even people you don't like, you are following the greatest commandment.*
- ▶ Say: *Let's ask God to help us love and care for others.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Ask: *Who is a leader at your school?* (principal, headmaster) Say: *Like schools, the Church also has many leaders.* Display a picture of the current pope and tell your child his name.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 64. Guide your child to look up the word *pope* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- ▶ Ask: *What makes a good leader?* (listening, being encouraging, being helpful) Ask: *Who leads the Church now?* (the pope) *Where does the pope live?* (Vatican City) Say: *The pope asks us to do things Jesus wants us to do.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *How are our Church leaders like Jesus?* (They teach and share God's message.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 65. Guide your child to look up the words *bishop* and *crozier* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *Like the pope, bishops are important Church leaders.* Tell your child the name of the current bishop in your diocese. Explain that there are many parishes and bishops all around the world.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *What matters is not so much the sin, but that we ask God for forgiveness and work hard not to do the same thing again.*

Art Exploration: Page 66

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a banquet.
- ▶ Say: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how it reminds him or her of a family dinner. Say: *God wants to be close to everyone.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 66. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions. Guide your child to look up the word *parable* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then invite your child to read The Parable of the Banquet. Ask: ***How do you think the host of the dinner party felt when his guests did not come?*** (sad, angry, disappointed) ***Who came to the banquet?*** (those who were poor, sick, blind, and lame) ***What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this parable?*** (God wants to be close to everyone.)
- ▶ Read aloud God’s Invitation and have your child write a thank-you note to God.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that God invited him or her to a banquet. Ask: ***What would you bring to share with the other guests?*** Invite your child to speak heart-to-heart, telling him how it feels to gather at his table. Close with a prayer of thanks to God and a promise to accept his invitation to follow him.

Reflect: Pages 67–68

- ▶ Together look at page 67. Ask: ***What do you think the boy in the picture is doing?***
Say: ***You can talk to God as you talk to a friend.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph on page 67. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate. Give your child time to speak silently with Jesus. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud page 68. Ask: ***What is the name of our parish priest?*** Explain that priests work with bishops and the pope to guide the Church and lead it in the celebration of the sacraments. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. Ask: ***How did Saint Martín de Porres follow God?*** (by caring for others) Say: ***Like Jesus, Martín cared for people who needed help the most. He wanted to help them know that God cared for them.***

Respond: Pages 69–70

- ▶ 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 activities in which he or she can include others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***Everyone on earth is our neighbor and God wants us to treat others as we want to be treated.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 70. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Find a way to be a friend and helper each day. Remember to share God’s love with everyone you meet.***

God's Life for Us

Engage: Page 71

- ▶ Hide one piece from a jigsaw puzzle. Together with your child, put the puzzle together, noting the missing piece. After you find the piece, ask: ***How does it feel to have found the missing piece?***
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 18:15–17. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ***.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 71. Ask: ***Why do you think Jesus loved children?*** (Children made Jesus feel happy.) Ask: ***What did the disciples try to do?*** (stop people from bringing their children to Jesus) Ask: ***Who is welcomed into the Kingdom of God?*** (everyone) Say: ***Jesus said the Kingdom of God belongs to all of us***.
- ▶ Say: ***Remember that you have a special place in Jesus' heart and in the Kingdom of God***. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together ***Amen***.

Explore: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Discuss stories or nursery rhymes that teach a lesson, such as “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” or “The Little Red Hen.” Say: ***Jesus told many parables. Parables are special stories that teach important lessons***.
- ▶ Read aloud page 72. Say: ***In this parable, Jesus used the sheep to represent all of us. He wants us to know that God will do whatever it takes to keep us close to him. If we stray, the Father will always reach out to help us come back to him***.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Then have your child read it aloud with you.
- ▶ Read aloud Shepherding God's People on page 73. Guide your child to look up the word *deacon* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***Priests and deacons are a very important part of our Church***.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Emphasize that God's love is unconditional and that no matter what, he is always going to love and guide us.

Art Exploration: Page 74

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the job of a shepherd involves. Say: ***As a shepherd cares for his flock, Jesus cares for us***.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 74. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 74. Ask: ***What is one way Jesus cares for us? Why do you think a shepherd is a good way to describe Jesus?*** (He leads us, feeds us, and protects us like a shepherd does for his sheep.)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud The Good Shepherd and complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a poster with the caption *I Can Be Like Jesus*. Ask your child to draw pictures or cut out and glue magazine pictures to show ways he or she cares for others. Suggest that your child focus on actions that promote caring just as Jesus cares for us. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Pages 75–76

- ▶ Together look at page 75. Remind your child that every time he or she prays, the bond of love between him or her and God gets stronger.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Guide your child to look up the word *psalm* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then read aloud the second paragraph. Say: ***Let's take some time to pray to God, our Good Shepherd. We're going to pray a prayer from Psalm 23. This psalm is found in the Bible.*** Read aloud the psalm. Then allow time for silent prayer. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God Is Our Shepherd on page 76. Ask: ***How is God like a good shepherd?*** (He cares for every person.) ***How can you be a good shepherd at school?*** (by caring for classmates, making sure no one is left out or left behind.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity. Help your child work through the maze. Say: ***The Good Shepherd cares for his sheep and watches over them.*** Ask: ***Who cares for us in a similar way?*** (God the Father)

Respond: Pages 77–78

- ▶ 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 take care of others in his or her life. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 78. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember that Jesus welcomes us just the way we are. We learned that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and we are all members of his flock. He cares so much about each one of us.***

Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 79

- ▶ Light a candle and ask: *Why do people use candles?* (to make a room light if it is dark; for decoration) Say: *Our church uses candles during Advent. In this session, we will learn about Advent—the time of year when we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 5:14–15. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Say: *December 21 is the day that has the least amount of sunlight. When it is dark, we can have trouble seeing. During Advent, we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World.* Read aloud the paragraph on page 79. Ask: *How can we let our light shine?* (by spreading Jesus’ message of love and forgiveness)
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can light up the lives of his or her family members during the season of Advent. Say: *Let us open our hearts to Jesus and his light.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Page 80

- ▶ Together list a typical daily schedule. Ask: *When do you make time to play with friends or talk to family members?* Say: *Just as we need to make time for things that are important to us, we need to make time for Jesus in our lives.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and the first paragraph on page 80. Say: *It is important to take time for Jesus because he is our way to true happiness and peace.* Discuss the two questions on the page.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Offer an example by saying: *One way I can light the way for others is by being a leader. When someone is left out, I will be his or her friend.* Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Ask: *How can you live as a child of light?* (always set a good example, listen to my parents, show kindness)

Reflect: Page 81

- ▶ Together make a diorama by cutting a one-inch hole in the front of a shoe box. Then cut a door into the lid by cutting three sides of a rectangle that can open and shut. Glue figures from a Nativity scene into the box. Let your child look at it with the door on the lid open and closed. Ask: *Why do we need light?* (to see in the dark)
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. Say: *As we see different candles and festive lights at Advent, we are reminded that Jesus lights our way.*

- ▶ Have your child read aloud *What We Experience* and complete the activity. Remind him or her that there are 3 violet candles and 1 rose-colored candle in an Advent wreath.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Ready for Sacraments* feature. Review the meaning of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Emphasize the joy in forgiving others and being forgiven.

Art Exploration: Page 82

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of an Advent wreath.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, focusing on the candles and the shape of the wreath. Say: ***The green Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning or end, just as God has no beginning or end. Each candle represents one week of Advent. The three violet candles remind us to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming through prayer and good works. The rose-colored candle symbolizes that our waiting will soon end.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 82. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Lighting the Way for Jesus*. Say: ***Light is often used to describe warmth, goodness, and love.*** Ask: ***What can we do to make room for Jesus' light in our hearts?*** (pray, do good deeds)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Making Room for Jesus' Light* and complete the activity.
- ▶ In the center of a paper plate, have your child draw a picture of a way your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus during Advent. Have your child glue on silk green leaves to cover the plate rim. He or she can cover four empty toilet tissue tubes with three purple sheets and one pink sheet of construction paper and glue them to the paper plate to represent Advent wreath candles. Share the wreath with other family members.

Respond: Pages 83–84

- ▶ 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 shine a light for others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus is the Light of the World. During Advent, we celebrate that Jesus came to save us.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 84. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***During Advent, think of ways that you can be the light of Jesus in the world.***

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

Begin

Ask: *Can you think of a movie or a book about someone going on an adventure?* Share ideas with your child. Ask: *What kind of adventures has our family taken?* Read aloud the unit title on page 86. Point out the picture of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Say: *We are going to learn about Saint Ignatius of Loyola. He had many adventures while serving God.*

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Say: *Saint Ignatius of Loyola served God as a soldier and as a traveler. Just as Ignatius learned about Jesus from his family, we can learn with our family and grow closer to Jesus together.*
- ▶ Turn to page 87. Have your child read aloud the two paragraphs. Ask: *Who inspired Ignatius to change his life?* (Jesus and the saints) *Why do you think Ignatius wanted to be like Jesus and the saints?* (to spend his life doing God's work.)
- ▶ Tell your child that Saint Ignatius loved teaching children about Jesus. Say: *Saint Ignatius taught about Jesus' love. He told children they could talk to Jesus anytime in prayer. Now as we learn to listen to God in prayer, we can find out how to love and serve him.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Tell your child that this is part of Saint Ignatius's prayer the *Suscipe*. Say: *Saint Ignatius wants us to know that if we have God's love and grace, we have everything we need. God loves us and takes care of us.*
- ▶ With your child, add Ignatius' feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love of Saint Ignatius.

Unit Opener: Page 88

- ▶ Ask your child to name things he or she considers special or wonderful. Say: *Every time we encounter something wonderful, we find God. God is in all things that are good and holy!*
- ▶ Ask: *How did Ignatius live like Jesus?* (Responses will vary.) Say: *Let's read to find out more about Saint Ignatius.* Read aloud the paragraph. Then ask how Ignatius did God's work. (He became a priest. He taught people how to pray. He taught that God was in all things.)
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity. When he or she is finished, discuss his or her responses.
- ▶ Direct your child's attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Let's pray part of Psalm 19. It names a place we can find God.* Read aloud the verse. Say: *The firmament is the sky.* Ask: *What things do you see in the sky? What do they say about God?* (Sample answer: I see the sun. It tells me God loves us so much that he gave us light.)

(Continued on the next page)

We Worship God

Engage: Page

- ▶ Discuss what it is like to be new, either on a sports team, at school, in your parish, or in a club. Ask: *How would you welcome a new member?* Encourage your child to think of other ways to welcome people who are new to your neighborhood.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 28:16–20. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *What would you need to build a house?* (a design, money, tools, materials, workers) Say: *It takes a whole team to build something that big. Jesus told his Apostles to form a team—the Church—to help build his kingdom.* Read aloud the paragraphs on page 89. Ask: *What power did Jesus give his disciples?* (the power to share his love with others through baptism)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 90–91

- ▶ Raise your forefinger to your lips. Ask: *What does this sign mean?* (to be quiet) Give a thumbs up. Ask: *What does this sign mean?* (good job) Say: *The sacraments are signs too. They remind us God is with us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph on page 90. Say: *We have talked about how Jesus loved and healed people when he lived on earth. He continues to love and heal us through the sacraments. He does this through the Holy Spirit.* Ask: *Who is the Holy Spirit?* (the Third Person of the Trinity)
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Guide your child to look up the term *Fruits of the Holy Spirit* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are ways we act when God is alive in us.*
- ▶ Invite your child to complete the activity. When he or she is finished, say: *These are the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit. They help us live like Jesus.*
- ▶ Discuss the day that your child was baptized. Then have your child read aloud The Sacrament of Baptism on page 91. Guide your child to look up the terms *rite* and *Original Sin* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *The rite of Baptism is celebrated by pouring water over someone's head or immersing the person in water. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, Original Sin is forgiven. We become members of the Church, God's family.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Explain that we can use holy water, the rosary, religious medals, and participation in processions to help us turn our hearts to God and get ready to receive the sacraments.

Art Exploration: Page 92

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of a beautiful flowering tree.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail including the flowers, buds, and trunk. Say: ***Just like a branch grows strong on a tree, we grow strong and happy when we stay close to Jesus.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 92. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is the Vine. Ask: ***Why do you think Jesus calls himself a vine?*** (He gives us life and keeps us strong.) ***What do we need to grow in love of God and Jesus?*** (prayer, sacraments, Bible, good deeds)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Grow Like a Vine and complete the activity. Ask your child to share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word Feature. Say: ***When we stay close to Jesus, we bear the beautiful Fruits of the Holy Spirit.***
- ▶ Invite your child to draw a tree leaving the branches bare. Have your child label the tree *Jesus* and the branches *Us*. Ask him or her to add fruits to the branches and label the fruits of the Holy Spirit *love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness*. Pray silently together asking the Holy Spirit for these gifts.

Reflect: Pages 93–94

- ▶ Together look at page 93. Say: ***Remember that we thrive when we are connected Jesus.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraph slowly and with expression. Pause to give your child time to reflect. Then pray aloud the imaginative prayer slowly and reverently. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Close the prayer by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Say: ***Let's learn how we can share our love for Jesus with others.***
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the title and the paragraph on page 94. Discuss the questions with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete the list. Have your child read aloud his or her list and discuss the ideas. Say: ***Just as you do nice things for your friends and enjoy shared activities, you can stay close to Jesus by being more like him, such as by being kind to others and talking to God in prayer.***

(Continued on the next page)

Respond: Pages 95–96

- ▶ 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 others. Say: ***God helps us be kind. When we are kind, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit are alive in us.*** Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 96. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember that the Fruits of the Holy Spirit are alive in you! You are growing closer to Jesus through your kind and loving actions.***

Celebrating Reconciliation

Engage: Page 97

- ▶ Discuss times when you and your child have reconciled with friends. Talk about how you each felt after you made up. Say: *Jesus helps us recognize our sins and ask for forgiveness. He also helps us forgive others when they have hurt us.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Mark 2:1–12. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask: *What do we mean by the phrase “a broken heart”?* (feeling sad; hurt) Say: *While our physical heart is not damaged, we still need to be healed. Jesus heals our bodies and our souls.* Read aloud the paragraphs on page 97. Ask: *How might Jesus heal our souls?* (by forgiving our sins)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Close by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 98–99

- ▶ Share a childhood story with your child about a time you disobeyed or disappointed someone you loved. Highlight the consequences of your actions and how you made peace with that person. Say: *When we turn away from God, we can become close again through apologies, forgiveness, and reconciliation.*
- ▶ Guide your child to look up *mortal sin*, *venial sin*, and *contrition* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Then read aloud page 98. Ask: *What is one thing both kinds of sin have in common?* (They hurt our relationship with God and with others.) Say: *In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we confess our sins to a priest and tell God we are sorry.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *Together at Mass we praise God for being merciful and ask for God’s forgiveness.*
- ▶ Guide your child to look up the terms *examination of conscience* and *confession* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Then have your child read aloud page 99. Say: *Let’s turn to pages 270 and 271.* Discuss these pages and explain that these types of questions help us think about what we will confess to Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *A penance is a prayer or a deed we do to help us change and live as God wants us to live.*

(Continued on the next page)

Art Exploration: Page 100

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of Jesus talking to a man in a tree.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the locations of the man in the tree and Jesus. Say: ***Jesus is always happy when we make efforts to be closer to him.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 100. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Zacchaeus, the Rich Man. Ask: ***Why did the crowd become angry?*** (Jesus was going to the home of a sinner.) ***What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus?*** (that he was saved that day)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Forgive One Another and complete the activity. Share what you think forgiveness means with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Our real treasure is one day being with God*** in heaven.
- ▶ Read the following rhyme aloud and pause after each line. Ask your child to make up actions for each line and perform them.

Zacchaeus had to climb a tree. For it was Jesus he longed to see. When Jesus asked him to come down, Zacchaeus turned his life around. He made peace with God, you see. He walked in love through God's mercy.

Reflect: Pages 101–102

- ▶ Together look at page 101. Ask: ***What do you think the girl in the picture is talking to God about?*** Say: ***Contrition is the sadness we feel when we know we have sinned. The prayer on this page is a special prayer we pray to ask God to forgive our sins.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraph slowly and with expression. Then invite your child to pray aloud the Act of Contrition with you. Ask your child to take a few moments to talk to Jesus in his or her heart. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Say: ***Remember the great love God has for us as we practice Jesus' teachings.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Forgives on page 102. Say: ***After God has forgiven us, we have a pure heart, free from sin. When our hearts are pure, we feel joyful and holy.***
- ▶ Read aloud A Pure Heart and have your child complete the activity. Say: ***Tell God how good you feel when he forgives your sins, making your heart pure and holy.***

(Continued on the next page)

Respond: Pages 103–104

- ▶ 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 show forgiveness to others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Say: ***We have discussed forgiveness today. Remember, God wants us to make peace with him and with others.*** Allow time for silent reflection. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 104. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Jesus loves us, and he always forgives us when we are sorry for our sins and ask for forgiveness. Remember to always do your best to avoid sin. Think about your choices and actions so that you can live as God wants you to live.***

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Say: *Words can hurt people, and words can heal too.* Ask: *When our unkind words hurt people, what can you say to heal the hurt?* (“I’m sorry.” “Please forgive me.” “Let’s be friends again.”)
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud John 20:19–23. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 105. Say: *Sometimes it is hard to make peace with someone. Jesus is ready to help us! Let’s ask Jesus to teach us more about forgiveness.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Ask your child to make a poster that shows signs and symbols of peace. At the top of the poster, tell him or her to write *May God give you pardon and peace.* Display the poster in your home.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 106. Guide your child to look up the terms *absolution* and *seal of confession* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *Jesus forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Absolution is the forgiveness God offers us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *When you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest cannot tell anyone anything you have confessed to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 107. Guide your child to look up the word *penance* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: *After confession we are filled with peace in our hearts.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *The wonderful thing about the Sacrament of Reconciliation is that God frees us from the burden of our sins.*

Art Exploration: Page 108

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture that shows four friends lowering a man through the roof to see Jesus.
- ▶ Say: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the men are doing. Say: *Jesus heals and forgives us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 108. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Jesus Heals.* Say: *The paralyzed man cannot get close to Jesus without the help of his friends.* Ask: *How do they help?* (They carried their friend to Jesus and lowered him through the roof.) *Who are some people in your life that help you grow close to God?* (family, friends, priests)

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Friendship and complete the activity. Share your own experience of friendship with your child.
- ▶ Invite your child to role-play these situations with you that teach how to be a good friend: a friend is worried about a sick pet; a friend broke an arm and needs help doing things; a friend has to do chores before playing with you. At the end of each role-play, talk about how being a good friend made your child feel.

Reflect: Pages 109–110

- ▶ Together look at page 109. Say: *God always helps us ask for forgiveness when we sin.* Read aloud the title and the paragraph. Say: *It's our special prayer time. Be still, and feel the love of God in your heart.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to respond in his or her heart. Say: *We can pray the Act of Contrition anytime to tell God that we are sorry for something we have done and to ask for his help.* Pray aloud the Act of Contrition together. Then pray together the Sign of the Cross. Close by saying: *As we learn to live in peace with one another, always remember how much God loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Peace Be with You on page 110 and discuss the question. Have your child read aloud Making Peace and complete the activity. Invite him or her to read aloud the sentences.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Jesus offers us the peace that comes with forgiveness. He calms our hearts.*

Respond: Pages 111–112

- ▶ 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 a peacemaker at home and at school. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together. Say: *We know that when we sin, we can ask God and one another for forgiveness.*
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 112. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *Remember, God wants us to be peacemakers at home, at school, and in our communities!*

Mary Shows Us the Way

Engage: Page 113

- ▶ With your child, discuss special women you both know. Have your child design a trophy using gold construction paper and art supplies for a special woman. Ask him or her to complete this sentence on the trophy: *You are special to me because ____*. Invite your child to give the trophy to the woman he or she honored.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 2:15–20. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraph on page 113. Say: ***It can be difficult to sit quietly with good news. But when we reflect on God’s goodness in our hearts, we grow closer to him. Then we can share even more of his goodness with others!***
- ▶ Invite your child to think about how Mary loved her son, Jesus, and how Mary loves us today. Say: ***Let’s ask God to help us learn from Mary’s example***. Pray aloud the prayer. Then say: ***Now let’s spend some time reflecting on God’s goodness***. Pause. Then pray together *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Discuss a time when your family traveled to visit a friend or family member. Talk about how you got there and how long it took. Recall how you felt when you finally arrived.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 114. Say: ***Mary wanted Elizabeth and all of us to know that all praise belongs to God. Mary was grateful for all God had done for her***. Ask: ***What has God given you?*** (a healthy body, a home to live in, a good family)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: ***Everyone calls Mary blessed as Elizabeth said they would***. Invite your child to do the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud page 115. Guide your child to look up the word *Magnificat* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***The Magnificat is a special prayer of praise that Mary offered to God for choosing her to be Jesus’ mother***.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: ***Let’s take a few moments to thank God the Father for his Son, Jesus***. Pause for a few moments of quiet time. Then say: ***God fills our hearts with joy. He creates you and loves you always***.

Art Exploration: Page 116

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture that shows the Virgin Mary with flowers.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Mary is wearing and holding.

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 116. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud *Mother of the Church*. Say: ***Mary has the special role of being Mother of the Church.*** Ask: ***How does God help us to be his children?*** (He gives us grace.) ***How can we be more like Mary?***
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud *Special Women* and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***What are some of Mary's experiences that you think she remembered?*** (visit from the angel Gabriel telling her she would be the mother of Jesus, visiting Elizabeth, praising God in the *Magnificat*, the birth of Jesus, find Jesus in the Temple)
- ▶ Explain to your child that different cultures picture Mary in their own way. Have your child picture Mary and draw his or her own version of the Mother of God. Display this artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 117–118

- ▶ Together look at page 117. Say: ***The boy in the picture looks happy.*** Remind your child that we ask Mary to pray for us, to help and support us, and to pray with us as we ask God for what we need.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph slowly. Say: ***Mary, the Mother of the Church, loves each of us and wants us to be close to God the Father and to her Son, Jesus.***
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Then pray together the Hail Mary, followed by the Sign of the Cross. Close by saying: ***As we remember Mary in our hearts, let's try to follow her example today and every day.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph and the activity directions on page 118. Have your child read aloud each stanza and complete each sentence. When he or she is finished, read aloud the poem together.

Respond: Pages 119–120

- ▶ 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 honor Mary, the Mother of the Church. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 120. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Mary found God in the quiet. We can also be with God in the quiet or in songs or spoken prayers. Remember that Mary is our best example of faithfulness to God!***

Celebrating Christmas

Engage: Page 121

- ▶ On a dry-erase board or sheet of paper, draw a time line showing the Sundays in Advent, Christmas, the Epiphany, and the baptism of the Lord. Together look at a calendar to find the Epiphany and the end of the Christmas season for this year.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Psalm 96:11–13. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Turn on a flashlight. Say: ***When it is dark, we need help finding our way. When Jesus was born, he brought his light into a dark world to help us find our way to God.*** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 121. Ask: ***How did the birth of Jesus bring hope and light to the world?*** (by bringing all people back to God the Father)
- ▶ Ask your child to take a moment to imagine he or she is kneeling next to Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the manger. Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Page 122

- ▶ Say: ***Let's pretend we are having a special guest come to our home to visit.*** Ask: ***What are some things our family might do to make him or her feel welcome?***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 122. Discuss the questions. Say: ***Celebrating Christmas is similar to welcoming a special guest into our home.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete the activity. Discuss the picture he or she drew.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***How does Jesus' birth show that God is with us?*** (Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God's gift to us.)

Reflect: Page 123

- ▶ Together look at a religious Advent calendar. Ask: ***What do you think we will see when you open the window on December 25?*** Review the special preparations of Advent and how they help prepare us to celebrate the joy of Christmas.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. Say: ***When Christmas finally arrives, families are ready to rejoice. Jesus is here! He is in our hearts, and he is with us.***
- ▶ Guide your child to look up the term *Nativity scene* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then have your child read aloud What We Experience and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for Sacraments feature. Say: ***Jesus wants to be with us always. He is eager for the day when you can receive him as often as possible, at least once a week, in the Eucharist.***

Art Exploration: Page 124

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows a Nativity scene.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting, the people, and the animals. Say: ***A Nativity scene reminds us of Jesus' birth and how much God the Father loves us.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 124. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Feast of Christmas. Ask: ***Why do you think we give gifts to one another at Christmas?*** (to recall the special gift that God gave us in Jesus) Say: ***God gave us talents that are meant to be shared. When we give someone the gift of ourselves, we are living as Jesus did.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud You Are a Gift and complete the activity. Example of talents might include reading to a younger child, playing an instrument, or sharing a positive attitude.
- ▶ Invite your child to design a Christmas card to give to a parishioner or neighbor who is homebound. Have your child fold a sheet of construction paper in half, decorate the card, and write a special Christmas message inside. Close with a silent prayer asking that all people be remembered on Jesus' birthday.

Respond: Pages 125–126

- ▶ 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 share joy with others. Then read aloud the activity directions. Have your child imagine that he or she is one of the shepherds who has come to see the baby Jesus. Say: ***Notice the night sky and scene surrounding the manger. What do the angels say?*** Ask your child to write the angels' words of praise in the bubble.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 126. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***During the Christmas season this year, try to think of new ways to be more like Jesus.***

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.

Sacraments, Our Way of Life

Begin

- ▶ Write the following words on a dry-erase board or a sheet of paper: *school, store, church, and park*. Have your child read aloud the words. Say: *We meet people in all different places*. Ask: *Where else do we meet people?* Say: *Each time we meet Jesus, we learn more about him*. Read aloud the unit title on page 128. Say: *This unit will help us learn more about how we meet Jesus in the sacraments*.

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Pius X on page 128. Say: *The Roman numeral X stands for the number 10. That means he was the tenth pope who chose the name Pius*.
- ▶ Turn to page 129. Have your child read aloud the heading and the paragraph. Say: *Saint Pius X wanted Catholics to receive Holy Communion more often. He also wanted children to be closer to God by receiving Jesus Christ in the Eucharist*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask: *What do you think Saint Pius X meant by this statement?* (Receiving Holy Communion brings us closer to Jesus.)
- ▶ With your child, add Saint Pius's feast day, August 21, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the service of Saint Pius X.

(Continued on the next page)

Unit Opener: Page 130

- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph on page 130. Ask your child to name specific words and actions that help show Jesus' love. Ask: ***Do you think Saint Pius X was close to Jesus? Why?*** (Yes. He was full of Jesus' love. He shared Jesus' love with others.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Invite your child to think about words and actions that bring him or her closer to Jesus. Then have your child complete the sentence and color the picture.
- ▶ Say: ***The psalms help us express what we feel in our hearts and believe about God. The writer of this psalm calls God his "refuge." A refuge is a safe place.*** Ask a volunteer to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Then pray the psalm together aloud.

(Continued on the next page)

New Life in Jesus

Engage: Page 131

- ▶ Ask: *What do you think makes a good team member?* (being fair, giving everyone a turn, listening to other people's ideas) Say: *The sacraments help each of us become a member of the Church and stay a good member.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 10:47–49. Then say: *The Word of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: *God wants us to be welcoming to all people.* Read aloud the paragraphs on page 131. Ask: *Who were the people that some felt should be “kept out” and not allowed to become Christians?* (Gentiles) Say: *Baptism makes us members of God’s welcoming family.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Ask: *What are some signs that you belong to a certain team or group?* (uniforms, badges, T-shirts) Say: *Today we are going to learn about the sacraments that welcome us into God’s family, our Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph on page 132. Ask: *What are sacraments?* (holy signs that show God is with us) *Who gave the sacraments to the Church?* (Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud the next paragraph. Guide your child to look up the terms *Sacraments of Initiation* and *Confirmation* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Ask: *Say: The word initiation means “beginning.” We celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation as we begin our lives as members of God’s family, the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud the next two paragraphs. Say: *Through Baptism, we receive sanctifying grace. Grace is a gift from God that fills us with his life and makes us his friends. God’s grace makes us holy. Therefore, it is called sanctifying grace.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: *Water is a symbol of our new life in Baptism. The life we receive in Baptism is life as a member of God’s family, the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 133. Guide your child to look up the terms *Body and Blood of Christ* and *Holy Communion* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *At Mass, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ that we receive in Holy Communion. We grow in faith as God’s children in the Sacrament of Confirmation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *Sacraments are special occasions of grace, but we can enjoy the loving presence of Jesus in prayer any time of day.*

Art Exploration: Page 134

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of Saint Peter holding keys. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the keys that Saint Peter is holding.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus called Peter to be the first leader of his Church. The Church continues to have leaders today who help us be close to God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 134. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Peter Speaks to the People. Ask: *Why did Peter encourage the people to be baptized?* (Their sins will be forgiven, and they will receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.)
- ▶ Read aloud Saint Peter is a Leader. Make a list of current local, diocesan, and universal Church leaders. Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Have your child find a smooth, palm-sized rock. Share the Scripture passage from Matthew 16:18: "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." Invite your child to paint symbols on the rock that remind him or her of the strength received through the Church. Display the rock paperweight in your home.

Reflect: Pages 135–136

- ▶ Together look at page 135. Say: *Use your senses and your imagination to tell what the girl in the picture sees, hears, feels, and smells.* Invite your child to do the same when he or she talks to Jesus in prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently. At the end of the prayer, say: *If there's anything else you'd like to tell Jesus, take time now to speak with him in your heart.* Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 136. Suggest that your child look back at pages 132–133 to help him or her complete the activity.

Respond: Pages 137–138

- ▶ 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 times he or she can talk to Jesus throughout the day. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: *Let's thank God for his gift of grace, which we experience in the sacraments.* Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 138. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *We can rejoice that we are God's children and part of his family, the Church! Know that the Lord loves you more than you can ever imagine.*

Jesus Loves the Church

Engage: Page 139

- ▶ Ask your child to think of ways he or she would welcome a new neighbor. Share your own ideas with your child. Pray aloud the prayer together.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 2:42–47. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: ***It feels good to be welcomed. In the Eucharist, the first Christians welcomed one another in Christ's name.*** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 139. Ask: ***How did the first Christians live together as one family in God?*** (They shared everything. They prayed and ate together.)
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus calls the members of his Church to serve one another.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 140–141

- ▶ Together recall experiences when you had guests for dinner. Ask: ***Who was there? What did we talk about? What did our guest share with us?***
- ▶ Read aloud Inviting Jesus to Dinner. Guide your child to look up the word *disciple* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***What is a disciple?*** (a follower of Jesus) Say: ***The disciples were very sad when they met the man on the road.*** Ask: ***How do you think they felt when they realized the man was Jesus?*** (overjoyed, happy)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is with Us on page 141. Say: ***We can call on the Holy Spirit when we need help loving others.*** Guide your child to look up the term *Sacrifice of the Mass* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***The Sacrifice of the Mass helps us remember that Jesus died for us and saved us from our sins.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: ***We learn about Jesus and his messages for us by listening to the Gospels.***

Art Exploration: Page 142

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture showing adults and children walking to church.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the destination of the walkers. Say: ***When we serve others in our parish community, we show our love for the family of God.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 142. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud *We Are Members of the Church*. Guide your child to look up the term *ministry* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***What are some ways that you can be involved in ministry in our parish?*** (donate food or clothing to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, sing in the children’s choir) Work together to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: ***What do ministers of hospitality do?*** (welcome people to Mass)
- ▶ Invite your child to make a hospitality cross to represent the ministry. Help him or her glue together two craft sticks to make a cross. Write *HOSPITALITY* on the vertical stick. Then write *JE_US* on the horizontal stick, using the letter *S* from *HOSPITALITY* to connect the two words. Ask your child to decorate it with glitter and glue a safety pin the cross to the back. Arrange for your family to serve as ministers of hospitality at an upcoming Mass and wear pins like this one.

Reflect: Pages 143–144

- ▶ Together look at page 143. Ask: ***Where is the boy in the picture? Say: We pray a prayer of blessing before every meal. As we ask for God’s blessing on “these thy gifts,” we can include the gift of food and all the blessings of the day.***
- ▶ Read aloud the two paragraphs. Then pray aloud the prayer. Close by encouraging your child to pray this prayer with your family at mealtimes.
- ▶ Read aloud page 144. Ask: ***How can you invite Jesus into your life?*** (pray, go to Mass, do acts of service) Invite your child to complete the activity and share his or her welcome message to Jesus. Say: ***When we welcome others into our lives, we are welcoming Jesus too.***

Respond: Pages 145–146

- ▶ 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 children. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 146. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember, the Mass is the most important way we remember that Jesus is with us. Invite Jesus into your life every day! He will help you in everything you do.***

Gathering for Mass

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Invite your child to sit and listen quietly for sounds. Ask your child to share what he or she heard. Say: *Listening is an important skill. At Mass, we need to listen closely to God's Word.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 6:46–49. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 147. Ask: *What can listening to Jesus' words help us do?* (love and forgive others, obey our parents, make good choices)
- ▶ Say: *When we gather for Mass, we turn our hearts toward God.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Discuss the jobs of people you see participating in Sunday Mass. Say: *The priest leads us in the celebration of the Mass in the name of Jesus Christ. He is helped by deacons, altar servers, lectors, cantors, and choir members.* Ask: *What are we all called to do at Mass?* (sing, respond)
- ▶ Read aloud The Mass Begins. Ask: *What happens at Mass after the Entrance Procession?* (The priest greets everyone and leads people in asking God to forgive their sins.) Guide your child to look up the terms *ambo*, *Lectionary for Mass*, and *Homily* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Then read aloud We Hear God's Message. Say: *During the Homily, the priest or deacon tells us more about the readings we have just heard and how their message connects to our daily lives.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *This verse tells us how important it is to listen to God's Word.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 149. Guide your child to look up the term *Liturgy of the Word* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Explain: *The Liturgy of the Word is the part of Mass when we listen to God's Word from the Bible.* Review information in the section The Order of Mass, which begins on page 260.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Discuss how the Third Commandment calls us to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Art Exploration: Page 150

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of the symbols of the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

- ▶ Say: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the symbols shown to represent each Gospel writer. Say: ***The Gospels contain God's special messages for us to learn and live by. Listen for them each time you attend Mass.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 150. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Four Gospels. Then guide your child to look up the word *Evangelists* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***The Gospels tell about the life of Jesus.*** Have your child name each of the four Evangelists and his symbol.
- ▶ Read aloud the Symbol Match. Allow time for your child to complete the activity. Discuss the responses.
- ▶ Invite your child to design and draw a symbol that represents him or her, such as the ones for Jesus and the Evangelists. Encourage your child to think about his or her talents and incorporate it into his or her symbol. Ask your child to explain the finished symbol.

Reflect: Pages 151–152

- ▶ Together look at page 151. Say: ***Mass is a special time to pray for the forgiveness of our sins, ask for God's blessings, and listen to God's Word from the Bible.***
- ▶ Slowly read aloud the paragraphs. Say: ***Let's take some time to think about the Mass. Listen closely and be with Jesus in your heart.*** Pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Mass on page 152 and complete the activity. Discuss the responses when he or she is finished.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Take turns acting out the role of the lector and the role of the people.

Respond: Pages 153–154

- ▶ 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 to show that he or she is like Jesus. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 154. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***This Sunday at Mass, listen carefully to God's Word and join in the responses. Remember not to just listen to God's words, but put them into practice. When we act on God's Word, we become strong and nothing can shake us!***

Celebrating the Eucharist

Engage: Page 155

- ▶ Together brainstorm things that children share with one another. (toys, treats, books)
Say: *We share our time, possessions, and good will with the people in our lives. We share our faith when we celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud John 6:33–35. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 155. Ask: *What can we do to let Jesus nourish us?* (pray, receive Holy Communion, go to Mass) Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 156–157

- ▶ Teach your child the song “We Can Serve,” sung to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down.” Say: *We can serve as Jesus served, Jesus served, Jesus served. We can serve as Jesus served, We serve others!* Continue with “We can love” and “We can help.”
- ▶ Guide your child to look up the terms *Liturgy of the Eucharist*, *altar*, and *transubstantiation* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Then read aloud page 156. Say: *The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the part of the Mass after the Liturgy of the Word.* Ask: *What is the meaning of the word transubstantiation?* (when the bread and wine are consecrated and become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: *What do we do to celebrate the Lord’s Day?* (attend Mass)
- ▶ Guide your child to look up the term *holy days of obligation* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then read aloud We Attend Mass on page 157. Turn to page 267 and discuss each of the holy days of obligation.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Emphasize the importance of preparing our whole selves to receive Holy Communion.

Art Exploration: Page 158

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of the Last Supper.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how he or she can identify Jesus. Say: *The Last Supper was a special time for Jesus and his followers. The story of the Last Supper reminds us of how Jesus sacrificed himself for us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 158. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud The Last Supper. Ask: ***What are some things you can do for others?*** (spend time with someone who is sick or lonely; read to a younger sibling)
- ▶ Read aloud Thank You, God and have your child complete the activity. Then read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Discuss how Jesus sacrificed himself and why he did this for us.
- ▶ Say: ***Meals are special times we share with our families and others we care about, just as Jesus shared the Last Supper with his followers.*** Ask your child to make a place mat for each family member. Suggest that he or she draw pictures or use stickers to show favorite foods and people who are special to him or her. Proudly use the place mats at your next meal together.

Reflect: Pages 159–160

- ▶ Together look at page 159. Say: ***Fold your hands and be still with Jesus in your heart. Think about how you will feel when you receive Jesus in Holy Communion.*** Pause briefly. Then read aloud the title and the paragraph.
- ▶ Slowly pray aloud the prayer. When finished, allow time for quiet reflection. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 160. Say: ***When we receive the Eucharist, we receive the most wonderful gift ever— Jesus Christ himself.*** Invite your child to complete the activity. Then turn to Receiving Holy Communion on page 266. After reading aloud this section, practice the responses with each other.

Respond: Pages 161–162

- ▶ 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 help others. Invite your child to complete the activity. Say: ***We offer prayers during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We can also pray with our actions by participating in the prayers, singing the songs, and paying attention.***
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 162. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Jesus shares himself with us in the Eucharist so that we can grow closer to him. We can share our faith when we celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass.***

Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Engage: Page 163

- ▶ Read aloud the title. Discuss the picture. Ask: *What are the names of some of the special days in Lent and Holy Week?* (Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday)
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 3:16–17. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Say: *An important part of growing up is learning to set aside your own needs to tend to the needs of others. During Lent, we practice putting the needs of others first.* Read aloud the paragraphs on page 163. Ask: *How do we show our love of God?* (by true acts of kindness)
- ▶ Say: *Take a moment to remember that Jesus is always with you.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Explore: Page 164

- ▶ Ask: *What is something you can do to be a better person?* Together discuss ways to be more thoughtful to those around you.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Grow in Goodness During Lent and Holy Week. Discuss the questions.
- ▶ Read aloud A Time to Change. Say: *I am going to be more cheerful when I wake up in the morning. I will say “Good Morning” and smile at everyone I see.* Invite your child to complete the activity with ways he or she will change this Lent.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Ask: *What are some behaviors that you can leave behind this Lent?*

Reflect: Page 165

- ▶ Discuss how we can sometimes feel a little sad thinking about our sins and the things we have done wrong.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. Say: *Remember that we all sin sometimes. It is important to ask for God’s mercy and help to do better next time. God gives us a fresh start, and that’s a good feeling.*
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Discuss the simplicity of the church during Lent. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *Sometimes it’s difficult to do the right thing and be good; sometimes it’s much easier to do the wrong thing, which may lead to sin. At Mass we pray to God and ask for help to follow Jesus’ example of faithfulness.*

Art Exploration: Page 166

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus hanging on the Cross.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what he or she already knows about the last day of Jesus' life on earth. Say: *Jesus came to show us how much God loves us. He saved us from our sins by his sacrifice.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 166. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Read aloud Lent and Holy Week. Ask: *How can we show that we are sorry for our sins?* (ask God in prayer for forgiveness, ask others to forgive us, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity. Ask him or her to read aloud the sentences.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a prayer pot using modeling clay. Give your child six small squares of red paper. Model how to fold each square in half and cut out a heart shape. Each week of Lent, tell your child to place one heart in the pot to represent a good deed he or she performed that week. Tell your child to place the last heart in the pot on Palm Sunday.

Respond: Pages 167–168

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss a time you answered a call to grow and change. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 168. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *During Lent and Holy Week, we are especially called to be more like Jesus in our words and actions.*

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.

Morality, Our Lived Faith

Begin

- ▶ Ask: *Who are people who help you?* (parents, families, teachers, friends, neighbors) Say: *We are blessed to have people who help us. But we can also help others.* Read aloud the unit title on page 170. Say: *In this unit, we will learn how to put our faith into practice and live as disciples of Jesus.*

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Martin of Tours on page 170. Say: *Saint Martin of Tours was a loving, caring man who reached out to help others.*
- ▶ Turn to page 171. Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Say: *Martin saw that the man was freezing and needed help. He reached out to help the man, even though it meant he would have to give up something. Jesus teaches us to help people in need.* Ask: *Why do you think Martin saw Jesus wearing half of his cloak in his dream?* (Jesus told us that anything we do for others, we do for him.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: *How was Saint Martin like Jesus?* (He helped many people.) Say: *When we help others, no matter who they are or where they live, we are being like Jesus too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Say: *Saint Martin was always speaking about Jesus' love for us and living as Jesus did.*
- ▶ With your child, add Martin's feast day, November 11, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the generosity of Saint Martin of Tours.

(Continued on the next page)

Unit Opener: Page 172

- ▶ Ask your child to tell about a time someone shared with him or her. Ask what he or she thought about this act of kindness. Say: *When someone is kind to us, we experience the love of Jesus. The Lord reminds us to pass on kind acts to others.*
- ▶ Say: *Martin's dream reminds us that Jesus is near to those who are poor and in need.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 172. Say: *Jesus' love grows in us every time we are kind or receive kindness. We feel joy, and we pass on this joy. The more we share, the more of God's love we receive.* Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *We sometimes want to keep things for ourselves. You can ask Jesus to help you share. When we share cheerfully, we are being like Jesus.*

(Continued on the next page)

Being Like Jesus

Engage: Page 173

- ▶ Write the word *MERCY* on a sheet of paper. Together think of a way to show mercy to others. Each way should start with a letter from the word *mercy*. Say: ***God is merciful to us, and he wants us to show mercy to others. We should follow the example of Jesus, who was merciful to everyone.***
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Isaiah 58:10–11. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 173. Ask: ***Who is someone you know who is especially kind? How does he or she shine with God’s love?*** (Answers will vary.) Say: ***God’s love is like a gift that keeps on giving. When we show love to others, it gets bigger and stronger!***
- ▶ Say: ***Let’s ask Jesus to help us be merciful by being kind, forgiving, and helpful.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 174–175

- ▶ Ask: ***What is a parable?*** (one of Jesus’ stories that teaches what God the Father wants for the world) Say: ***Jesus told about the Good Samaritan to teach us how to treat our neighbor.***
- ▶ Read aloud The Good Samaritan on pages 174 and 175. Ask: ***Why were the people listening to Jesus’ story surprised?*** (Samaritans and Jews didn’t talk to one another.) Say: ***The Samaritan helped the Jewish man even though the Jewish people and the Samaritans were not friends. We are to act like the Good Samaritan and help others in need.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Ask: ***What do you think it means to be human?*** Say: ***Receiving the Eucharist is an important way we grow to be more like Jesus.***

Art Exploration: Page 176

- ▶ Find in a book or online an image that shows the words of the Beatitudes. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Say: ***Jesus gives us a plan for true happiness in the Beatitudes.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 176. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Reaching Out to Others. Have your child look up the word *Beatitudes* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***What do the Beatitudes help us do?*** (live more like Jesus) Ask: ***What can you do when you hear unkind words or see unkind actions?*** (walk away, change the channel or the video, ask the person to stop) Read aloud the Scripture passage together.

- ▶ Read aloud Blessed Are the Kind. Allow time for your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: ***Listen for these words the next time you attend Mass. Join in the response.***
- ▶ Have your child write the kindness beatitude on paper using different colors of markers. Invite your child to draw a picture showing how he or she would live this beatitude by showing kindness to others.

Reflect: Pages 177–178

- ▶ Together look at page 177. Say: ***Jesus loves spending time with you.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Say: ***Jesus lived a life of love and concern for others. He wants us to live like he did.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let's think about how we are merciful to others while we spend some quiet time with Jesus.*** Pray aloud the imaginative prayer slowly and reverently. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Act Like Jesus on page 178. Say: ***We must do our best to show love and mercy toward others.*** Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete it. Then discuss the pictures.

Respond: Pages 179–180

- ▶ 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 be a Good Samaritan every day. Say: ***When we show mercy to others, we are being like Jesus.*** Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud the prayer. Say: ***Take a moment to thank Jesus for remembering and loving all people.*** Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 180. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Be like the Good Samaritan. Look for ways you can reach out and help others. When we do kind acts, we are being like Jesus.***

We Share God's Life

Engage: Page 181

- ▶ Say: *When we follow Jesus and listen to his words, we make good choices and share in God's life.*
- ▶ Look at events to come in the next week and talk about good choices that your child can choose to make.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Colossians 3:12–17. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Ask a series of quick either/or questions, such as *Books or movies? Chocolate or vanilla? Ice cream or frozen yogurt?* Say: ***We have many choices in life. Jesus wants us to make good choices that will bring us closer to God our Father.*** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 181. Ask: ***Why does Jesus want us to choose peace and love?*** (That is how Jesus responds to us. Living like Jesus brings us closer to him.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to help us choose love.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 182–183

- ▶ If possible, display photos of some of the trusted adults in your child's life. Ask: ***How can these people help you make good choices?***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Guided by God's Gifts. Have your child look up the term *moral choice* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***A good moral choice is choosing to do the right thing because it's what God wants us to do.*** Ask: ***Who helps us make moral choices?*** (parents, grandparents, teachers, priests)
- ▶ Guide your child to look up the word *conscience* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then read aloud Steps for Making Good Choices on page 183. Present a common situation that your child might face and lead him or her through each step. Say: ***The next time you are faced with making a moral choice, ask the Holy Spirit for help as you answer these three questions.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: ***The Church is joined as one body through the Eucharist. We are all members of the Body of Christ.***

(Continued on the next page)

Art Exploration: Page 184

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the Bible story that is shown in the artwork. Say: *We show love for God and others when we follow the commandments.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 184. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud page 184. Ask: *Why does God give everyone a choice to follow or not to follow his laws?* (God gives us the gift of freedom to make choices.) Say: *This ability to make our own choices is called free will.* Read aloud Choose God. Have your child complete the activity and discuss the responses.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Being like Jesus, we are choosing life with God.*
- ▶ Have your child make a friendship bracelet. Help him or her to string a yellow, blue, green, and red bead on yarn and knot the ends. Say: *Yellow represents Jesus as "the way." Blue is for "the truth." Green is for "the life." Red is for the love of Jesus.* Invite your child to share the bracelet with someone.

Reflect: Pages 185–186

- ▶ Together look at page 185. Say: *The Holy Spirit is always with us, giving us strength and guidance.* Slowly read aloud the title and the paragraph. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Choose to Be Like Jesus on page 186. Say: *Jesus always prayed before making decisions.* Have your child complete the activity. Discuss his or her responses.

Respond: Pages 187–188

- ▶ 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 to ask the Holy Spirit to help him or her make good choices today. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 188. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *Ask God and someone you trust to help and guide you to make good choices.*

Following Jesus

Engage: Page 189

- ▶ Together with your child, make a list of kind acts you can do for family members this week to put smiles on their faces. Say: *Jesus is our role model when it comes to being kind to others. He can help us treat others as he would.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 25:35–40. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 189. Say: *Jesus is close to people in need. What happens when we help someone in need?* (We grow closer to Jesus.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 190–191

- ▶ Ask: *What is your favorite subject in school? Why?* Say: *It's fun to study and learn new things. The more we study and practice, the better we become at what we do.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 190. Guide your child to look up the terms *Old Testament*, *New Testament*, and *Great Commandment* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Together find the Old Testament and the New Testament in a Bible.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *To follow the Great Commandment is to love God, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 191. Say: *Jesus taught people the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes give us a plan for how to live as followers of Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Discuss the importance of Jesus' love.

Art Exploration: Page 192

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of children playing together.
- ▶ Say: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the children. Say: *We can be like Jesus by loving our neighbors.* Have your child turn to page 192. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Love Your Neighbor. Ask: *What are some ways we can love our neighbor as we love ourselves?* (show care, friendliness, encouragement, and understanding toward others)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to write words he or she says and deeds he or she does to show love.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a special "out of season" valentine for someone. Tell your child to write a message of love or friendship. Have him or her send or hand deliver the valentine to this person.

Reflect: Pages 193–194

- ▶ Together look at page 193. Ask: *What do you think the boy in the picture is thinking about?* Say: *We can always rely on Jesus to be present, to strengthen us, and to guide us in every decision we make.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraph. Say: *We have learned about the Great Commandment and the Beatitudes, the wonderful message Jesus gave us for living in peace and goodness. Now let's think about how we can practice them in our lives, especially when we have to make difficult choices.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the imaginative prayer slowly and reverently. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Then invite your child to join you in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus taught that true happiness isn't found in getting what we want, but in being kind and fair to others and working for peace. This is the happiness that lasts.* Read aloud the title and sentence on page 194. Have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to share which Beatitude is followed in each example.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. Say: *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton found time to reach out to others. She was a special person who put Jesus' teaching into practice.*

Respond: Pages 195–196

- ▶ 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 to make peace with someone he or she has hurt. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 196. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *Remember to show your love for God by loving others. Jesus teaches us how to do this by giving us the Beatitudes and the Great Commandment. These teachings help us live as Jesus' followers and be close to him.*

Making Choices

Engage: Page 197

- ▶ Ask: *What does it mean to show respect?* (to be polite, to be kind, to be considerate, to be careful with others' belongings) *What things do we share at home?* (food, bathroom, tablet) *How do you show respect for these things and the other people who use them?* (clean up after myself, take turns)
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read Philippians 4:4–9. Then say: *The Word of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 197. Ask: *How does Jesus want us to think differently?* (to not worry, to be filled with peace and joy)
- ▶ Say: *Jesus treated everyone with respect. Let's ask him to help us always respect others.* Pray the prayer aloud together. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 198–199

- ▶ Ask: *What is a leader?* (someone who is in charge of a group or task) *What does a good leader do?* (Accept reasonable answers.) Say: *Jesus chose Peter to be the leader of the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Community of Believers. Say: *Peter encouraged Christians to act as Jesus would. He wanted them to live in peace.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature Say: *This is part of a letter written by Saint Paul to the Romans. He wants them to be kind to others and to build up others instead of bringing them down.* Ask: *What actions can you take to be a peacemaker? How can you build up others?* (show respect for everyone, stop ourselves from saying unkind things about people, reach out to others in peace)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Live in Kindness on page 199. Guide your child to look up the word *peacemaker* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: *How are the people on this page being peacemakers?* Say: *God is kind and forgiving. When we sin, he always forgives us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Ask: *How can we help those in need?* Say: *Remember that an important way to help others is to pray for them.*

Art Exploration: Page 200

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of a mother teaching her child to walk. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the mother is helping her child. Say: *God wants us to respect our families.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 200. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Then read aloud Respect Others. Ask: *What can you do to make peace at home?* (show respect, don't argue, use good manners)
- ▶ Read aloud Keeping the Peace and have your child complete the activity. Have him or her read aloud the completed sentences.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Guide your child to look up the term *Sign of Peace* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Demonstrate the Sign of Peace with your child. Say: *When we share the Sign of Peace at Mass, we are saying that we respect one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- ▶ Have your child make a collage that represents your family. Tell your child to cut out pictures and words from magazines and other media that remind him or her of each person's qualities. Have him or her group together pictures and words that refer to a certain family member. Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 201–202

- ▶ Together look at page 201. Say: *Let's spend some time thinking about how close we have grown to Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraph. Then pray aloud the imaginative prayer slowly and reverently. Pause for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Then invite him or her to join you in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Respect Others on page 202. Discuss the question. Then have your child complete the activity and discuss the answers with you.

Respond: Pages 203–204

- ▶ 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 to show respect in his or her words and deeds. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 204. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *At Mass, the priest says to us, "The peace of the Lord be with you always." This means we carry God's peace with us all the time and share it with others. Remember to act in peaceful and respectful ways.*

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Sing a simple *Alleluia* together. Ask: ***What other joyful symbols do we see around us at Easter?*** (colorful eggs, lilies, Easter baskets) Say: ***Easter is the time of year when we rejoice that Jesus is risen!*** Together find Easter on a calendar. Invite your child to count 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud John 6:66–69. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 205. Say: ***During Easter, we celebrate the promise of eternal life—living forever with God in heaven.***
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer with joy and enthusiasm. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Ask: ***What is the most joyful time you remember? What made this occasion so joyous?*** (being with family and friends, going to a special place, having fun)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Reflect During Easter. Guide your child to look up the term *eternal life* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***The gift of eternal life gives us hope and faith to know that when we die, we will live with Jesus forever.***
- ▶ Invite your child to complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***It is hard when someone we love dies. We miss that person very much. You can feel comforted knowing that everyone we love is loved by God the Father. He welcomes those who have passed away to live with him forever. Knowing that our loved ones are with God in heaven helps us when we miss them.***

(Continued on the next page)

Reflect: Page 207

- ▶ Discuss how the joy of Easter is a small taste of the joy of heaven. Say: *When we go to Mass during the Easter season, we sing joyful songs to express our joy that Jesus is risen from the dead.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. Compare a Sunday Mass to Easter Sunday. Ask your child to tell what he or she sees and hears at each Mass. Then have your child read aloud What We Experience. Say: *The color white reminds us of Jesus' new life. When we are baptized, we wear a white garment to symbolize our new life.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Ask: *How does Jesus come close to us? (in the sacraments)* Say: *Remember that the sacraments are about love, belonging, forgiveness, and friendship—all special things that help us be the people Jesus wants us to be.*

Art Exploration: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows a bouquet of lilies.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the lilies symbolize. Say: *White lilies in church at Easter remind us of the risen Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 208. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions. Have your child read aloud We Celebrate Easter. Ask: *Why do you think spring is the perfect season to celebrate Easter?* (There is new life in nature just as Jesus rose to new life.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and allow time for your child to write a prayer. Then pray it together.
- ▶ Invite your child to think about what happened on the first Easter morning. Say: *Imagine coming face-to-face with the risen Jesus. What do you say to Jesus? What does Jesus say to you?* Invite your child to spend a few moments speaking heart-to-heart with the risen Jesus Christ. Close by singing together a simple *Alleluia*.

Respond: Pages 209–210

- ▶ 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 spread joy to those he or she meets today. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 210. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *We are filled with joy because Jesus died and rose to give us eternal life. Remember to keep spreading Easter joy to those around you.*