

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.

Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

- ▶ Say: *Today we will begin a new unit in which we will learn more about Jesus' life.* Share a story about a friend who moved away but with whom you kept in touch. Discuss how friends and family are important to us.
- ▶ Say: *In this unit, we will learn about Jesus' friendships with the Apostles and disciples. We will learn how we can be good friends and followers of Jesus and good friends to one another.*

Introduce the Saint: Pages 44–45

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture. Say: *Saints Scholastica and Benedict were brother and sister. They were also best friends.*
- ▶ Read aloud the unit title, then the first paragraph. If you have other children, ask, using one of their names: *Do you think of _____ as also being your friend? How are you friends?* If there are no other children in your family, ask: *Do you know anyone with a brother or sister that is also a friend? What form does that friendship take?* (have fun together, talk, respond to one another's needs) Have your child read aloud the remaining three paragraphs. Say: *Scholastica and Benedict formed communities of nuns and monks, which are called religious communities.* Ask: *What was important about the storm that occurred?* (It showed that God had heard Scholastica's prayer.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask: *How are guests at the monastery to be treated?* (in the way Jesus would be treated if he visited)

Unit Opener: Page 46

- ▶ Ask your child to discuss his or her experiences with prayer. Ask: ***How do you know that God listens to you when you pray?*** Tell your child that many people wanted to be part of the religious communities that Benedict and Scholastica began. Explain that people were drawn to the siblings because of their love of God and their ability to listen deeply to God and others. Then read aloud the title on the page. Invite your child to read the paragraph.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Ask your child to take a few moments to think of a time God answered his or her prayer. Have your child write what happened. Ask your child to read his or her responses. If you choose, write and share your own response.
- ▶ Call attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***We can always look to God because he is good, forgiving, and merciful.*** Have your child pray the psalm aloud. Then pray the psalm again together with your child and reflect quietly when finished.

Jesus' Good News

Engage: Page 47

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 8:11–15. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Remind your child of a seed he or she once planted and how it grew, or discuss planting seeds generally. Ask: *What do you think made the seed grow?* (soil, water, light) Say: *We can be rich soil for Jesus' teaching, helping the seeds of the kingdom grow within us so that others can know the kingdom too*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *By being the rich soil for Jesus' teaching, how will we act in God's kingdom?*
- ▶ Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us learn from him*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Together with your child read one of Aesop's fables. Discuss with each other the moral, or lesson, of the fable you read. Say: *Jesus knew people enjoyed stories, so he told a lot of them. Jesus told us parables to teach us about God and his creation. In this session we will learn about parables that Jesus used to teach about the Kingdom of God*.

Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Ask your child to act out these similes: tired as a horse, quick as a cricket, drink like a fish, eat like a bird. Say: *Sometimes we can explain something by comparing it to something else*.
- ▶ Read aloud page 48. Say: *This parable helps us understand the Kingdom of God*. Ask: *What are small acts we might do to serve the kingdom?* (respect elders, greet neighbors) Have your child read aloud the title and first two paragraphs on page 49. Ask: *What did Jesus do to show us how to serve the Kingdom of God?* (He worked hard, practiced his faith, and loved all people.) Read aloud A Small Act of Kindness. Ask: *What are some ways we can help others?* (sharing our resources; stopping to help; being kind and friendly) Say: *When others see our good deeds, it encourages them to do good deeds as well*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mustard Seeds and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.

Art Exploration: Page 50

- ▶ Go to the website of a monastery such as Montecassino, where Saint Benedict's order was housed, or the Convent of San Marco in Florence, Italy. Explore the images there and select one or more to view with your child. Alternatively, look for books at the library with images of monasteries or monks.
- ▶ Look at the picture together and ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Share impressions. Elicit from your child that this is a place where people live simply and can pray quietly.
- ▶ Say: *Saints Benedict and Scholastica dedicated their lives to God. They founded a monastery and a convent.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 50. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Saints Serve the Kingdom. Ask: *Why was Saint Benedict's work like planting a mustard seed?* (The small seed of his monastery sprouted many branches.) Read aloud What's Your Motto? Give your child time to think about what his or her personal motto might be and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud Did You Know? Say: *Learned means "wise" or "knowledgeable."* Ask: *What do you think Benedict's and Scholastica's names say about them?* (Benedict was blessed to carry out the work of God; Scholastica devoted her life to learning about God and Jesus and sharing what she learned.)

Reflect: Pages 51–52

- ▶ Together look at page 51. Ask: *How is the boy in the picture aware of the presence of God in his life?* Have your child find a comfortable position as you read aloud the first three paragraphs. After each sentence and question, give your child time to reflect. Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask your child to think of what he or she can do to serve God's kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first section on page 52. Ask: *How does this story help us understand how to serve the Kingdom of God?* (Each small thing that we do for others helps us serve the Kingdom of God.) Have your child read aloud Can You Be Like Yeast? Give your child time to write his or her ideas in the space provided. Invite your child to share with you what he or she wrote.

Respond: Pages 53–54

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can do small things to help others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 54. Discuss with your child ways to be helpful and kind to others.

Following Jesus

Engage: Page 55

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Mark 8:34–36. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *Was there ever a time when a friend needed your help when you were looking forward to doing something else?* Invite your child to describe what happened. Say: *Putting others' needs first is how Jesus wants us to live*. Read aloud the paragraphs.
- ▶ Ask: *What does it mean to leave your comfort zone?* (to act differently than the way you are used to) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us learn what is important*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Ask your child to think of a person who is very important to him or her—a “VIP.” Have your child write the name of his or her VIP vertically on a sheet of paper. Say: *Think of words that tell why you trust this person. The words should start with the letters of the person's name*. Have your child share his or her “trustworthy” word picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the text on this page and discuss the picture. Ask: *Why do you trust Jesus?* (He loved others and always did what was right.) Ask your child to think of other people he or she trusts, along with Jesus. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Ask your child to name some of his or her favorite personal objects. Ask: *How would you feel if you had to give them away?* Read aloud page 56. Ask: *What was more important for the rich man, keeping his money or following Jesus?* (keeping his money) *What do you think the rich man will do next?* Have your child read aloud page 57. Ask: *What does it mean to sin?* (to make a choice that hurts our friendship with God and other people) Say: *Conversion means “change.” It is a change of heart that directs us away from sin and toward God*. Have your child write on the lines a choice that brought him or her closer to God.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *When we offer the Sign of Peace, we recognize those around us as brothers and sisters of Jesus*.

Art Exploration: Page 58

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of a child praying outside. As you and your child look at the picture together, ask: *What do you see in this picture?* (a girl or boy praying outside) *When do you like to pray outside?* (when the weather is nice; when I want to feel surrounded by God's beautiful creation) *What do you like about praying outside?* (The sun and the breeze help me relax and open myself to God; I feel free of distractions.)

- ▶ Say: *Following the Ten Commandments helps us stay close to God. There are other times and places when and where we can feel close to God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 58. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Say: *When we are close to God, we show our faith by our actions.* Ask: *What are some ways to show faith through our actions?* Read aloud the activity directions for Paying Attention and have your child read aloud each situation. Have him or her consider the situations and circle the answer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Take a moment to think of people and things you treasure most. If you share your treasure with others, your love will spread.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about when and where he or she likes to pray. Ask your child to draw or paint a scene showing that place and explain his or her choice of that spot.

Reflect: Pages 59–60

- ▶ Together look at page 59. Ask: *If this girl is imagining the conversation between Jesus and the rich man, what do you think she hears?* (a worried tone on the part of the rich man, a caring tone on the part of Jesus) Read aloud the reflection. Pause at the end to allow your child to answer the questions silently. Close the reflection time by praying *Amen.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Beyond the Commandments on page 60. Say: *By following Jesus' example, you are taking the next step in being a good Christian.* Read aloud Treasure in Heaven and have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to give reasons for the choices he or she made.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Discuss with your child what each of you thinks the verse from Tobit means. Discuss how a person can give even if he or she has little.

Respond: Pages 61–62

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can cheerfully do things for others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 62. Talk with your child about how God is helping and caring for us today.

Jesus Gathers Disciples

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read John 1:35–39. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child to name one of his or her favorite athletes, musicians, scientists, or other public figure he or she admires. Ask: *If you could ask this person to teach you something, what would you ask?* Discuss your child's response. Then read aloud the paragraphs.
- ▶ Ask: *Why do you think the disciples followed Jesus?* (They knew he was the best one to teach them about God.) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us be a good friend to him and to one another.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Ask: *How do friends show they care for one another?* (They seek one another out, go places together, share interests, encourage one another, listen when the other is upset.)
- ▶ Say: *The way Jesus cared for and loved others shows us how we should treat our friends. In this session, we will learn how to care for others.*

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ If you and your child sometimes go fishing, discuss what that is like. If not, discuss what each of you imagines it might be like. Say: *Sometimes when we fish, we catch a few fish, and sometimes we don't catch anything.*
- ▶ Read together pages 64 and 65. Ask your child to summarize the story of Jesus calling Peter. (Jesus helped a fisherman named Simon catch an amazing amount of fish, which made Simon think that Jesus was too good for him. Nevertheless, Jesus insisted that Simon go with him, and Jesus renamed him Peter.) Ask: *What does this story from the Gospel tell us about Jesus?* (That he is there for everyone.)
- ▶ Say: *In the early years of the Church, Christians used the shape of a fish as a symbol of their faith.* Have your child make a fish out of a 12-inch-long craft stem by bending the stem in half and twisting it together near the end to make a tail. Pull apart the middle to resemble a fish. Have your child hang the fish in his or her room.

Art Exploration: Page 66

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a painting whose theme is proclaiming the kingdom. As you look at the picture together, discuss with your child what is shown. Ask your child what he or she thinks it means to proclaim the kingdom and how the painting shows this. (Depending on the painting, it may be by Jesus pointing to heaven, it may be through the light in the painting, it may be through the attitudes and expressions of the people shown.)
- ▶ Say: *All of us can be disciples by proclaiming God's message and by doing good deeds to serve the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 66. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud Proclaiming the Kingdom. Ask: *Whom did Jesus choose to proclaim God's kingdom?* (Peter, the other Apostles, and the disciples) *Who helps do Jesus' work now?* (We all do.) Have your child read aloud Lean on Me and complete the activity. Invite your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *The pope is the head of the Church. He follows in Saint Peter's footsteps.*

Reflect: Pages 67–68

- ▶ Together look at page 67. Say: *Pretend you are the girl in the picture. Use your senses to describe what she sees, hears, feels, and smells. Say: When we quiet ourselves for prayer, we can listen for Jesus' call and respond to him in our hearts.* Read aloud the reflection and ask your child to imagine the scenes. Pause after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Close by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud page 68. Say: *Jesus knew that he could accomplish more with the help of his friends, the Apostles.* Have your child read Plan a Task and complete the activity. Together brainstorm more ways to work with others to follow Jesus' path.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Why did Jesus send so many people out to the villages?* (so that as many people as possible could hear his message)

Respond: Pages 69–70

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can listen to and respect members of a group. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 70. Say: *Let's remember to be good friends to one another just as Jesus was to the Apostles.*

Jesus Dies and Rises

Engage: Page 71

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 24:1–12. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child to pretend he or she is observing an amazing natural phenomenon such as a volcano, an eclipse, or the aurora borealis. Say: *This is how Jesus' followers must have felt when they learned he had risen from the dead*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Say: *Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension are the most important beliefs in our Catholic faith*.
- ▶ Say: *Let's pray to Jesus to help us live as he did, then share our own thoughts with Jesus*. Ask your child to pray silently as you pray aloud the prayer. Pause. Then pray together *Amen*.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus proclaimed his love for us in a way that left no room for doubt. In this session, we will learn what that was*.

Explore: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Together recall times each of you has wanted to proclaim good news about something that happened to you. Explain that *proclaim* means “announce publicly.”
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 72. Say: *The term Paschal Mystery describes how Jesus saves us through his life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension*. Point to the picture. Ask: *What do the pictures on these two pages show?* (a lily for Jesus' Resurrection; the risen Jesus welcoming families going to see him) *How does Jesus share his life with us?* (He sends us the Holy Spirit.) Read aloud page 73. Say: *This states our belief in God the Creator; his Son, Jesus Christ; and the power of the Holy Spirit. Each sentence describes part of the Paschal Mystery. We proclaim our belief in the Paschal Mystery when we pray the Apostles' Creed*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *This summarizes the basic meaning of the Paschal Mystery*.

Art Exploration: Page 74

- ▶ Find in a library book or online an image of Saint Paul writing. As you look at the picture with your child, ask: *What do you see in this picture?* (a man from ancient times; he's writing something) Say: *This is Saint Paul, who wrote letters to help spread God's Word*.

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 74. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Have your child read aloud Remember My Message. Ask: ***What was Saint Paul worried about?*** (that people had forgotten what he had told them about Jesus' Death and Resurrection) ***Why did Jesus die?*** (because he loved us and wanted us to know and love God) Read aloud What Would You Say? and have your child complete the activity. Discuss other things you want people to know about Jesus.

Reflect: Pages 75–76

- ▶ Together look at page 75. Say: ***The cross the boy is making serves as a symbol of the Paschal Mystery.*** Remind your child that when we pray the Apostles' Creed, we are affirming the basic truths of our faith.
- ▶ Pray the first part of the Creed together. Then read aloud the first paragraph on page 75 and pray aloud the new part of the Creed. Give your child time to reflect. Then close by praying together *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 76. Ask: ***What happens to a caterpillar in the chrysalis?*** (It turns into a butterfly.) Read A Symbol of Our New Life. Say: ***The butterfly is a symbol of Jesus' Resurrection.*** Give your child crayons or markers to color the butterfly.

Respond: Pages 77–78

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive enemies. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 78. Say: ***As we move through this week, let's put the needs of others before our own, just as Jesus did.***

Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 79

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Isaiah 40:3–5. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Ask: ***What preparations would you make if your favorite music or movie star was coming to our home?*** (clean up my room, put up the star’s poster) Say: ***During Advent, we prepare to welcome Jesus into our hearts.*** Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: ***What prayer can we pray to welcome Jesus into our lives?*** (Come to save us, O Lord, our God!) Say: ***Close your eyes and imagine a peaceful night sky.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Pray Amen and conclude with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you know about Advent?*** Together share family memories of past Advent seasons you have celebrated.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 211 in his or her book and locate Advent on the liturgical calendar. Say: ***In this session, we will learn about Advent—the time of year when we prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus.***

Explore: Page 80

- ▶ Discuss with your child some ways your family observes and decorates for Advent. You may put out an Advent wreath or display an Advent calendar.
- ▶ Read aloud We Prepare During Advent. Ask: ***How can we open our hearts to make room for Jesus?*** (by helping others) ***How were Mary and Joseph faithful to God?*** (Mary agreed to become the mother of Jesus. Joseph agreed to marry Mary and become the foster father of Jesus.) Have your child read aloud We Prepare, We Remember and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: ***Jesus’ birth was a sign to the world that God loves us. The story of his birth is told each year at Christmas Mass.***

Reflect on the Mass: Page 81

- ▶ Together sing or read aloud the lyrics to “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Say: ***God sent his Son, Jesus, to show us how to live and to save us from our sins.***
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. Ask: ***What are some items that you see in church during Advent?*** (Advent wreath with candles, purple altar cloth and priest’s vestments) Read aloud the section What We Experience. Have your child read My Advent Hymn, complete the activity, and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: ***Why is the arrival of Jesus important?*** (It shows God’s love for us.)

Art Exploration: Page 82

- ▶ Go to “Arts & Faith: Advent” at the Loyola Press website. Preview the videos linked in the lists for Cycles A, B, and C, and choose one to explore with your child. After viewing the video together, share with your child your responses to the painting in the video you chose, visually and in terms of its meaning for us as we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 82. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud Celebrating Advent. Ask: ***What do we prepare for during Advent?*** (our celebration of Jesus’ birth at Christmas) Have your child read aloud Family Traditions. Discuss your own traditions as your child completes his or her drawing and finishes the sentence below the drawing frame.

Respond: Pages 83–84

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can put someone else’s needs first. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 84. Say: ***As we celebrate Advent this year, let’s share some ways we’ve thought of to act more like Jesus.***