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Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

- ▶ Ask: *What qualities make someone a good listener?* (patience, respect, attentiveness) *Why do we need good listeners? Why is it important for priests to be good listeners?* (so they can be kind and helpful to parishioners) Read aloud the unit title on page 44. Say: *This unit helps us learn what Jesus teaches us about God's love and forgiveness. It begins by telling us about a priest who was a good listener.*

Introduce the Saint

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint John Baptiste Vianney on page 44. Ask: *What can you tell about Saint John Baptiste Vianney based on this picture?* (He was a priest. He cared about others.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint John Baptiste Vianney on page 45. Say: *Saint John Baptiste Vianney practiced the virtues in his life.* Ask: *What are some ways he helped others?* (He invited parishioners back to church; he was kind to the poor and sick; he established an orphanage; he took time to listen to his parishioners; he celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with thousands of people.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask: *What are some ways we can express our love of God?* (pray, go to Mass, be kind and helpful to others, practice the virtues, take care of his creation)
- ▶ Say: *Saint John Baptiste Vianney's life is an example of our Church's mission to care for those in need.* Ask: *What can we do to be more like him?* (be a good listener, be kind to others)
- ▶ With your child, add John Baptiste Vianney's feast day, August 4, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint John Baptiste Vianney.

Unit Opener: Page 46

- ▶ Ask: *What are some sounds that you like to hear?* Say: *Let's close our eyes now and listen closely.* After a few moments, open your eyes and discuss the sounds you heard. Then say: *When you listen carefully, you show that you care about the sounds or the words being said. Saint John Baptiste listened carefully to people and helped them lovingly.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Listen with Love on page 46. Then read aloud I Am Listening and invite your child to do the activity. When your child is finished, discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Direct your child's attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Saint John Baptiste Vianney helped others by listening to their needs and concerns.* Read aloud the Scripture. Then invite your child to pray aloud the Scripture with you.

Jesus' Law of Love

Engage: Page 47

- ▶ Ask: *What is the Golden Rule?* (Treat others as you want to be treated.) Talk about ways you follow the Golden Rule and times when it might be difficult to follow it.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *In this session, we will learn about the new commandment that we have received from Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud John 14:23–26 from your Bible. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Say: *Jesus had a message for his disciples. Before he died, he gave them a commandment to love one another.* Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 47. Ask: *Who does Jesus say will help the disciples share God's love?* (the Holy Spirit) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us be his loving disciples.* Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 272. Review the Ten Commandments. Ask: *What do the Ten Commandments help us do?* (love God and love one another)
- ▶ Read aloud the New Commandment on page 48. Look up the word *Torah* in the Glossary. Ask: *What is the main idea of Jesus' new commandment?* (The Law we have received from God calls us to love God and to love others.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: *What are two definitions for the word Torah?* (the Law revealed by God and the first five books of the Bible)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Help from the Holy Spirit on page 49. Look up the word *fortitude* in the Glossary. Ask: *What other virtues help us follow Jesus?* (charity, patience, self-control) Say: *When we practice the virtues, we help build up the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Write a Prayer to the Holy Spirit and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *When we pray a prayer of intercession, we pray on behalf of someone else. The Prayer of the Faithful is sometimes called the Universal Prayer.* Together pray aloud the Prayer of the Faithful from a recent Mass.

Art Exploration: Page 50

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people, perhaps from a Catholic charity, who are helping those in need.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how people are helping others.

- ▶ Say: *Caring for people in need is a way to live out Jesus' new commandment. Saint Vincent de Paul cared for people who were sick and people who were poor.*
- ▶ Ask: *How can you care for people in need?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint Vincent de Paul on page 50. Ask: *What did Vincent de Paul do when he faced challenges in his work?* (He prayed to the Holy Spirit, and he practiced the virtue of fortitude.)
- ▶ Read aloud Care for Others. Have your child complete the activity and discuss his or her picture.
- ▶ Ask your child to reflect on Saint Vincent de Paul. Say: *Imagine you are walking down the street and having a conversation with Saint Vincent de Paul.* Ask: *What do you say to him? What does he say to you?* Give your child time to pray, thanking God for Saint Vincent de Paul and other saints who have given us an example of how to live out Jesus' new commandment.

Reflect: Pages 51–52

- ▶ Together look at page 51. Say: *Just like the boy in this picture, we show our love for God through our prayers.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Prayer of Love. Have your child prepare for prayer by getting comfortable. Then pray aloud the Act of Love with your child. Close by praying *Amen* and then praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud Acting with Love and Acts of Kindness on page 52. Help your child think of the people he or she sees every day and then have your child complete the chart. Discuss his or her ideas. Say: *Showing kindness to others is one way to live out Jesus' new commandment.*

Respond: Page 53

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 53. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can serve others and follow Jesus' new commandment. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.

With My Family: Page 54

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 54. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *We can all be like Jesus by remembering to love others the way he loves us.*

The Beatitudes

Engage: Page 55

- ▶ With your child, discuss why people might use directions. Then read aloud the session title. Say: *Jesus has given us a set of directions called the Beatitudes. They show us how to live a loving, happy, and peaceful life. In this session, we will learn about the Beatitudes.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 6:20–26 from your Bible. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Say: *Jesus gave us the Beatitudes to shape our thinking and our actions.* Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 55. Ask: *What do Jesus' words—the Beatitudes—point the way to?* (love, peace, and heaven) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us live as he lived.* Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Take turns completing this sentence with your child: *We can help build up the Kingdom of God by _____.* (following God's plan for us, practicing the virtues)
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 56. Look up the terms *Sermon on the Mount* and *Beatitudes* in the Glossary. Say: *Living out the Beatitudes can lead to a loving, peaceful, and happy life.* Read aloud the Scripture passage, pausing after each beatitude to explain its meaning. Ask: *Do you think it will be easy to live out the Beatitudes? Why or why not?*
- ▶ Read aloud *Live as Jesus Tells Us* on page 57. Complete the activity together. (Some of the actions may put more than one beatitude into practice.)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature. Say: *We exchange a sign of peace quietly at Mass to respect the solemnness of the Eucharist.*

Art Exploration: Page 58

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a person who is living out the Beatitudes, for example, by comforting someone or shaking hands to show that he or she is a peacemaker.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what beatitude the person is practicing.
- ▶ Say: *When we practice the Beatitudes, we help build up God's kingdom by making good choices. Sometimes this requires that we take risks.*

- ▶ Ask: *How does following the Beatitudes sometimes require taking risks?* Talk about risks we might take in order to do the right thing. For example, we might risk upsetting or angering others when we stand up for those who are treated unfairly. Say: *Let's read about Saint Jerome, who took a risk to care for one of God's creatures.*
- ▶ Read aloud Saint Jerome and the Lion on page 58. Ask: *What is Saint Jerome an example of?* (someone who chose to practice the Beatitudes)
- ▶ Read aloud Practice the Beatitudes. Have your child complete the activity. Discuss how Jerome showed mercy to the lion.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *God blesses all those who help build up his kingdom.*
- ▶ Together retell the story of Jerome and the lion. Begin with the story starter: *Long ago, there lived a man named Jerome.* As you add sentences, pantomime actions that illustrate what you are saying. After the story is complete, say: *We can practice the Beatitudes by following Saint Jerome's example.*

Reflect: Pages 59–60

- ▶ Together look at page 59. Ask: *What can you tell about the person in the picture?* (Animals are drawn to him. He appears to be a peaceful person.)
- ▶ Read aloud A Peacemaker's Prayer and then pray together the Peace Prayer. Close by praying *Amen* and offering a sign of peace to your child.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Serving the Needs of Others and Practice the Beatitudes on page 60. Say: *As you think about what you might draw, let's think about what Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Jerome did to live out the Beatitudes. Then let's think of one way God is calling you to live out the Beatitudes in your life.* Discuss your child's ideas and give your child time to draw a picture and write a caption. Invite your child to tell you about the picture when it is finished.

Respond: Page 61

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 61. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can speak up for people who are being treated unfairly. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.

With My Family: Page 62

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 62. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *Jesus calls us to be peacemakers. Let's remember to walk peacefully with Jesus and one another.*

Jesus Our Redeemer

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Ask your child: *If someone is on a team and lets down teammates at a key moment, what do you think it means to say the person needs to redeem himself or herself?* (The person needs to do something to restore his or her good standing or reputation.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *When we sin, we need to be redeemed, but we cannot redeem ourselves. That's why we call Jesus our Redeemer. In this session, we will learn about how God has helped us through Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Mark 15:33–41 from your Bible. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 63. Ask: *How did Jesus redeem us?* (by dying on the Cross) Say: *Let's pray for help to be strong in faith like Jesus.* Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Together make a time line of Jesus' life. Invite your child to explain what happened at each event. Say: *Throughout his life, Jesus taught us how to live.*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus, Son of God on page 64. Ask: *What happened three days after Jesus' Crucifixion?* (Jesus appeared as the risen Christ to his disciples.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud On the Cross. Ask: *Why did Jesus tell one of the men being crucified next to him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise"?* (The man will be saved because of his faith in Jesus.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *In the Mystery of Faith, we proclaim our belief in the Paschal Mystery—Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Died for Our Sins on page 65. Look up the words *Redeemer* and *redemption* in the Glossary. Ask: *Why do we call Jesus our Redeemer?* (He freely died to free us from our sins.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *As Catholics, we believe Jesus saves us from our sins.*

Art Exploration: Page 66

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus' Ascension.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what is happening.
- ▶ Say: *After his Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. From there he shares his new life with us through the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ Ask: *How might you have felt watching the Ascension?*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus' Ascension on page 66. Look up the word *Ascension* in the Glossary. Ask: *How long did Jesus stay on earth before he was taken up to heaven?* (40 days)
Say: *Jesus' Ascension is so important that we celebrate the event on the Feast of the Ascension, which is one of the holy days of obligation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Report the News and give your child time to complete the activity. Invite your child to read aloud his or her news story.
- ▶ Give your child time to reflect on the picture of Jesus' Ascension. Say: *Imagine that you are on the Mount of Olives with the other disciples, watching Jesus ascend into heaven.* Ask: *What are you thinking as you watch this happen?* Say: *Imagine that you are having a conversation with the disciples after the Ascension.* Ask: *What do you say to them?* Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.

Reflect: Pages 67–68

- ▶ Together look at page 67. Say: *It is important to think about the meaning of the words we pray and to be aware that the Holy Spirit is with us to support us in our faith.*
- ▶ Read aloud Praying the Creed. Point out that a creed is any statement of faith in which we express our beliefs. Pray together the Sign of the Cross and the Nicene Creed. Pause frequently to give your child time to reflect on the meaning of the creed. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud What We Believe and Reflecting on the Nicene Creed on page 68. Reread part of the Nicene Creed and discuss the meaning of the lines. Have your child use crayons or markers to design his or her stained-glass window.

Respond: Page 69

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 69. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive others. 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.

With My Family: Page 70

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 70. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *Remember, we are all Jesus' disciples. He loves us and saves us from our sins.*

Jesus Sends the Spirit

Engage: Page 71

- ▶ With your child, look through a newspaper or online for an article about people in need. Ask: *What are the needs of the people in this story?* Say: *When we help people in need, we help build up the Kingdom of God. In this session, we will continue to reflect on how we can continue Jesus' mission in the world by caring for other people's needs.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 3:1–10 from your Bible. Then say: *The Word of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.* Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 71. Ask: *How did the disciples continue Jesus' mission?* (Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they preached and cared for the needs of others.) Say: *Let's pray to the Holy Spirit to show us how to be helpful.* Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Review what happened on Pentecost by reading together Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4 from your Bible. Say: *The Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus and his Father, was descending on each of the Apostles to give them strength and courage to continue Jesus' word.*
- ▶ Read aloud Following Jesus' Example on page 72. Ask: *How was Peter able to preach in Jesus' name?* (through the direction of the Holy Spirit) Say: *We also have been given the strength of the Holy Spirit, which helps us carry on Jesus' work in the world today.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *Jesus taught us that God is our Father. In sending the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Father reveal the mystery of God as Three Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 73. Look up the terms *corporal works of mercy* and *spiritual works of mercy* in the Glossary. Say: *The works of mercy help us think of ways we can take care of others.* Define each spiritual work of mercy. Ask: *How might we practice the spiritual works of mercy?* (teach someone a new skill, forgive someone who hurt us)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Along with piety, these are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We can rely on these gifts to carry on Jesus' work in the world today.*

Art Exploration: Page 74

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people receiving a meal.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the people are doing.

- ▶ Say: *As Jesus' followers, we are called to help people regardless of their circumstances.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question on page 74.
- ▶ Read aloud Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Ask: *For what is Saint Teresa of Calcutta remembered?* (all she did to live out the corporal works of mercy and the spiritual works of mercy)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Care for Those in Need. Come up with ideas together before your child does the activity.
- ▶ Together find more information about Saint Teresa of Calcutta in books or online. Have your child create a poster about her life, including pictures with captions. Display the poster in your home. As a family, reflect on how your actions can serve others as did those of Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

Reflect: Pages 75–76

- ▶ Together look at page 75. Say: *One of the symbols of the Holy Spirit in the Bible is wind or breath. The Holy Spirit is as close to us as our breath.*
- ▶ Read aloud Strengthened by the Spirit. Then direct your child's attention to the prayer. Say: *Saint Augustine's teachings are so important that he has been named a Doctor of the Church.* Pray together the Holy Spirit Prayer of Saint Augustine. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Sharing Mercy on page 76. Ask: *Who are some of the other saints and holy people we have learned about who practiced the corporal works of mercy and the spiritual works of mercy?* (Saint Teresa of Ávila, Saint Peter Canisius, Saint John Baptiste Vianney, Saint Teresa of Calcutta)
- ▶ Read aloud Help from the Holy Spirit. Give your child time to complete the activity. Then ask your child to tell you about the drawing and pray together your child's prayer.

Respond: Page 77

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 77. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can share time and talents with others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.

With My Family: Page 78

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 78. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *Jesus and his Father sent the Holy Spirit to guide us. Let's remember to follow Jesus' example.*

Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 79

- ▶ With your child, talk about special events that you prepare for. Ask: *Why do we prepare for these events? How do we prepare? How do we feel as we prepare?* (excitement, anticipation) Read aloud the session title. Say: *In this session, we'll learn about Advent, a season of hope, waiting, and preparing.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Isaiah 9:5–6 from your Bible. Then say: *The Word of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 79. Ask: *What do we prepare for during Advent?* (Jesus' birth) Say: *Advent reminds us to have an attitude of hope. Let's ask Jesus to be with us this Advent.* Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Page 80

- ▶ Help your child make an Advent calendar by cutting a folding door for each day of Advent out of a large sheet of paper. Glue the sheet with the doors that open and close to another large sheet of paper or to poster board. Help your child draw a picture or write an idea for preparing for Christmas behind each door.
- ▶ Read aloud We Prepare During Advent. Ask: *What are some examples of good moral choices we can make?* (follow the new commandment, live out the Beatitudes, practice the virtues)
- ▶ Have your child read Prepare the Way and write a prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *Why is this an appropriate passage for Advent?* (During Advent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.) Say: *One way we can prepare the way of the Lord is by making good moral choices.*

Reflect: Page 81

- ▶ Display a Bible. Ask: *What do we call the four books in the New Testament where we learn about Jesus?* (the Gospels) Say: *Reflecting on Jesus' teaching in the Gospels is a way to decide if we're making good moral choices.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. Say: *John the Baptist was the son of Elizabeth, Mary's cousin. John the Baptist told people to get ready to hear Jesus' message.*

- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience and Praying to Mary. Look up the word *Angelus* in the Glossary. Then find the *Angelus* on page 248 in the back of the book. Pray aloud the prayer with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: ***The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete, or Rejoice, Sunday, marks approximately Advent’s halfway point. In addition to lighting the rose-colored candle, the priest may wear rose-colored vestments.***

Art Exploration: Page 82

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a *Las Posadas* procession.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the people.
- ▶ Say: ***Las Posadas is one tradition that can help us prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth.***
- ▶ Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question on page 82.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. Ask: ***What are some Advent traditions?*** (Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, Jesse trees, Saint Nicholas Day celebrations)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Las Posadas*. Ask: ***What happens at each place except the last one?*** (The pilgrims are denied lodging.) Say: ***When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay. This is why Jesus was born in a stable. It was the only place left for them.***
- ▶ Read aloud Prepare to Welcome Jesus and share traditions that your family has followed in the past. Give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine himself or herself as one of the people in the *Las Posadas* procession. Ask: ***What are you thinking and feeling as you process from place to place and are denied entry? How do you feel when you are finally allowed to enter someone’s home?*** Pray that Jesus will help you be welcoming people. Close by praying *Amen*.

Respond: Page 83

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 83. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to name some specific things he or she will say and do to show care for others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.

With My Family: Page 84

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 84. As a family, complete the page and plan to do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: ***During the Advent season, let’s prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth by being people of love and peace.***