

God, Our Creator and Father

Unit Opener: Pages 2–4

- ▶ Say: ***The title of this book is Finding God.*** Discuss with your child where you each find God in everyday life. Point out that other people can help us find and know God in new ways. Read aloud the unit title. Say: ***The first unit helps us understand that God is our Creator and Father and that we grow closer to him by loving and serving others.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 2. Draw your child's attention to the picture. Ask: ***What is Saint Augustine doing?*** (studying, writing) Say: ***Saint Augustine's writings have helped bring many people closer to God.*** Ask: ***Who has helped you draw closer to God?*** (Possible responses: teachers, family members, church leaders)
- ▶ Point out the heart on page 3. Say: ***This symbol is associated with Saint Augustine because he often wrote about God's love. He helped people understand God's love and encouraged them to have courage and hope in God.***
- ▶ Invite your child to take turns with you in reading aloud the paragraphs on page 3. Explain that although Augustine did not always make good choices, the Church came to recognize him as a saint.
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Discuss what it means to have a restless heart and to "rest in" God.
- ▶ With your child, add Augustine's feast day, August 28, to your family calendar. Discuss how you might celebrate Augustine's feast day when it arrives. Say: ***Now let's read about God our Creator's love.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 4. Say: ***Wonderful things happen when we love one another. Even more wonderful things happen when we open up to the love of God!***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud God Is Love. Then read aloud the introduction and directions for Resting in God. Remind your child of your discussion about what it means to rest in God. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her answer.
- ▶ Draw your child's attention to the Reading God's Word feature while you read it aloud. Say: ***Saint Augustine studied the same Scriptures we do. This passage helped shape his understanding of God.*** Ask: ***What word is repeated several times?*** (love) ***What did Augustine believe God was?*** (love)

God Creates Us

Engage: Page 5

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Genesis 1:24–31. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Show your child a mirror and explain that the only way we can see our own face is to see a reflection of it. Say: ***We cannot see the presence of God, but we see a reflection of it in his creation.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs. Have him or her brainstorm aspects of creation that reflect each of the following characteristics of God: beauty, power, majesty, creativity, and care.
- ▶ Say: ***God speaks to us through creation. Let's ask him to help us remember this.*** Pray aloud the prayer and conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Ask your child to close his or her eyes and imagine the world without his or her favorite things. Ask: ***What if the world were only a mass of darkness, wind, and water?*** Discuss your child's answer.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 6. Say: ***The word Genesis means "beginning" in Greek, and the word abyss means "a vast, bottomless ocean."*** Then read aloud the rest of the page. Ask: ***What are some examples of other things that God has created?*** (light, sky, land, life)
- ▶ Remind your child that Genesis is the first book of the Bible, then read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Through faith, we can look at the order and beauty in the world around us and understand that God created everything.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first section on page 7. Ask: ***What is the mission of each Person in the Trinity?*** (The Father created the world, the Son became man to save us, and the Holy Spirit gives us grace to believe.)
- ▶ Read aloud the last section. Point out the vocabulary words. Find the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be to the Father on pages 246 and 247 and pray them aloud. Say: ***The Sign of the Cross reminds us of our Baptism, when our foreheads were marked by the cross to show that we belong to Christ.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Review with your child what the function of the *Gloria* is.

Art Exploration: Page 8

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a person arranging or taking care of flowers.
- ▶ Say: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the person's actions and the beauty of the flowers.
- ▶ Say: ***Being among God's creatures is a great way to be near God. We can see and feel God's love in flowers, trees, animals, butterflies, and streams.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 8. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the sections God Creates the World and God Continues to Care for the World. Ask: ***What would happen if we didn't protect God's creations?*** (Possible responses: Pollution would increase. The beauty of nature would be harder to see.) Say: ***God created us because he loves us, just as he loves all his creations. It is our responsibility toward God's creation to care for it.***
- ▶ Read aloud Taking the Pledge. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her response with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: ***The Eucharistic Prayer is the liturgical expression of praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done in creation.***
- ▶ Provide art supplies for your child. Ask him or her to consider which of God's gifts in nature helps him or her feel God's presence. Invite your child to draw or paint a picture of it. Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 9–10

- ▶ Together look at page 9. Ask: ***How would you describe the attitude of the person in this picture?*** (contemplative, reflective, thankful for the world he sees) Say: ***Through reflective prayer, we are invited to hear God speak to us and to develop a friendship with him.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 9. Ask your child to close his or her eyes. Encourage your child to answer the questions silently as you read them aloud. Conclude the prayer time by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 10. Read aloud the activity instructions and allow your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers, then read aloud the Did You Know? feature.

Respond: Pages 11–12

- ▶ Invite 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 other ways he or she can show love and respect for things in creation.

- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 12, then discuss how your family can complete the activity together. Pray aloud the prayer. Say: ***We can praise and thank God with our actions, not only with our words. Let all our actions show respect and care for others and for all creation.***

God Saves Us

Engage: Page 13

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud James 1:12–15. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to name his or her favorite foods. Say: ***Just as we have desires for certain foods, we also have desires for other things that we think would make us happy. The problem is, not everything we desire is good for us.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on the page. Say: ***When we feel tempted, Jesus is nearby, giving us strength to make good choices.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to help us make good decisions when we are faced with temptations.*** Pray aloud the prayer, concluding with *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 14–15

- ▶ Together, look at the headlines in newspapers, magazines, or online. Identify good-news headlines and bad-news headlines. Ask: ***What kinds of problems did the headlines describe?*** (Accept reasonable responses.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 14. Point out the term “human condition.” Ask: ***What is the contradictory nature of the human condition?*** (Although people often make bad choices that inflict pain on others, they also make good choices and work to help those in trouble.) ***What is sin?*** (humans’ rejection of God and opposition to his plan)
- ▶ Read aloud the question at the bottom of the page and have your child write his or her answer in the book. Discuss what he or she wrote.
- ▶ Read aloud page 15. Say: ***The word reconcile means “to restore to friendship.”*** Ask: ***What were the effects of Adam’s sin?*** (Sin entered the world, and with it came death.) ***What does Jesus bring to the world?*** (victory over sin and death)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature and discuss it. Ask: ***Why is it wrong to hurt ourselves or others?*** (God creates all life and calls it good, so we should not harm those whom he has given life.)

Art Print: Page 16

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Peter Claver.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Saint Peter Claver’s appearance and what he is doing in the picture.

- ▶ Say: ***Saint Peter Claver was an advocate for enslaved people. He had faith in Jesus' mission, just as we should when faced with hard choices.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 16. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first section. Ask: ***How did Saint Peter Claver help the enslaved people of South America?*** (He provided physical and spiritual care. He comforted them and tried to persuade their overseers to treat them humanely.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Our Humanity. Ask: ***Can you think of other ways in your daily life in which you can live as Saint Peter Claver did?*** Have your child write his or her goal on the lines.
- ▶ Provide art supplies and invite your child to make a poster that promotes positive actions and living as good Christians. Suggest that he or she think of images or slogans that might encourage family members to take positive action. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Pages 17–18

- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 17, then invite your child to get comfortable and focus his or her attention inward during reflective prayer.
- ▶ Invite your child to close his or her eyes as you slowly read aloud the second paragraph on page 17, pausing after each sentence to allow time for personal reflection. Then have your child open his or her eyes. Together, pray aloud the responsive prayer in the Prayer box. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the activity directions on page 18. Read aloud each problem and brainstorm solutions with your child. Point out that each problem may have more than one correct solution.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***When Jesus became man and died for our sins, he gave us new life, restored our friendship with God, and brought the promise of everlasting life.***

Respond: Pages 19–20

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 19. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Invite your child to suggest specific ways in which he or she can comfort and include someone who is being excluded.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 20. Obtain or view online a copy of your parish bulletin and complete the activity together. Then pray aloud the prayer.

God's Revelation

Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Together with your child, recall stories about parents and grandparents. Say: ***These stories make up our family history, or the story of how our family came to be.*** Ask your child to recall names and stories he or she is familiar with from the Old Testament. Say: ***In this session, we will learn about the history of our faith through the Old Testament stories.***
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 7:1–8. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Point out that when we want to develop relationship with others, we tell them about ourselves. Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 21. Say: ***God revealed himself to us, beginning with Abraham, because he wants to be in a relationship with us.*** Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 22. Point out the vocabulary words. Ask: ***What three words do you think best describe Abraham?*** (trusting, obedient, holy)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***In this passage we learn that God's covenant with Abraham is continuing through time.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 23. Ask: ***To whom are the books of the Old Testament important?*** (Jews, Christians, and Muslims) Emphasize that Christians believe that the Old Testament is God's Revelation, which finds its fulfillment in Christ.
- ▶ Say: ***Saint Jerome was an important early translator of the Bible. This is what he discovered in his study and prayer.*** Read aloud the Did You Know? feature.

Art Print: Page 24

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Moses with the tablets containing the Ten Commandments.
- ▶ Ask: ***Whom do you see in this picture?*** (Moses) Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Moses is holding. Say: ***Moses is important to us because he delivered the Ten Commandments.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 24. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first section. Read aloud the activity directions and provide your child with a Bible so he or she can find and read the passages listed in the activity. Allow time for your child to complete the activity, then discuss his or her answers to each question. (1. In a fire flaming out of a bush; 2. Rescue them from the Egyptians and lead them to a land of milk and honey; 3. To go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt.)
- ▶ Say: ***In today's culture we no longer use stone tablets to communicate.*** Have your child write the Ten Commandments in a modern way so that they can be shared with many people, such as on a billboard, TV commercial, or website. Encourage your child to illustrate his or her modernized version of the Ten Commandments. Encourage your child to share the picture with family members.

Reflect: Pages 25–26

- ▶ Together look at page 25. Ask: ***How would you describe the girl in the picture?*** (happy, worshipful, trustful) Say: ***We pray the Lord's Prayer to give praise and glory to God and to ask for what we need.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 25. Pray aloud the Lord's Prayer together. Invite your child to pray silently to God about whatever is on his or her heart. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first section on page 26. Say: ***The Ten Commandments are like a set of rules. Rules and laws are designed not to hinder us but to help us make a peaceful world.*** Invite your child to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers and how the Ten Commandments apply to your lives.

Respond: Pages 27–28

- ▶ Invite 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. Invite your child to suggest specific ways in which he or she can honor God and show kindness to others.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read aloud With My Family on page 28. Discuss and complete the activity together. Then pray aloud the prayer. When you have finished praying, say: ***It's wonderful that we are part of a story that is so much larger than ourselves. God's big story unites us with one another. We help tell that story with our lives.***

God Directs Our Lives

Engage: Page 29

- ▶ Read aloud the session title and say: ***Jesus' concept of happiness is quite different from the world's.*** Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 5:1–10. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.* Ask: ***What was so different about Jesus' view of suffering?*** (He taught that we are near to God when we suffer.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let us thank God for being near to us in all circumstances.*** Pray aloud the prayer, concluding with *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 30–31

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 30. Ask: ***Who did Jesus say was the greatest in the kingdom?*** (a child) ***Why do you think he said this?*** (A child is humble and recognizes his or her dependence on parents.)
- ▶ Give your child a note card. Invite your child to write what he or she thinks Jesus wants to teach him or her in Matthew 18:3–4 on one side. On the other side, invite your child to write what he or she will do as a result of this teaching. Encourage your child to put the card on your refrigerator as a reminder of Jesus' lesson.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***As God's people, it is important for us to love and trust God.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 31. Ask: ***Why are the Beatitudes important to follow?*** (They help us live as members of God's kingdom and act as signs of God's goodness.)

Art Print: Page 32

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Philip Neri listening to the confession of Pope Clement VIII.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the actions and dress of the people.
- ▶ Say: ***We feel good when we can talk to a trusted friend and when we can be that friend to someone else.*** Have your child turn to page 32. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud page 32. Ask: ***How did Philip inspire others?*** (He encouraged people to be happy and to receive the sacraments.) Read aloud the activity directions and allow time for your child to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answer.

- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Discuss people you know who try to live their lives like Jesus, such as clergy or teachers.
- ▶ Draw an outline of your child on a sheet of paper. Invite your child to decorate his or her outline with talents and attributes that he or she is proud of, such as “I’m a good singer” or “I’m a good listener.” Then ask your child to write one way he or she can use those talents to help someone.

Reflect: Pages 33–34

- ▶ Together look at page 33. Invite your child to share how the picture makes him or her feel. Say: ***The Beatitudes give us direction on how to live our lives each day. Now we are going to pray a prayer that also gives us direction for daily living.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 33. Pray aloud the prayer while your child prays along silently. Conclude by praying aloud the Glory Be to the Father, found on page 247.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Meaning of the Beatitudes on page 34, then read aloud the activity directions. Look on page 269 to find the Beatitudes, then work with your child to complete the activity. When you are finished, ask: ***What three words do you think best describe a person who lives the Beatitudes?*** (Possible responses: generous, kind, caring)

Respond: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 35. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss with your child possible volunteer opportunities that will allow him or her to help people who are less fortunate.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read aloud With My Family on page 36. Discuss and complete the activity together. Pray aloud the prayer together. After the prayer, say: ***The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are wonderful gifts that help us know how God wants us to live every day.***

Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 37

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: ***In this session, we will learn about Ordinary Time—the part of the year when we strive to understand Jesus better and think about how to follow his ways.*** Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 5:12–16. Say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Find and show pictures of traffic signs to your child and ask what they signify. Say: ***Signs tell us what we can expect to encounter ahead. The signs that Jesus and the Apostles performed tell a story of a God who desires to be close to us.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 37. Ask: ***What do we call the outward signs that the Church celebrates?*** (the sacraments)
- ▶ Say: ***Faith is not practiced only on Sundays or feast days. We live our faith every day as we walk with Jesus.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then pray *Amen.*

Explore: Page 38

- ▶ Invite your child to talk about the sacraments he or she has celebrated, such as Baptism, the Eucharist, and Penance and Reconciliation. Say: ***The sacraments draw us closer to God and help us understand how he wants us to live our lives.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 38. Ask your child each of the three questions following the first paragraph. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Read aloud How Can I Grow? and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss why the sacrament your child drew is so meaningful to him or her.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***We pray to Jesus and ask him to be with us and guide our steps to live as he did. When we ask this of Jesus, God blesses our lives.***

Reflect: Page 39

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 39. Ask: ***What are some examples of sacramentals?*** (sacred oils, prayers, the Rosary) Say: ***We incorporate sacramentals into our everyday lives to help us remember how much God loves us and how he is ever present in our lives.***
- ▶ Read aloud God Touches My Life and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answer.

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: ***Vestments and altar cloths reflect the current season's designated color. White is for Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, Christmas, and Easter; red is for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Pentecost; green is for Ordinary Time; and violet is for Advent and Lent.***

Art Print: Page 40

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a person surrounded by symbols or objects that represent peace.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 40. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two sections on page 40. Say: ***During Ordinary Time we focus our attention to the gift of the sacraments.*** Remind your child of the seven sacraments.
- ▶ Read aloud Ordinary Joy and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***One kind of sacramental object is the rosary.*** Give your child beads, a simple cross, and thread to string a decade of their own rosary. The decade should include one large Lord's Prayer bead, 10 Hail Mary beads, and one small cross for the Glory Be to the Father. Turn to pages 252–253 in the book to teach your child how to pray the Rosary.

Respond: Pages 41–42

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 41. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss with your child possible opportunities to show kindness to younger children in your family, at church, or at school.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read aloud With My Family on page 42. Discuss the activity together and make plans to complete it the next time you attend Mass together. Pray aloud the prayer. After the prayer, say: ***The liturgical calendar holds all of the days of the year together in God, just as the branches and fruit are held together by the vine. Our faith reminds us that we are connected in many ways!***

Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Unit Opener: Pages 44–46

- ▶ Discuss with your child the responsibilities that he or she has around the home, such as doing chores and practicing good hygiene. Explain how you depend on your child to take care of these responsibilities himself or herself. Invite your child to turn to page 44 and read aloud the unit title. Say: ***We are going to learn how Jesus depends on us as members of the Church to carry on his mission.***
- ▶ Draw your child's attention to the picture on page 44. Ask: ***What is Saint Alphonsus Liguori doing?*** (blessing the man, caring for a person in need) Say: ***Saint Alphonsus is known for ministering to people who were poor and for being a great teacher.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 45. Ask: ***How did Saint Alphonsus know that he should be a priest instead of a lawyer?*** (He prayed to know God's will; he had a vision from God.) Say: ***Sister Marie Celeste inspired Saint Alphonsus to found the Redemptorists, who became known for their preaching and missionary work.*** Explain that Alphonsus discovered a spiritual void among the people and began teaching them the Gospel of Jesus.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the second two paragraphs. Point out that a Doctor of the Church is recognized as a model teacher of the faith. Say: ***We remember Saint Alphonsus Liguori because he helped bring people back to God, and he taught people how to stay close to Jesus always.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Discuss what it means to live on earth as a pilgrim.
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 46 and read aloud Called to a Mission. Ask: ***What do you think of when you hear the word mission?*** (Accept reasonable responses.) Say: ***Why might it have been difficult for Saint Alphonsus to follow God's call?*** (He had to quit his career.) ***Who helped him?*** (the Holy Spirit)
- ▶ Read aloud Mission, Possible! and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***The prophet Isaiah shows us how to respond to God's call: by saying, "Here I am!"*** Read aloud the verse again using a call-and-response format: Say, "Whom shall I send?" and have your child respond, "Here I am!"

New Life in Jesus

Engage: Page 47

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Colossians 1:15–20. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Explain how some people wear locket with pictures of loved ones, or show your child such a locket of your own. Say: ***We want those we love to be near to us at all times. Thankfully, our God is present to us throughout our lives.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 47. Ask: ***How is Jesus present to us today?*** (in the Church, the Eucharist, and in all creation)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to help us share God's presence with others.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Invite your child to retell the story of Adam and Eve. Say: ***Adam and Eve disobeyed God, which caused a break in the relationship between God and humanity.*** Read aloud Jesus' Mission on Earth on page 48. Ask: ***Why did Jesus live among us?*** (to reconcile us to God) Explain that *reconcile* means to reestablish or heal a once-close relationship. Invite your child to locate the words *mystery* and *Incarnation* in the Glossary and review the definitions.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus' Church Continues His Mission. Ask: ***How does the Church continue Jesus' mission?*** (It teaches the faith taught by Jesus to his Apostles; it speaks for justice and works for peace.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Mission on page 49. Ask: ***How does the Holy Spirit help in Jesus' mission?*** (The Holy Spirit guides the Church in carrying on Jesus' teachings.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Meet a Holy Person. Invite your child to look up *canonize* in the Glossary. Ask: ***Why is Saint John XXIII important in Church history?*** (His papacy was a turning point. He helped renew the Church.)

Art Print: Page 50

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus showing his disciples that they are the building blocks of the church.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting. Point out and discuss any symbolism that is present in the picture. Say: ***We are the stones upon which the Church is built, and Jesus holds the Church together. Jesus is like the capstone, the crowning point of a church building.***

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 50. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage in Jesus' Role and Our Roles in the Church. Then invite your child to read aloud the rest of the section. Ask: ***What is our role in the Church?*** (to be living signs of God's presence in the world) Say: ***The Holy Spirit strengthens our commitment to the Church, which helps us carry on Jesus' mission.***
- ▶ Read aloud Building Your Life and give your child time to complete the activity on a separate sheet of paper. Discuss his or her drawing.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Reading God's Word. Say: ***Those who put their faith in Jesus put their faith in someone who is solid and sure.***
- ▶ Invite your child to sketch or paint a picture of your church. Invite your child to consider elements he or she thinks are important to a church, such as believers, priests, sacraments, faith, praise, and community. Encourage your child to write these words or draw things that represent those words in and around the bricks of his or her church building.

Reflect: Pages 51–52

- ▶ Pray the prayer on page 51 ahead of time to become familiar with it.
- ▶ Look at page 51 together. Ask: ***What is the child in the picture doing?*** (praying) Say: ***Prayer is how we talk to God. Talking to God is like talking to a good friend in some ways.***
- ▶ Invite your child to find a comfortable position and invite him or her to read silently the first two paragraphs. Say: ***We pray the Apostles' Creed to remind us of our faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and in the teachings of the Church.*** Pray aloud the Apostles' Creed while your child prays along silently. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 52. Ask: ***Why is the Apostles' Creed important?*** (It summarizes the basic teachings of the Church.) Read aloud the activity directions. Give your child time to complete the activity. Together, find the passages from the Apostles' Creed on page 51 that support your child's answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: ***Where does the word creed come from?*** (the Latin word *credo*, which means "I believe") Invite your child to find the Nicene Creed on page 249 and compare it to the Apostles' Creed.

Respond: Pages 53–54

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 53. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss what it means to be an active participant in worship.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 54. Discuss what it means to live out Jesus' mission, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***We are living stones of Jesus' Church. Jesus wants us to carry out his mission, and we depend on him for guidance and wisdom in the process.***

Meeting Jesus

Engage: Page 55

- ▶ Read aloud the session title, then invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Mark 16:19–20. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask your child how he or she can communicate with someone who is not in the same room. (Possible answers: phone, e-mail, social media) Say: ***Jesus has given us a remarkable way to remain in contact with him: the seven sacraments!*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on the page.
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus is with us always. Let's ask him to help us recognize how he is present in our lives.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the section title and the first paragraph.
- ▶ Read aloud page 56 while your child follows along. Together, make a chart that shows how each sacrament is celebrated and shows its signs. Emphasize that Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are known as the Sacraments of Initiation.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Invite your child to share memories of witnessing new Church members celebrating the sacraments.
- ▶ Continue reading about the sacraments on page 57 and filling in the chart. Say: ***Sacraments help us grow in our faith and love for Jesus.*** Ask: ***How else does Jesus show us he cares for us?*** Discuss your child's answers.

Art Print: Page 58

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a group of people at the bedside of Jairus's ill daughter.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe what he or she sees in the picture, including the expressions on the people's faces. Say: ***Having faith in God means putting our trust in him. When we pray to God for help, we know that God is listening.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 58. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter. Discuss the account of Jesus and Jairus's daughter. Then read aloud Christ's Presence in the Sacraments. Ask: ***How does Jesus touch our lives today?*** (through the sacraments) Say: ***Sacraments are blessings from God.***

- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity on a separate sheet of paper. Discuss his or her letter together.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Explain that "revealed his glory" means that Jesus revealed God's power and presence to his people. Say: ***Jesus performed many miracles to invite people to believe in the Father who sent him.***
- ▶ Provide your child with scissors, construction paper, and glue. Invite your child to make a mosaic that shows how he or she feels about receiving one of the sacraments, such as the Eucharist or Penance and Reconciliation.

Reflect: Pages 59–60

- ▶ Invite your child to take a few moments to think of what he or she is thankful for or what makes him or her feel blessed. Give your child several note cards and invite him or her to write on each card a different blessing for which he or she is thankful. Invite your child to thank God for the blessings he or she wrote.
- ▶ Invite your child to get comfortable as you read aloud the two paragraphs on page 59. Allow time for your child to reflect on how he or she needs Jesus' care. Then pray aloud the prayer. Allow a moment of silence at the end of the prayer for personal reflection. Encourage your child to speak with Jesus silently. Close the prayer by saying: ***Let's look for all the ways Jesus touches our lives every day.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the section title and first paragraph on page 60. Say: ***Blessings are favors or good things.*** Read aloud Find Your Blessings and give your child time to complete each section of the activity. Discuss how both of you have received and given blessings to others.

Respond: Pages 61–62

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 61. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss what your child might say and do to comfort someone who is sick.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 62, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Our greatest blessing from our heavenly Father is Jesus. I hope you feel his presence every day through all your senses!***

Baptized into Christ

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Read aloud the session title, then invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 8:26–40. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: ***When parents adopt a child, they must fill out official forms showing that they are bringing the child into their family. In Baptism, God brings us into his family.*** Invite volunteers to read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: ***When we become members of God's family, what do we then want to do?*** (share the Good News of Jesus with others)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's thank Jesus for the gift of Baptism.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Share how you experience the baptismal font in your church with all five senses. Discuss how the water feels and sounds and how the oils smell for the sacrament. Encourage your child to describe when he or she has seen the baptismal candle and white garment.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 64. Ask: ***How does Baptism affect our lives?*** (It is a call to a new life; it is necessary for salvation; it unites us with the Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus; it welcomes us into the Church; it helps us share in the life of the Trinity here on earth and eternally in heaven.) Say: ***The white garment symbolizes purity of spirit, and the candle symbolizes God's light within us. The oil symbolizes healing with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: ***The Paschal Candle represents the light of Christ.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first section on page 65. Say: ***We are identified as children of God by the permanent spiritual mark that Baptism makes on us.*** Invite your child to read aloud What Baptism Calls Us to Do and look up the word *stewardship* in the Glossary. Point out that volunteering or otherwise being involved in your local parish can be examples of stewardship. Then read aloud How Are You a Steward? and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: ***We know that infants have not committed any personal sins. However, they inherit, as we all do, the taint of Original Sin. Baptism gives each infant the grace to be free from Original Sin and the opportunity to live as a free child of God.***

Art Print: Page 66

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Peter preaching with Mark to a crowd.
- ▶ Ask: **Who is in this picture?** (Peter and Mark) Encourage your child to describe in detail what Peter and Mark are doing. Say: **Mark may have written his Gospel based on Peter's preaching.** Explain that Peter taught that our sins can be forgiven and that we can receive the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 66. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Peter Calls for Repentance and Baptism. Ask: **What did Peter call the people to do?** (to repent and be baptized.) Read aloud Jesus, Salvation, and the Sacraments of Initiation. Ask: **What are the effects of the Sacraments of Initiation?** (They make us members of the Church and bring us closer to God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine being one of the people in the crowd listening to Peter and Mark. Invite your child to draw himself or herself as part of the scene. Discuss how your child might have reacted to being present for Peter's teaching.

Reflect: Pages 67–68

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 67. Say: **During this time of prayer, we will focus on what we have learned and think of ways to include these lessons in our daily lives. Today we thank Jesus for welcoming us into his Church.** Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Pause for a moment, then read aloud the second paragraph yourself. Allow your child time to think about the question.
- ▶ Have your child get into a comfortable position. Invite your child to close his or her eyes or focus on the picture. Pray aloud the prayer and the Sign of the Cross. Allow a few moments for personal reflection. Say: **Now let's take our prayerful spirits and learn how we can live what Jesus taught us.**
- ▶ Read aloud We Are a Light for the World on page 68. Then read aloud the first box in the activity and guide your child by encouraging him or her to think of Bible stories about Jesus' life and teaching. Provide your child with a Bible bookmarked at one of the Gospels if he or she is having trouble thinking of examples. Then allow time for your child to complete the rest of the activity.

Respond: Pages 69–70

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 69. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Invite your child to identify his or her talents and share what you think some of his or her talents are. Discuss how these talents can be used to serve God's kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 70, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember that since our Baptism, we carry the light of Christ everywhere we go. Let's also remember our call to stewardship, living lives of service to others.***

Growing in the Spirit

Engage: Page 71

- ▶ Read aloud the session title, then 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.*
- ▶ Explain why some people wear eyeglasses. Say: ***Glasses help us see more clearly. All of us need help with our spiritual eyesight. The Holy Spirit helps us see the presence of Jesus.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 71. Ask: ***When has God helped you see things in a new way?*** (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to help us be faithful Christians.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Draw your child's attention to the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes on pages 268–69 in the book. Ask: ***What lessons for living our lives can we learn from reading the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes?*** (that we should respect God and others and treat people fairly)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Our Mission as Christians. Ask: ***What is our mission as Christians?*** (holiness; living a life dedicated to God and to the Church's mission) Read aloud Confirmation and Our Mission. Review the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Look up each gift in the Glossary and discuss the definitions.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: ***What are other ways people might signify the coming of the Holy Spirit?*** (doves, illuminated clouds, running water)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 73. Ask: ***What are two actions that occur during Confirmation?*** (laying on of hands and anointing with Chrism) Ask: ***How does the Holy Spirit help us?*** (He helps us believe, pray, love, perform good acts, and form a closer bond to Jesus. Confirmation gives us sanctifying grace.) Invite your child to review the definition of *sanctifying grace* by looking it up in the Glossary.

Art Print: Page 74

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the disciples joyfully receiving the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Ask: ***Whom do you see in this picture?*** (the disciples) Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of the disciples.
- ▶ Say: ***The Holy Spirit gives us grace to believe and know the Father and Son.*** Invite your child to turn to page 74. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud *Given a Mission*. Ask: ***What is our mission as disciples of our Church?*** (to live like Jesus, be dedicated to God, and help others) Say: ***The Holy Spirit is present with us to help us with our mission just as the Spirit was present to help the Apostles.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete it. Discuss other ways you can act out your mission.
- ▶ Remind your child about some of the symbols that represent the Holy Spirit; fire, wind, and a dove. Ask your child to think about which symbol most vividly embodies the idea of the Spirit for himself or herself. Invite your child to draw a self-portrait and include the symbol of the Holy Spirit in the picture.

Reflect: Pages 75–76

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 75. Suggest that your child focus on his or her meditative breathing during prayer today.
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Before praying the prayer, introduce children to the word *kindle*. Explain that it means “to spark or stir up” or “to brighten something.” Say: ***We can use this prayer to call on the Holy Spirit when we need courage, understanding, or any of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.***
- ▶ Explain that your child should respond to the versicle lines [marked “V.”] in the prayer by praying aloud the response lines [marked “R.”]. After praying aloud the first part of the prayer together, have your child close his or her eyes. Then, in a soft voice, pray aloud the second part of the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud *Confirmation Is a Call*. Ask: ***How does Confirmation deepen our baptismal commitment?*** (It calls us to participate more fully in the Church’s mission.) Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: ***The Holy Spirit is like the wind. You may not be able to see the Spirit, but if you pay attention, you can feel his presence.***

Respond: Pages 77–78

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 77. Review the Words I Learned in this session, referring to the Glossary if necessary. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Invite your child to share about a time when he or she forgave someone and discuss how he or she felt beforehand and afterward.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss *With My Family* on page 78, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 79

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 1:18–25. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Invite your child to describe something that he or she is looking forward to with excitement. Ask what he or she is doing to prepare. Say: ***When Joseph learned Mary was pregnant, he began making preparations. During Advent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 79. Ask: ***How do we prepare a loving home in our hearts for Jesus?*** (Accept reasonable answers.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's pray together to ask Jesus to be with us during Advent.*** Pray aloud the prayer while your child prays along silently. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Page 80

- ▶ Talk about how your church changes during Advent. Ask your child what songs are sung and what colors are used in decorations and the priest's vestments.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud We Prepare During Advent. Say: ***During Advent, we are called to take time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. We can always ask for God's help as we do this.***
- ▶ Read aloud Four Weeks to Prepare and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss the ideas that he or she wrote.
- ▶ Read aloud God's Gift of Eternal Life. Emphasize that the letter your child will write is personal and that you will not ask him or her to share it with you. Give your child time to complete his or her letter.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***God is always guiding our steps and watching out for us. During these four weeks of Advent, we can rest easy knowing that God is right beside us.***

Reflect: Page 81

- ▶ Invite your child to name a favorite activity or event that helps your family prepare for Advent, such as attending a Nativity play. If he or she cannot think of one, brainstorm a list of ideas together.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Mass During Advent. Say: ***John the Baptist called people to prepare themselves for the Messiah. We are called to do the same.***

- ▶ Read aloud *What We Experience*. Discuss the connection between the sacraments and Advent. Emphasize that God is present in the sacraments and that celebrating them helps us prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Did You Know?* feature. Explain that Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday in Advent and is still celebrated today. Point out that *Gaudete* is a word from the Latin Mass that means “rejoice.”

Art Print: Page 82

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a family walking in the snow to attend Christmas Eve Mass.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the weather conditions and the time of day.
- ▶ Say: ***There are many ways we prepare our hearts during Advent in order to grow closer to God.*** Invite your child to turn to page 82. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud *Celebrating Advent*. Ask: ***What gifts does the Church give us to perfect our relationship with God?*** (the sacraments) ***How do Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist prepare us for Jesus?*** (Baptism makes us part of God’s family; Reconciliation repairs our relationship with God; the Eucharist reminds us that Jesus died for our sins.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her idea for a new Advent tradition to introduce to your family.
- ▶ Show your child a selection of sacramental symbols, such as a cross, chalice, or dove. Give your child a bar of soap and a plastic knife or toothpick and ask him or her to carve a design into the soap. Invite your child to share what each symbol represents in his or her carving.

Respond: Pages 83–84

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 83. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus* and encourage your child to think about what he or she might say to someone else in your family.
- ▶ Read aloud *Signs of Advent* and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss *With My Family* on page 84, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together.

The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

Unit Opener: Pages 86–88

- ▶ Invite your child to think about the last time he or she worked on a jigsaw puzzle. Say: ***Just as every single piece of a jigsaw puzzle is necessary to complete the picture, so also is each and every Christian necessary for the community of the Church. We are united in our belief in Jesus and his presence in our lives.*** Invite your child to turn to page 86 and read aloud the unit title. Say: ***In this unit, we are going to learn more about the community of the Church and how we belong to it.***
- ▶ Draw your child's attention to the picture on page 86. Ask: ***What is Saint Ignatius doing?*** (writing) Say: ***After being injured in battle, Saint Ignatius devoted himself to serving God. Part of that devotion involved writing the Spiritual Exercises.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 87. Ask: ***How do we imitate Jesus?*** (by being kind to others, serving the community, volunteering at church) Reinforce that Saint Ignatius helped people find the courage to follow God's will for them. Say: ***Saint Ignatius founded the Jesuit community to serve the Church and teach Jesus' Word.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Discuss the meaning of the phrase "to give and not count the cost."
- ▶ Invite your child to look at the title of his or her book, then compare it to the section heading on page 88. Explain that Saint Ignatius teaches us that God is always present to us and that we can practice becoming more aware of his presence and responding to him. Invite your child to read aloud Finding God in All Things.

- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Give your child a few moments to reflect on what gives him or her joy and what makes him or her aware of God's presence. Then invite your child to write those things on the lines provided. Together, say aloud, "God, I give you thanks for . . ." and complete the sentence using what your child wrote in the activity. Repeat this process for each of the three activity lines.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Just like Saint Ignatius's gratitude prayer, psalms are good models for prayers of praise and thanksgiving.*** Together, pray the psalm again with joyful voices.

The Church Is One

Engage: Page 89

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. 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.*
- ▶ Invite your child to share some ways in which he or she is different from his or her siblings or other people in your family. Say: ***We have differences, but that doesn't mean we can't get along. In fact, differences make life more interesting. In the Church, we have diversity but also unity.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 89. Review the four unifying Marks of the Church. (one, holy, catholic, apostolic)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to help us love all members of our community.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 90–91

- ▶ Invite your child to name some people in your parish who are in leadership roles or who serve the community. Discuss how these people serve God's kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud Different Roles for Church Members on page 90. Ask: ***Which members of the Church form the clergy?*** (the pope, bishops, priests, and deacons) Ask: ***What is the role of the laity?*** (The laity are called to be holy, to witness to Christ in the world, and to foster gospel values in society.)
- ▶ Read aloud Unity in Beliefs. Help your child locate the Apostles' Creed in his or her book in order to complete the activity. Provide assistance in finding the relevant passages if necessary.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***As members of the Church, we are united in Jesus. The differences among us do not keep us apart but rather strengthen our unity.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Pope's Role in the Church's Unity on page 91. Ask: ***Who is a visible sign of unity in the Church?*** (the pope, together with the bishops) Read aloud The Servant of the Servants of God. Ask: ***Why do you think Gregory called himself the "servant of the servants of God"?*** (He served the people of God, who are called to serve others.)

Art Print: Page 92

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a community praising God together.
- ▶ Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of the people and the ways they are offering praise to God. Say: ***People all over the world praise God every day. God is without race, and he is Lord of all peoples.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 92. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Unity and Diversity in the Church. Ask: ***Why is the body a good way to describe the unity and diversity in the Church?*** (Like a body, the Church is one unit with many parts.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Complete the activity together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Together, investigate opportunities to attend a service or watch a video in which people celebrate the liturgy in a language different from your own.
- ▶ Using household items and art supplies, help your child make his or her own musical instrument. Invite him or her to write a song about unity and diversity in the Church. Encourage him or her to use the instrument to perform the song for your family when the song is finished.

Reflect: Pages 93–94

- ▶ Together, look at the picture on page 93 and discuss how it reflects diversity in worship.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Say: ***As members of the Church, we are united in our belief, regardless of where we live and what language we speak. Let's pray the prayer that expresses these beliefs as they were taught by the Apostles and are still taught by the Church, using the Apostles' Creed.*** Pray aloud the Apostles' Creed while your child prays along silently.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer on page 93. Give children time to reflect on the prayer. Read aloud the second paragraph on page 93. Close prayer time by saying: ***The Apostles' Creed reminds us to practice Jesus' teachings in our daily lives.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Examining the Eastern Tradition on page 94. Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Together, compare and contrast the Eastern Church's practices concerning the sacraments with the practices of the Catholic Church.
- ▶ Say: ***Though there are differences in how we and the Eastern Church celebrate, there is unity in the Eucharist and in many of its accompanying prayers, as well as in the participants of the congregation.*** Read aloud Comparing the Liturgies and give your child time to complete the chart. Discuss the similarities and differences between the traditions.

Respond: Pages 95–96

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 95. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss what it means to be welcoming of all people.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 96, then make plans to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***As you encounter different people, bless them. Remember that Jesus welcomed everyone and that the Church is one.***

Called to Holy Orders

Engage: Page 97

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 21:15–19. 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 first paragraph on page 97. Ask: ***Why might someone who loves us ask us the same question three times in a row?*** (to invite us to think carefully about something) Next, ask: ***How do we show that we are committed to something?*** (We practice it every day.) Talk with your child about what he or she practices every day, and why. Point out that being a Christian works the same way. Then invite your child to read aloud the second and third paragraphs.
- ▶ Say: ***Priests serve God by tending to us, God's lambs. Let's pray for our priests.*** Pray aloud the prayer, making sure to pray for your parish priests by name. Close by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 98–99

- ▶ Together, name the sacraments. Invite your child to read silently the first paragraph on page 98. Ask: ***What do Holy Orders and Matrimony have in common?*** (Both of them build the Kingdom of God and contribute to personal salvation.) Invite your child to read the second and third paragraphs. Ask: ***What special service do priests provide?*** (They continue Jesus' presence on earth by carrying on the tradition begun by the Apostles.) ***How is the Sacrament of Matrimony a service to others?*** (The love between married people is a reflection of Christ's love for his Church.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Invite your child to ask any questions he or she might have about the Church's teaching on Matrimony. Emphasize that although divorce is not part of God's plan for Matrimony, divorced Catholics still play important parts in the life of the Church.
- ▶ Say: ***Now let's learn about the Sacrament of Holy Orders.*** Take turns with your child reading aloud The Sacrament of Holy Orders on page 99. Then read aloud The Rite of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Invite your child to read aloud the first two sections on page 71. Ask: ***What does a man receive through the Rite of Ordination?*** (a permanent, spiritual mark; a character)

Art Print: Page 100

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the pope meeting with other members of the clergy.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to identify the pope and what appears to be happening at the meeting. Say: ***Like the Apostles, Church leaders are chosen to be witnesses to Jesus Christ and carry on his work.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 100. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Apostles Choose a New Member. Say: ***The Sacrament of Holy Orders celebrates the commitment of Church leaders to live like Jesus, spread the Word of God, and serve the community.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Jesus used a rock as a symbol of something strong upon which to build the Church. Peter, whose name meant "rock," would be the foundation of the Church.***
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine that he or she was present when the Apostles picked Matthias. Have your child make a sketch of what was happening as the Apostles reached a decision. Encourage your child to capture the emotions of the Apostles in their expressions.

Reflect: Pages 101–102

- ▶ Together look at page 101. Ask: ***Why do you think a place like the one in the picture would be a good place to pray?*** (Possible responses: It is peaceful; it would help me focus on God's blessings in his creation.)
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 101. Say: ***This prayer is a prayer of petition, asking God for the selflessness to serve him and others completely.*** Pray aloud the prayer, pausing briefly at the end of each line to allow your child to reflect silently. Allow a few moments after the prayer for your child to pray silently to Jesus, then conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Knowing Your Church Leaders on page 102. Read aloud the activity directions, then work with your child to complete the chart.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Explain that the title of *basilica* is an honor given by the pope to certain churches to recognize some particular distinction of the church, its location, or its people.

Respond: Pages 103–104

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 103. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss how your child can show kindness to someone today.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 104, then make plans to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's be thankful for the love and guidance we receive from Jesus and from all our teachers and leaders.***

The Domestic Church

Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Ephesians 5:28–33. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph on page 105. Ask: ***What does the saying “my better half” mean?*** (Possible response: It is an expression of love for the goodness of one’s spouse.) Invite your child to read aloud the second paragraph. Say: ***The purpose of sacrifice in a relationship is not to harm one person while helping the other. Its true purpose is to deepen the couple’s love for each other while following in Jesus’ footsteps.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let’s open our hearts to Jesus and ask him for the help we need to walk in love with one another and with Jesus.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Close by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Share a memory of your child when he or she was younger. Point out that each family is unique and special, just as God makes each person unique and special.
- ▶ Read aloud page 106. Ask: ***How do you learn about God and Jesus here at home?*** (Possible responses: by praying before meals and before bedtime, going to church together, being attentive to my parents’ teaching) ***How did Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi serve the Kingdom of God?*** (They raised a family. They worked to help others in the community.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Sacrament of Matrimony on page 107. Ask: ***Why is the Sacrament of Matrimony a sign of a special vocation?*** (God has called the couple to live a life of love in a community.)
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Matrimony. Explain that Matrimony is sometimes called a covenant, like the covenant between God and Abraham that your child learned about in Unit 1.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Discuss what it means to honor marriage.

Art Print: Page 108

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary and Joseph finding Jesus in the Temple after worrying about his disappearance and looking for him.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how Jesus looks while speaking to the adults and how Mary and Joseph look. Say: ***Jesus knew that teaching***

God's Word was part of his mission, and that gave him wisdom and understanding beyond his years.

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 108. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus in the Temple as a Child. Say: ***Although Jesus worried his parents by staying behind in Jerusalem, he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient. God wants us to be respectful and obedient to our parents.***
- ▶ Read aloud Lost and Found and give your child time to complete the activity. Share your own memories of the experience your child wrote about.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Ask: ***What is the ark of the covenant?*** (a vessel that contained the Ten Commandments.) ***Which of the Ten Commandments is relevant to this story?*** (Honor your father and mother.)
- ▶ Invite your child to draw your family tree. Provide him or her with magazines and newspapers. Invite your child to look for pictures that symbolize what your family means to him or her. Encourage your child to decorate around the family tree with these symbols. Display the family tree in your home.

Reflect: Pages 109–110

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 109. Discuss what the family in the picture is doing. Invite your child to find a comfortable, relaxed position. Say: ***Let's take this time to thank God for all his wondrous gifts. Although we are not going to eat right now, we are going to reflect on the prayers we say at mealtime.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 109. Then pray aloud Grace Before Meals together. After a few moments of silence for personal reflection, pray aloud Grace After Meals together. Encourage your child to reflect on God's generosity.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Building the Domestic Church on page 110. Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her ideas with your entire family.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: ***How does the liturgy relate to family life?*** (A family can form a community of prayer that mirrors the community of prayer formed when we celebrate the liturgy.)

Respond: Pages 111–112

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 111. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss how your family can cultivate respect, love, and closeness.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.

- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 112, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember to show respect, love, and kindness to everyone in our family.***

God Calls Us

Engage: Page 113

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud 2 Timothy 1:9–14. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph on page 113. Ask your child what talents he or she has that might be used to serve God and other people. Say: ***God sometimes surprises and challenges us with what he calls us to do.*** Invite your child to read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: ***How can we practice listening for God's call to us?*** (praying regularly, receiving the sacraments, listening at Mass)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us know our place in God's plan.*** Then pray aloud the prayer. After children reflect silently, conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Invite your child to make a list of his or her special talents. Discuss how he or she can share those talents with the Church community.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage on page 114. Ask: ***What was the problem in the Corinthian community?*** (People weren't using their spiritual gifts well, and the community suffered as a result.) Invite your child to read aloud the remainder of the section. Say: ***Saint Paul emphasized that everyone has gifts to offer his or her own community.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Samuel, a Hebrew prophet and leader, heard a direct call from God. He listened and offered himself to God. This passage reminds us to be open to God's call.***
- ▶ Read aloud The Blessed Virgin Mary's Calling on page 115. Ask: ***What does Immaculate Conception mean?*** (Mary was preserved from Original Sin.) ***What was Mary's call?*** (to be the Mother of God) ***What does Assumption mean?*** (Mary was taken into heaven, body and soul.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Explain that having Mary as a patroness means asking for her help and protection.

Art Print: Page 116

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a group of craftspeople working together, using their skills to serve God and/or other people.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, identifying the project that the people are collaborating on and the role that each person has in that project.

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 116. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Universal Call to Holiness. Say: ***To be holy means that we do God's will in all things out of love for him.***
- ▶ Read aloud Assembling a Sculpture. Ask: ***The talents of many people were necessary for this project.*** Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her experience.
- ▶ Provide examples of jobs that serve God and community. Invite your child to draw pictures of people doing these jobs. Provide string and ask your child to attach his or her drawings to a mobile signifying the Church.

Reflect: Pages 117–118

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 117 and describe the picture. Then invite your child to close his or her eyes and imagine being in a quiet place. Say: ***Imagine that Mary is with you and ready to listen.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph on page 117. Pause for your child to reflect and imagine a conversation with Mary. Pray aloud the prayer. Afterward, pause for a few moments to allow your child to reflect. Then turn to page 246 and pray the Hail Mary together.
- ▶ Turn to page 118 and invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Then read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Say: ***Shrines to Mary, like this one in Cuba, are found all over the world. Many people visit these sites to honor Mary as someone who answered God's call.***

Respond: Pages 119–120

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 119. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and brainstorm ways your child can serve your parish community.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 120, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember Mary's example when we answer God's call and try to follow his plan for us.***

Celebrating Christmas

Engage: Page 121

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Jude 17–23. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think of family members whom he or she resembles. Say: ***Sometimes we resemble other people in our looks or personality traits. To be holy means to resemble God's traits.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 121. Ask: ***Who revealed God's traits to us?*** (Jesus) ***How can we imitate Jesus?*** (by loving and helping others and being in constant conversation with the Holy Spirit)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's pray together to ask Jesus to be with us during Christmas.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Page 122

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud We Celebrate God's Gift During Christmas on page 122. Point out that Christmas is a time to think about God the Father's gift to us—his Son, Jesus—and to honor this gift by answering his call to lead holy lives.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Discuss ways in which Jesus lived a holy life. Invite your child to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***God, the Most Holy, calls us to be holy ourselves. We must try to be holy in all that we do.***

Reflect: Page 123

- ▶ Ask: ***When do we honor people in our family?*** (birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day) Say: ***The Holy Family sets the example for how our own family should live. We have a special feast day to honor the Holy Family.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Mass During Christmas on page 123. Say: ***The Holy Family is Jesus' family: Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God, but Mary and Joseph raised him as their child.***
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Discuss images you see in church during the Christmas season. Then read aloud the activity directions and invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: ***Joseph needed to work to support Mary and Jesus. To do this, he labored as a carpenter.***

Art Print: Page 124

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a Nativity scene.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail. Say: ***Although Jesus lived thousands of years ago, the story of his birth is still a relevant and important part of our lives today.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 124. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud We Celebrate the Coming of Jesus. Say: ***The first Sunday following Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast day is an opportunity to honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, as well as our own families.***
- ▶ Read aloud The Gift of Jesus. Say: ***Jesus told the people that money and power could not bring them happiness. They had to put aside their greed and selfishness and love God and one another. Only then would they find peace and happiness.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss your child's ideas and supply a few of your own.
- ▶ Together with your child, make a diorama of the birth of Jesus. Encourage your child to include everything he or she remembers from the story, such as sheep and shepherds, the star of Bethlehem, and the manger.

Respond: Pages 125–126

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 125. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss how you can show respect and kindness to others during Christmas.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 126, then make plans to complete the activity the next time you are at church. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***During the Christmas season this year, let's find some ways to honor the Holy Family.***

Sacraments, Our Way of Life

Unit Opener: Pages 128–130

- ▶ Say: ***In this unit, we are going to learn more about how Jesus enters our lives through his presence in the sacraments.*** Draw your child's attention to the picture on page 128. Point out how young Saint Bernadette looks. Say: ***We can have encounters with God in many ways, including through the sacraments. In Saint Bernadette's case, she received a vision that changed her life forever.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read silently the paragraphs on page 129 and to underline two interesting facts. When your child is finished, invite him or her to share what he or she underlined. Ask: ***What do you admire most about Bernadette?*** (Answers will vary.) Emphasize that Bernadette demonstrated great faith and courage by never wavering about her visions of Mary. Point out that today Lourdes is a famous pilgrimage site and a place for healing. Then say: ***We remember Saint Bernadette as a humble person who exemplified what it means to follow Jesus.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Discuss what Bernadette meant by praying that Jesus would be her "everything."
- ▶ Ask your child to think about a time when he or she encountered someone who made fun of another person for that person's beliefs. Ask: ***How did you respond? Why?*** (Accept reasonable responses.) Invite your child to read aloud Patience and Understanding on page 130. Say: ***People may doubt the beliefs of others for many different reasons. If we react angrily or impatiently to this doubt and opposition, our behavior can communicate just as clearly as the words we say. When we share our faith with others, we must remember to be patient and kind.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Give your child time to think about the life of Saint Bernadette, then invite him or her to complete the activity. Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Just like Bernadette, we are called to share what we believe with others—with gentleness, patience, and love.***

The New Passover

Engage: Page 131

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 11:23–32. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to talk about videos that he or she has seen of someone being rescued, or look up a video online to watch together. Say: **The person being rescued had to rely completely on others to rescue him or her. When it comes to sin, we cannot save ourselves.** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 131. Say: **Jesus saved us from sin by dying on the Cross.** Ask: **How do we thank Jesus for his gift of himself?** (by celebrating the Eucharist)
- ▶ Say: **Let's ask Jesus to help us cherish the precious gift of the Eucharist.** Pray aloud the prayer while your child prays along silently, then pray *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Remind your child how God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Explain that God renewed his covenant with Abraham's descendants through Moses and that Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Passover, the Last Supper, and the Eucharist on page 132. Ask: **What meaning does Passover hold for Jewish people today?** (It reminds them that God's liberating acts are taking place in their own lives.) Ask: **What meaning does Passover hold for Christians?** (Christians remember Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. We are saved by Jesus' sacrifice.)
- ▶ Provide a Bible bookmarked to Matthew 26:26–28 and invite your child to read aloud the Scripture passage. Together, summarize the passage.
- ▶ Find Exodus 12:3–13 in the Bible and read it aloud, then invite your child to complete the activity. Review his or her answers.
- ▶ Turn to page 133. Take turns with your child reading aloud the paragraphs on the page. Ask: **How do we show that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is central in our lives?** (by attending Mass every Sunday, by actively participating at Mass and praying aloud, by singing at Mass) Look up the word *assembly* in the Glossary and review its definition.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: **When we pray the Lamb of God at Mass, we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made by dying on the Cross.**

Art Print: Page 134

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus providing food for a crowd.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of Jesus and his disciples.

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 134. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus Feeds the Crowd. Say: ***When Jesus said he was “the bread of life,” he was saying that God alone sustains us and nourishes our souls.***
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus, the Bread of Life. Say: ***In sharing the Bread of Jesus in the Eucharist, Christians are reconciled with God and with one another.*** Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Encourage your child to share with you what he or she wrote.
- ▶ Draw an outline of a bread loaf and a fish, then invite your child to decorate the inside of the loaf and fish with drawings of what represents nourishment for him or her, such as family, laughter, friends, and peace. Encourage your child to think of how he or she can share those nourishing things with the people in his or her life.

Reflect: Pages 135–136

- ▶ Invite your child to look at the picture on page 135 while you read aloud John 6:1–15 from a Bible. Give your child a few moments to reflect, then invite him or her to read aloud the first paragraph on page 135.
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Pause for a few moments to allow your child to grow quiet, then invite him or her to pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Say: ***Let us always remember Jesus’ generosity toward us as we journey through our lives.***
- ▶ Read aloud Feeding and Being Fed on page 136. Invite your child to imagine being one of the disciples. Talk about what it might have been like to see the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Read aloud the activity directions and invite your child to answer the first three questions of the activity. Discuss his or her answers, then invite your child to read the fourth question and write a private prayer. Explain that your child will not be asked to share what he or she wrote.

Respond: Pages 137–138

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 137. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss what it means to be alert to others’ needs.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 138, then discuss how your family will complete the activity in the next few days. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Celebrating the Eucharist

Engage: Page 139

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Luke 24:13–35. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Invite your child to describe a time when he or she had an “Aha!” moment—a moment when someone helped him or her grasp a difficult concept. Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 139. Ask: ***When did the two disciples have their “Aha!” moment?*** (when Jesus broke bread with them) Say: ***The breaking of the bread refers to the Eucharist.***
- ▶ Say: ***We welcome Jesus into our lives through the Eucharist.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Pause to allow your child to reflect, then pray *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 140–141

- ▶ Invite your child to share his or her recollection of the Order of Mass. Say: ***The Mass follows a certain set of steps, starting with the Introductory Rites and ending with the Concluding Rites. Music and participation from the assembly fill the celebration with life and spirit.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Christ’s Presence in the Eucharist on page 140. Ask: ***What is transubstantiation?*** (the phenomenon in which the bread and wine, upon consecration by a priest, become Christ’s Body and Blood) Review the definitions of *transubstantiation* and *real presence* in the Glossary.
- ▶ Read aloud The Order of Mass, then invite your child to read aloud both Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word. Pause to review what your child learned in those sections.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the sections on page 141. On a separate sheet of paper, write an outline of the Order of Mass after you read each section. Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Emphasize the importance of the Eucharistic Prayer as the most solemn part of the Mass. Encourage your child to pay close attention to the Eucharistic Prayer at the next Mass he or she attends and to identify which parts of the prayer are drawn from Jesus’ words at the Last Supper.

Art Print: Page 142

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on all the faces. Say: ***Jesus was surrounded by his closest friends at the most difficult time of his life.*** Point out that your family members, too, support and love one another during difficult times.

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 142. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud *The Eucharist Calls Us to Share*. Review the definition of *memorial*. Say: ***The Eucharist is a memorial because it recalls Jesus' sacrifice.*** Ask: ***What did Saint Paul suggest we do before celebrating the Eucharist?*** (Examine ourselves.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: To ***truly celebrate the Eucharist and be closer to Jesus, we need to live in harmony with others.***
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine that Jesus is present at your family's table at mealtime. Invite your child to draw a table with plates holding objects that represent how your family is ready to welcome Jesus. Encourage your child to fill the table completely and to label each plate with what it represents.

Reflect: Pages 143–144

- ▶ Invite your child to find a comfortable position and contemplate the picture on page 143. Read aloud the paragraphs under *The Eucharist*. Pause to allow your child to reflect. Say: ***Let's pray a portion of this hymn of adoration of the Eucharist.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Point out that *jubilant* is another word for *joy*. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Encourage your child to pray in front of the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Your child may attend eucharistic adoration services or simply sit before the tabernacle when he or she is in church. Explain that these can be times when your child can speak to Jesus heart to heart.
- ▶ Say: ***During the Mass, we experience Jesus as the Bread of Life.*** Read aloud *The Four Parts of Mass* and the activity directions on page 144. Invite your child to complete part 1 of the activity. If possible, provide a Mass booklet as a reference. Then invite your child to complete parts 2 and 3 of the activity and share his or her answers with you.

Respond: Pages 145–146

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 145. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus* and give your child time to reflect.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Invite your child to share his or her answers with you.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss *With My Family* on page 146, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. During your next meal as a family, discuss together the importance of the Eucharist.

Celebrating Reconciliation

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. 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*.
- ▶ Tell your child about a time you broke something and tried to repair it. Say: ***It feels good to repair something. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, Jesus repairs our relationship with the Father and others.*** Invite your child to read aloud the text on page 147. Say: ***Jesus showed that forgiveness and healing go hand in hand.***
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus loves us even when we do wrong. If we are sorry, he will always forgive us.*** Pray aloud the prayer and allow time for your child to reflect silently. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Remind your child about the story of Jesus and Jairus's daughter in Session 7. Explain that Jesus healed many other people during his life on earth, and point out that these physical healings were often accompanied by Jesus telling the healed person that his or her sins were forgiven.
- ▶ Ask: ***Why do you think Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick are called Sacraments of Healing?*** (They help restore or heal our relationships with God, others, and ourselves.) Invite your child to read aloud The Meaning of Sin in Our Lives on page 148. Review the difference between mortal sin and venial sin. Invite your child to summarize what he or she learned about the Sacraments of Healing and the meaning of sin in our lives.
- ▶ Ask your child to think about a time when he or she received forgiveness and how he or she felt afterward. Then invite your child to read aloud The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation on page 149. Emphasize that priests are bound by the sacramental seal of confession to keep secret what is confessed to them. Read aloud the first paragraph of The Rite of Reconciliation, then invite your child to read aloud each step of the rite. Say: ***In this sacrament, the priest forgives your sins in the name of Jesus. When we say Amen at the end, it means that we believe that we have truly received God's forgiveness.***

Art Print: Page 150

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus appearing to the Apostles after the Resurrection.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, particularly what Jesus is doing and how the Apostles seem to be feeling.

- ▶ Say: ***In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we celebrate God's forgiveness, receive absolution for our sins, and are reconciled with ourselves, God, and the Church.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 150. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs of Jesus Brings Us Peace and Forgiveness. Ask: ***What did Jesus do when he appeared to the Apostles?*** (He offered them peace, gave them a mission, and gave them the Spirit. He told them they had the authority to forgive sins.) Read aloud the third paragraph and the activity directions. Give your child time to complete the activity, then discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine the scene in the locked room with the Apostles. Encourage your child to think carefully about what each individual might have been feeling or thinking when Jesus appeared. Have your child draw a three-panel comic that depicts the sequence of events in the scene. Encourage your child to share his or her work with other family members.

Reflect: Pages 151–152

- ▶ Together look at page 151. Say: ***It is helpful to learn the Act of Contrition by heart. This helps you pray the prayer often and pray the full meaning of the words.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of Saying Sorry to God. Together, pray aloud the Act of Contrition. Read aloud the second paragraph. Say: ***Perhaps you have your own words to tell God you are sorry for your sins. If you do, try praying them now.*** Allow a few moments for personal reflection. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Provide your child with a Bible and invite him or her to read silently the parable of the forgiving father in Luke 15:11–24. Then have your child complete the activity and share his or her answers with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***What are transgressions?*** (sins, breaking a rule or law, doing wrong) Say: ***Jesus is saying that we need to forgive others for hurting us or doing us wrong.***

Respond: Pages 153–154

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 153. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and give your child time to reflect.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Review your child's answers, consulting the process of confession given on page 149 as necessary.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 154, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***We're blessed that the Lord's forgiveness is present in our lives. Let's take time to be grateful this week and share this forgiveness with others around us.***

Jesus Heals Us

Engage: Page 155

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud James 5:13–15. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Talk with your child about the last time he or she was sick. Invite your child to share how the experience made him or her feel. Say: **Being sick is not fun. It can make us feel alone, sad, and even scared.** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 155. Say: **The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can soothe us and reassure us of God's love.**
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Then say: **Let's pray now for people we know who need physical or spiritual healing.** Allow time for your child to pray silently, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 156–157

- ▶ Discuss the meaning of your child's name. Talk about how you chose this name for him or her.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus Heals and Saves on page 156. Review the meaning of Jesus' name. Ask: **What does this tell you about Jesus?** (His mission is to save and heal us.) **What are the effects of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?** (It comforts the sick, forgives sins, in some cases heals, and unites suffering people with Jesus.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Ask: **Why do you think we're learning about Lourdes in this session?** (because it is a place of healing; because Saint Bernadette was from the area)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on page 157. Say: **Anoint means "to mark or sign with oil."** Read aloud The Rite of the Anointing of the Sick. Ask: **What parts of the body does the priest anoint for this sacrament?** (forehead, hands)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: **What other sacraments include anointing?** (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders)

Art Print: Page 158

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of someone receiving the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expression on the face of the person receiving the sacrament.

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 158. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the Scripture passage in The Apostles Heal in Jesus' Name. Then invite your child to read aloud the paragraph after the passage. Ask: ***What is the story's message?*** (When we pray, God will answer. Through the Holy Spirit, the Apostles received Jesus' healing power.) Read aloud the activity directions and invite your child to write a prayer of thanks on a separate sheet of paper.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Explain that the words echo those of the centurion in Luke 7:6–7. Say: ***By performing a miracle for the centurion—a non-Jew—Jesus was showing that God's healing power is meant for all people.***
- ▶ Invite your child to design five greeting cards that are appropriate for people he or she knows who might be experiencing pain. Encourage your child to be heartfelt in the messages he or she writes for the cards. Encourage your child to send the cards to the people he or she had in mind.

Reflect: Pages 159–160

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 159. Invite your child to imagine that he or she is in the same situation as the child in the picture. Encourage your child to keep this in mind during your prayer time.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph on page 159. Then read aloud the second paragraph. Say: ***During this prayer, picture in your mind the people we know who are sick, sorrowful, or alone.*** Pray aloud the prayer, pausing briefly at the end of each line to allow your child to reflect. Conclude by praying *Amen*. Say: ***When we pray, let's keep in mind the hurting people whom God may be calling us to serve.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Two Sacraments of Healing on page 160. Read aloud the activity directions and invite your child to complete the activity. Point out that he or she may review the information in this session and the previous session if necessary. Discuss your child's answers when he or she is finished.

Respond: Pages 161–162

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 161. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and give your child time to reflect on how he or she can show kindness to those who are sick.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Review and discuss your child's answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 162, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember to bring healing and compassion to those we meet, as Jesus did.***

Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Engage: Page 163

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Mark 8:31–33. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Talk with your child about hobbies or extracurricular activities in which he or she is involved. Say: ***Being involved in these activities requires hard work and discipline. During Lent, we practice discipline in following Jesus.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 163. Ask: ***Why was Jesus upset with Peter?*** (Peter wanted Jesus to avoid the hard work that Jesus knew he had to do.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to be with us during Lent and Holy Week.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Allow time for reflection, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Page 164

- ▶ Explain that *Passion* refers to the suffering and death of Jesus. Discuss with your child what he or she already knows about the Passion of Jesus.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Passion of Jesus on page 164. Say: ***We can make our own sacrifices as a sign of our commitment to Jesus. We can give alms, fast, and pray.*** Brainstorm with your child a list of sacrifices he or she can make over Lent to show his or her commitment to Jesus.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Stations of the Cross. Find the Stations of the Cross on pages 256–257 and discuss how Jesus and his followers might have felt at each of those moments.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***The Gospel writer is telling us what happened during Jesus' Passion. Here we learn that many people followed Jesus as he carried his Cross.***

Reflect: Page 165

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week on page 165. Ask: ***What does the Church do on Good Friday instead of celebrating Mass?*** (the Liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion) Invite your child to read aloud What We Experience. Say: ***The purpose of the Veneration of the Cross is to acknowledge the death of Jesus on the Cross and show reverence for him.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Invite your child to look up the word *redemption* in the Glossary and complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.

Art Print: Page 166

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a moment from Jesus' trial or Passion.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the image makes him or her feel.
- ▶ Say: ***Lent is a time to remember the Passion of Jesus and to forgive others as we would like to be forgiven.*** Invite your child to turn to page 166. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus Forgives. Ask: ***Why do you think Jesus didn't ask God to stop his suffering while he was crucified?*** (Jesus' mission was to save us from our sins by dying for us.) Then read aloud Forgive as Jesus Did. Say: ***When we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses," we are asking him to forgive us for the wrong we have done.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and invite your child to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers and offer some ideas of your own.
- ▶ Together, make a simple calendar comprising the 40 days of Lent. Put a large line at the top for your child to write his or her Lenten promise. Provide 40 star stickers with which your child can mark off each day he or she is able to fulfill the promise. Hang the calendar in your home and review it daily.

Respond: Pages 167–168

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 167. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss possible selfless actions your child can undertake in the near future.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Review and discuss your child's answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 162, then make plans to complete the activity the next time you attend Mass. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's prepare ourselves to accept God's amazing gift of grace during Lent and Holy Week this year.***

Morality, Our Lived Faith

Unit Opener: Pages 170–172

- ▶ Read aloud the unit title on page 170. Say: ***Our new unit will help us learn how Jesus is the model for the way we should live our lives. Saint Isaac Jogues followed Jesus' example by giving his life while spreading the Good News as a missionary.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 171. If necessary, help him or her with the pronunciation of the French names. Ask: ***What does Saint Isaac Jogues's experience as a missionary tell you about his character?*** (He had such a passion for spreading the Good News about Jesus that he risked his life to do so.) Explain that to be martyred means to suffer death for the sake of one's faith.
- ▶ Together, brainstorm words that describe Saint Isaac and write those words on a sheet of paper. Then discuss the words you wrote. Invite your child to read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask: ***How did Saint Isaac Jogues show that his thoughts were fixed on God's goodness?*** (He ministered to others even as a prisoner; he returned to missionary work even though it was dangerous and difficult.) Invite your child to consider how God shows his goodness in his or her life.
- ▶ Invite your child to share about a time when he or she had a task to do that excited him or her. Then read aloud the first paragraph on page 172. Invite your child to think about the task he or she just described. Discuss what your child did when the task became difficult or less interesting. Then have your child read aloud the second and third paragraphs. Say: ***Saint Isaac Jogues knew that following God's will would not be easy. He chose to stay the course even when things got tough.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her response. After he or she is finished, say: ***God is ready to answer our prayers. If we ask for help, we will receive it.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Just like Saint Isaac, we are called to be firm and faithful in doing the work of the Lord, even if we don't see immediate results.***

Making Moral Decisions

Engage: Page 173

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 6:19–21. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask your child what he or she would do with the money from winning a game show. (Answers will vary.) Say: ***It's natural to dream of winning a fortune or discovering a lost treasure, but Jesus tells us we need to pay attention to what is truly valuable.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 173. Ask: ***What are examples of heavenly treasures?*** (Accept reasonable responses.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer while your child prays silently. Allow a few moments for your child to reflect, then conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 174–175

- ▶ Invite your child to recall a familiar folk tale or fable, such as “The Tortoise and the Hare.” Say: ***Stories can help us learn important lessons about life. Jesus often used stories in his teaching. The passage we are about to read is a parable, or a story that teaches a lesson.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage on page 174. Ask: ***What do you think the phrase “storms of life” means?*** (difficult times) Then read aloud the rest of the section. Explain that having a firm foundation on Jesus’ teachings can help us through difficult times in our lives.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: ***What is the conscience?*** (an inner voice that helps us know God’s Law and guides our choices) Say: ***With the help of our conscience and by thinking about Jesus’ teachings, we can make good moral choices. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 175. Read aloud the third paragraph and the five steps that follow. Explain that God’s law comprises Scripture, such as the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, and the teachings of the Church. Brainstorm a list of people whom your child can ask for advice if he or she is faced with a difficult decision. Ask: ***How can knowing that Jesus is with us make a difference?*** (It gives us confidence that Jesus will help us.)

Art Print: Page 176

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of Saint Francis of Assisi.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail. Say: ***Saint Francis’s example shows us that caring for others is one of the foundations of a moral life.***

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 176. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Saint Francis of Assisi. Ask: ***How can we follow Saint Francis's example in our own lives?*** (dedicate our lives to God, help those who are poor, care about animals, appreciate nature)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity instructions. Give your child time to complete the activity and discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Explain that Saint Francis was inspired by nature. Provide your child with art supplies and encourage him or her to make a collage that shows what nature means to him or her. Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 177–178

- ▶ Encourage your child to grow quiet and to turn his or her attention to God. Say: ***Let's take this time to talk with Jesus and ask him for guidance in making good moral choices.***
- ▶ Read aloud God Helps Us Make Choices on page 177. Then slowly pray aloud the prayer, including brief reflective pauses after each sentence. Say: ***When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God our Father to help us overcome temptation so that we can make good choices. Let's conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together.*** Invite your child to pray aloud the Lord's Prayer with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and activity directions on page 178. Discuss each situation together using the five steps from page 175 as a guide, then give your child time to write his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***According to this proverb, the wicked—those who make bad moral choices—will not be able to cope with the challenges of life. Those who make good moral choices will be able to stand strong during hard times.***

Respond: Pages 179–180

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 179. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and give your child a moment to reflect.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 180, then make plans to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember that when we have to make hard decisions about right or wrong in our daily lives, Jesus is with us. Let's keep him at the center of our lives.***

Living a Moral Life

Engage: Page 181

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. 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.*
- ▶ Say: ***When you were young, I had to help you get dressed every day. Now, of course, you handle that yourself. Putting on your clothes each day is a conscious act for you.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 181. Say: ***Some items of clothing have words on them or otherwise communicate something to others. God's love, too, sends a message when we put it on.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus for help in using what we say to share God's love.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then close by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 182–183

- ▶ Invite your child to look back at page 175 to review how to make good choices. Then read aloud Moral Living and Our Faith on page 182.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Sinning Through Words. Ask: ***How can people sin with words?*** (by lying, by gossiping, by using God's name irreverently, by ridiculing others behind their backs) Review the definitions of the words *slander*, *detraction*, and *perjury* using the Glossary. Say: ***If we remember that we all are made in God's image, then we will learn to use words that show respect for the dignity of each person. We will talk to others as we would like to be spoken to.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Sin's Social Side on page 183. Say: ***Sin affects society as a whole, not just the individuals involved in a sinful act. We have a responsibility to think of others when we act.*** Provide newspapers, magazines, or an internet-enabled device and work with your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***How does this passage relate to what we are learning in this session?*** (We can use our words to foster peace and love.)

Art Print: Page 184

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that depicts a group of people engaging in gossip.
- ▶ Invite your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the body language of the people. Encourage your child to think about what the people in the picture might be saying to one another and what the effects of their words might be.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 184. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Words Out of Control. Ask: ***How can words get out of control?*** (Once we say something to others, it's impossible to take our words back or keep others from repeating what we said.) Say: ***Instead of misusing words, we are called to use our words with the wisdom that comes from God.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her poem with other family members.
- ▶ Have your child close his or her eyes and imagine walking by a group of people who are speaking unkindly about someone else. Ask your child to think about what he or she would do in this situation. Say: ***We can ask God to bless our words and to help us think kindly before we speak.*** Allow a few moments for your child to reflect.

Reflect: Pages 185–186

- ▶ Invite your child to grow quiet. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 185. Then pray aloud the psalm, praying the Group One verses yourself and having your child pray the Group Two verses. Say: ***This psalm asks for God's protection. We ask God to help us use words to praise him and to avoid evil.***
- ▶ Invite your child to close his or her eyes while you read aloud the second and third paragraphs of Pray the Psalms, pausing after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on the words. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Understanding the Psalms on page 186. Then read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.

Respond: Pages 187–188

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 187. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and give your child a moment to reflect.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 188, then complete the activity together. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember the effects of our words on others, using only words that we would want spoken to us.***

Growing in Holiness

Engage: Page 189

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud 1 Peter 2:1–10. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Provide your child with boxes of various sizes and invite him or her to use them to build a tower. When he or she has finished, say: **Unless the tower rests upon a solid base, it'll fall apart. Similarly, the Church rests upon Jesus, the cornerstone.** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 189. Say: **Ask: How can we ensure that our spiritual house is sturdy?** (by patterning our lives after Jesus)
- ▶ Say: **Let's ask Jesus to help us care for both our physical and spiritual selves.** Pray aloud the prayer, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 190–191

- ▶ Discuss what it means to act morally. Then read aloud We Are Called to Act as Jesus Did on page 190. Ask: **Whom do we reflect when we act morally?** (Jesus) Invite your child to read aloud We Are Called to Act Morally. Discuss with your child how he or she can be a witness for Jesus at home, at school, and around his or her friends.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: **This passage is from the Old Testament. In it, God calls us to be holy just as he is holy.** Invite your child to reflect on what it means to be holy.
- ▶ Invite your child to read page 137 silently. Together, look up the words *sexuality* and *chastity* in the Glossary and encourage your child to discuss the words with you. Ask: **How can you use your body to glorify God?** (Possible responses: using my voice to sing and praise God, using my eyes to see where help is needed, hugging someone to show love, using my athletic and intellectual skills to their full potential)

Art Print: Page 192

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.
- ▶ Say: **Now we are going to look at a picture of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail. Say: **Saint Kateri was a Native American who accepted Jesus and the Christian faith but still loved her people and wanted their culture and history to remain part of her life.**
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 192. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Saint Kateri Tekakwitha on page 192. Ask: **How was Saint Kateri like some of the other saints about whom we've read?** (She chose Jesus above all else. She made hard choices. She helped people. She lived her life according to Jesus' example.) **Why might Saint Kateri's choices have been especially difficult?** (Her community didn't accept her Christian beliefs.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Say: **To follow Christ's teaching, Saint Kateri sacrificed the acceptance of her people. We can ask God for the strength to stand up for what we believe too.**
- ▶ Ask your child to consider what symbols might appear in an iconographic portrait of himself or herself. Invite your child to draw these symbols on a sheet of paper, leaving space in the center to include a self-portrait or a photograph of himself or herself. Encourage your child to include symbols of his or her faith and other personally meaningful images. Discuss the elements of the self-portrait and encourage your child to display it in his or her room.

Reflect: Pages 193–194

- ▶ While your child looks at the picture on page 193, read aloud 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 from your Bible. Then read aloud the first paragraph of Called to Holiness. Pause for a few moments to allow your child to reflect, then say: **It helps to be quiet when we listen to and speak to God in our hearts. Be very still and listen to the rhythm of your breathing.** Read aloud the second paragraph, pausing after each sentence. Invite your child to close his or her eyes and pray silently with you as you pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the activity directions on page 194. Ask: **How do we know how Jesus wants us to act?** (from the Gospels, which contain Jesus' teachings and show us how he lived) Provide your child with a Bible and work together to complete the activity.

Respond: Pages 195–196

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 187. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss how your child can care for himself or herself both physically and spiritually.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 188, then make plans to complete the activity together. Pray aloud the prayer. Say: **Let's remember to take care of our bodies and use them to glorify God and to be witnesses to Jesus.**

The Way to Jesus

Engage: Page 197

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Luke 6:20–26. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think of a time when he or she was very sad or very happy. Ask: ***Did you keep feeling that way forever?*** (No.) Point out that God’s love, by contrast, lasts forever. Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 197. Say: ***Knowing that most things on earth will one day pass away can be a comfort. This knowledge helps us worry less about our own happiness and stay focused on loving God and our neighbors.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let’s ask God for help in trusting him for our needs.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 198–199

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first three paragraphs on page 198. Explain that the phrase “God will then be all in all” is adapted from 1 Corinthians 15:28, and it means that there will be no more resistance to God’s will. Ask: ***What is God’s intention for us?*** (to have us share eternal life with him) Read aloud the final paragraph on page 198. Say: ***God is both perfectly just and perfectly loving. Because of this, we know that all his judgments are right and good.*** Emphasize that God’s will is for everyone to be saved. Discuss how human beings may choose to accept or reject his offer of love.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud We Pray for Those in Purgatory on page 199. Point out that Purgatory is the final step before complete union with God for people who are still imperfect because of sin.
- ▶ Explain that the celebration of the Eucharist and the practice of indulgences help us and those in Purgatory complete the journey to God.

Art Print: Page 200

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image that depicts Jesus at the Last Judgment.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Jesus’ appearance and expression. Discuss how the picture makes your child feel.
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 200. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of Jesus Judges All. Then read aloud the Scripture passage. Ask: ***How does Jesus want us to live?*** (He wants us to serve the needs of others) Say: ***Everyone should have food, clothes, and a place to sleep, but some people don't. God wants us to take care of one another, especially in these most basic ways.*** Explain that the seven merciful acts mentioned by Jesus are called the corporal works of mercy.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Work with your child to cut out construction-paper strips. On each strip, write the name of someone you know who needs one of the corporal works of mercy. Help your child make a linked chain using these paper strips. Hang the chain from the ceiling or string it up against a wall in your child's room. Encourage your child to think about how he or she can show mercy to others every time he or she looks at the chain.

Reflect: Pages 201–202

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 201. Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Say: ***As I mention each corporal work of mercy, think of how you can put each one into practice.*** Invite your child to close his or her eyes and listen closely to the prayer. Pray aloud the prayer, then pause for a time of reflection.
- ▶ Say: ***Let's quietly pray now for the people whom we would like to remember and serve in these ways.*** After a minute of quiet prayer, conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Knowing How to Treat Your Neighbor on page 202. Allow a moment for your child to reflect, then read aloud the activity directions. Give your child time to complete the activity, then discuss his or her responses. Offer ideas of your own if necessary.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***In this passage from the New Testament, Jesus tells us that we will be judged according to how we act.***

Respond: Pages 203–204

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 203. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Invite your child to think of someone to whom they can offer friendship and kindness. Allow time for reflection.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 204, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's stay on the lookout for ways to be good neighbors and help others every day.***

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 16:24–28. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ On a sheet of paper, write, *I know one thing: that I know nothing.* Read the sentence aloud. Discuss with your child how the sentence is a paradox, then read aloud the first paragraph. Allow time for your child to reflect. Then invite your child to read aloud the next two paragraphs. Say: ***During the Easter season, we celebrate the life that resulted from Jesus' death.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let's thank Jesus for what he did on Easter and ask him to be with us during this season.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Explain what missionaries do. With your child, research missionaries and mission organizations in your area. Point out that missionaries are carrying on Jesus' mission on earth, just as he called his disciples to do. Invite your child to read aloud Our Mission During Easter on page 206. Say: ***God calls us to do all we can to serve others, including our family, our friends and neighbors, and people around the world whom we've never met.***
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for the first activity. Give your child time to complete the activity, then discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for the second activity. Discuss what your child thinks his or her mission from God is. Give your child time to complete the activity, then invite him or her to share his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***The Gospel of Mark emphasizes the importance of serving others rather than being served. Service is more than just helping others; it also is a way to honor them. The important thing is to help others in Jesus' name and to do it to glorify him, not to receive praise.***

Reflect: Page 207

- ▶ Explain that the Church is made up of people who serve others in God's name. Point out some of the ministries and activities that are active in your local parish. Discuss how people in your church work together to make those ministries and activities possible. Invite your child to consider how the people you talked about are carrying out Jesus' mission.

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Mass During Easter and What We Experience on page 207. Say: ***During the Easter season, we celebrate more than the Resurrection. We also celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven and the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost. As we celebrate Mass, we are called to love and serve Jesus and others.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Provide your child with a church bulletin or remind him or her of your discussion about ministries and activities in your parish. Give your child time to think about service projects he or she has either participated in or wanted to participate in. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her answer.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Explain that the Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' Ascension into heaven on the Sixth Thursday after Easter or the Seventh Sunday of Easter, depending on the diocese.

Art Print: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus' disciples receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the symbols that are used and the expressions on the faces of the disciples. Say: ***Fire is a common symbol for the Holy Spirit.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 208. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Celebrating Pentecost. Say: ***Two thousand years after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is still helping us tell others about Jesus' promise of salvation.*** Invite your child to share about times he or she has noticed other people continuing Jesus' mission by telling others about Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Give your child time to complete the activity and discuss his or her answer.
- ▶ Invite your child to recall a time from his or her own life that was spiritually significant—for example, the first time your child prayed on his or her own or felt God's presence. Have your child draw a picture of his or her experience on a sheet of paper and include a caption. Encourage your child to display the picture in his or her room and to use it as a reminder to thank God for the ways he reveals himself in our lives.

Respond: Pages 209–210

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 209. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss a kind act your child can perform for someone else.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Invite your child to pray aloud the prayer he or she wrote while you pray along silently.

- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 210, then make plans to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***During this Easter season, let's look for ways to serve God and others.***