

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.***