



Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

Say: Let's review what we've learned so far. God loves us very much, and he gave us our wonderful world. **Ask:** What are you thankful for? Share with your child what you are thankful for. Read aloud the unit title on page 22. **Say:** Our new unit will help us understand that Jesus cares for us. He wants us all to be part of God's family.

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 22. **Ask:** Who do you think this man is? (Saint Joseph) **Say:** Joseph loved God, and God knew Joseph was someone special.

Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** What is a carpenter? (a person who builds with wood) **Say:** Joseph worked very hard to provide for his family. Saint Joseph is the patron saint of workers. Read aloud the third and fourth paragraphs. **Say:** An angel is a messenger from God. **Ask:** How do you think Joseph felt when the angel spoke to him? (scared, excited, surprised)

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** Since Jesus' Father was in Heaven, Jesus was blessed to have his foster father, Joseph, who loved him and took care of him here on earth.

With your child add Joseph's feast days, March 19 and May 1, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor Saint Joseph.



God Sends Jesus

Engage: Page 22

- ▶ Together with your child, look at family baby pictures. Discuss how families prepare for a new baby. **Ask:** *How would you feel about having a new baby sister or brother?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *How do you think the children in the picture feel? (happy)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about God's wonderful gift to us of his Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about his or her family members and reflect on how good it feels to be part of God's family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 23–24

- ▶ Look at photos that show your family celebrating or playing together. Share stories about the occasions shown in the photos.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is Born on page 23. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *Who is in this picture? (Joseph, Mary, Jesus, shepherds) How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they found out they had no place to stay? (tired, scared, lonely) How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw and heard the angels? (surprised, happy)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know ...? feature. **Say:** *Jesus was born to save us and tell us how much God loves us.* **Ask:** *Whose name means "God saves"?* (Jesus')
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first three paragraphs on page 24. **Say:** *Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are the Holy Family. Families take care of one another and learn from one another.* **Ask:** *What can we, your family, learn from you?*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for My Family Loves Me. Have your child complete the activity and discuss what he or she drew in the picture.

Art Exploration: Page 162

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus in a manger surrounded by Mary, Joseph, and shepherds.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including naming the people they see in the picture.
- ▶ **Say:** *God sent us Jesus because he loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 162. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *Where was Jesus born? (in a stable)* **Say:** *A stable was not a fancy place for Jesus to be born, but it didn't matter. When we remember that Jesus was born in a simple place, we know that he is with us no matter where we are.*
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** *What were the shepherds like? (regular people)* **Say:** *God honored the shepherds by choosing them, just regular people like us, to be the first to see Jesus.* Then read aloud the directions for the activity and give your child time to complete it.
- ▶ Read aloud Reading God's Word. **Ask:** *How do you think Mary felt that night? (happy, excited)* *How do you think the shepherds felt? (happy)* **Say:** *The shepherds were thankful that they had been chosen to hear the news of Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Provide your child with a shoe box, craft supplies, and modeling clay. Invite him or her to decorate the shoe box to resemble a stable. Have your child use modeling clay to make the Holy Family, shepherds, and animals. After the diorama is finished, pray together, thanking God for the gift of his Son, Jesus.

Reflect: Page 25

- ▶ Together look at page 25. **Ask:** *Where is the boy in the picture? (in a wheat field)* Ask your child to use his or her imagination to describe what it would be like to be in the field with the boy.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer in a prayerful manner. Pause between sentences, giving your child time to reflect. Close the quiet time by praying the Sign of the Cross. Tell your child that if he or she wants to talk to Jesus again, he or she can do so anytime.
- ▶ Ask your child to close his or eyes and picture the Holy Family while you read aloud the heading and the first paragraph of Who's Who. Then have your child open his or her eyes while you read aloud the activity directions. Help your child complete the activity. **Say:** *The Holy Family was a happy family who loved one another and learned many things from one another.*

Respond: Page 26

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to show that he or she loves and obeys his or her parents.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



Jesus Teaches Us

Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Ask your child to help you with a small chore. After you're done, **say:** *I'm glad I had your help. Being kind to others is doing God's will.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. Discuss your child's answers. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how God cares for us this same way. He helps us and gives us what we need.*
- ▶ Ask your child to name ways he or she can help other family members. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 27–28

- ▶ Play a listening game with your child. **Say:** *I'm going to say the first part of a sentence, and I'd like for you to finish the sentence. Thank you God for .* Have your child repeat the sentence and then add a word of his or her choice. Continue adding words and repeating the sentence, saying the list of words until it gets too long to remember.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph of Jesus Prayed to God. **Ask:** *What do you think Jesus is doing in the picture? (talking, listening, sharing with his friends.)* Point to the word *prayer*. **Say:** *Prayer is both talking to and listening to God.* **Ask:** *When can we pray to God? (anytime)*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 28. Then read aloud the lines of the prayer and the explanations to the right. Point out the vocabulary word *Heaven*. **Ask:** *What does Heaven mean? (life with God)* Reread aloud the first half of the Lord's Prayer. Tell your child that he or she will learn the rest of the prayer soon.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What do you think Jesus might have been saying to God? (Jesus needed help with a decision. He loved God. He wanted to thank God.)*

Art Exploration: Page 163

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people picking cherries from trees.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the mood of the scene and the actions of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we practice kindness and bring peace, we are serving the Kingdom of God.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 163. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Have your child find the term *Kingdom of God* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. **Say:** *When we practice kindness and bring peace, we are serving the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child draw a picture for each sentence. Discuss the finished pictures. **Say:** *God wants us to be kind to one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know ... ? feature. Show your child how to cross his or her arms and place the hands on opposite shoulders as an alternative for folding hands when in prayer. **Say:** *Long ago, people twisted the shape of pretzels to resemble the way a person's arms were held during prayer. That's why children were given pretzels when they learned prayers.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of acts of kindness that he or she could do for your family. Have your child write the ideas on large red construction-paper circles that represent cherries. Place the "cherries" in a pie tin and invite family members to pick a cherry and perform the task written on it to help out another family member.

Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ Together look at page 29. **Ask:** *What is the girl in the picture doing?* (praying) **Say:** *Trust that God will always be with you, loving you, and helping you.*
- ▶ Explain that there are different ways to pray. **Say:** *One way to pray is with your arms crossed over your chest. Another way is called the orans position. Bend your arms at the elbow and hold your hands, palms up, at shoulder height, for the orans position. Demonstrate both ways and let your child choose the way he or she likes. Pray aloud the Lord's Prayer and read aloud the paragraph below it. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross together.*
- ▶ Discuss what is happening in the picture at the bottom of the page. Read aloud the text. Have your child complete the activity. **Ask:** *What are other ways to serve the Kingdom of God?* (saying "please" and "thank you," offering to set the dinner table, bringing in the mail)

Respond: Page 30

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can ask Jesus for help with prayers.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



Trust in God

Engage: Page 31

- ▶ Ask your child to think of something he or she would wish to give to someone. Explain that the wish can be for anything. **Ask:** *If your wish came true, how would it affect that person?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss your child's answers. **Ask:** *What are some things we need?* (food, water, clothing, a home, air to breathe, love) *What are some things that we want or wish we had?* (TV, toys, games) **Say:** *In this session we will learn how to trust God for what we need.*
- ▶ Ask your child to change his or her wish so that it is something the person needs instead of wants. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 31–32

- ▶ Remind your child that he or she learned the beginning of a beautiful prayer in the last session. **Ask:** *What was it called?* (the Lord's Prayer) **Say:** *Jesus gave this prayer to us. He wants us to pray it when we gather together with family or friends.*
- ▶ **Say:** *The more we pray the Lord's Prayer, the closer we'll feel to God.* Read aloud the first sentence of Learning the Lord's Prayer. Then pray aloud the first part of the prayer together. Read aloud the last sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud page 32. Pause after every line and discuss its meaning. Point out the two vocabulary words. **Ask:** *Why should we forgive those who trespass against us, or hurt us?* (God wants us to forgive others as he forgives us.) Explain that temptation is something that could lead us to disobey God. Discuss examples of times your child might be tempted to do something. Then together pray aloud the entire prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When you go to Mass, listen for this prayer and pray it with our parish community.*

Art Exploration: Page 164

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a parent giving a kiss to his or her child.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail.
- ▶ **Say:** *God will always forgive us, and because of that, we are able to forgive others.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 164. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What can you say when you want to be forgiven? (I'm sorry.) When someone says "I'm sorry" after hurting you, what should you say? (I forgive you.)* **Say:** *It's good to forgive the person. That's what God does.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Role-play the two children in the cartoon.
- ▶ Ask your child to use markers, crayons, or colored pencils to draw a portrait of two family members showing each other forgiveness. Explain that one of the people in the picture can be your child. Then ask him or her write a caption on the bottom of the portrait. Display the picture in your home.

Reflect: Page 33

- ▶ Together look at page 33. **Say:** *This boy is praying. Sometimes we use our own words when we pray, and sometimes we use special words.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sentence above the prayer. Invite your child to pray the Lord's Prayer with you. Read aloud the paragraph and give your child time to speak to God in his or her heart. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph of Needs or Wants. Discuss the question. Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *What other things do you really need?* Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God shares his kingdom with us because he wants us to have what we need.*

Respond: Page 34

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to ask God for only the things he or she truly needs.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



Jesus Rises from the Dead

Engage: Page 35

- ▶ Invite your child to discuss something that he or she lost. Share a similar story. Discuss how it feels to lose something important.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. **Say:** *When something is special to us, we're sad to lose it and happy to find it. In this session we will learn how Jesus' friends felt when they saw Jesus again after they thought he was gone.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how they he or she feels knowing that we are never lost because Jesus is always here. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Invite your child to use sidewalk chalk to draw joyful on the sidewalk messages and pictures that remind him or her that Jesus is alive.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is Risen and discuss the picture. **Say:** *When Jesus died, he was buried above ground in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to protect it. **Ask:** Why were the women so surprised? (Jesus was not in the tomb; they found out Jesus was alive.) Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** Christ is the name given to Jesus after he rose from the dead.*
- ▶ Read aloud the two paragraphs on page 36. **Ask:** *Why do you think the women felt excited to see Jesus? (They thought Jesus was dead; they realized he was alive.) **Say:** Jesus is alive! The women in this story were overjoyed to be with their friend Jesus again.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus reminds us that when we remember him and his teachings, he will always be with us.*

Art Exploration: Page 165

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the risen Jesus Christ surrounded by his friends.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including all the people who surround Jesus Christ.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus rose from the dead for everyone. He is with us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 165. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. Point out the word *Resurrection*. **Say:** *We call Jesus Christ's rising from the dead the Resurrection.* **Ask:** *Why did Jesus' friends pray?* (Praying brought them closer to Jesus.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child read aloud the words in the word box. Help your child complete the sentences. Discuss other times when Jesus is with us.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *The Resurrection is a time of joy and celebration for us. People everywhere have traditions for celebrating Easter.*
- ▶ Have your child paint on black construction paper his or her own version of *The Risen Lord*. Invite your child to draw friends and family members around Jesus, similar to the disciples that surround Jesus in the original painting. Display your child's artwork in your home.

Reflect: Page 37

- ▶ Together look at page 37. **Ask:** *Why do you think the girl in the picture looks so calm?* Remind your child that he or she can rest with Jesus, knowing how much he loves us.
- ▶ Ask your child to close his or her eyes. Read aloud the first two paragraphs, pausing after each sentence. Then read aloud the last paragraph. Pause for a moment to allow your child to be with Jesus. Have your child open his or her eyes and pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud Finding Jesus. Have your child complete the activity. Talk about ways you and your family can give someone a happy surprise like the one Jesus gave to the women.

Respond: Page 38

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can talk to Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 39

- ▶ Sing a well-known Christmas carol together. **Say:** *During the few weeks before Christmas, I enjoy singing Christmas carols.* **Ask:** *What do you like to do? (bake Christmas cookies, buy gifts, decorate the tree)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Point out the vocabulary words. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 106 in his or her book and locate the season of Advent on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *Advent is the time of year when we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. In this session we will discuss ways we celebrate.*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Advent by thinking about ways he or she can show love to friends and family during this season. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 40

- ▶ Make or purchase an Advent calendar to mark the days of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Display it prominently in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph. Have your child read aloud the directions for the activity. **Say:** *In the "I Pray" heart, I might draw a picture of myself praying in bed before I go to sleep.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Then read the verse aloud with your child. **Say:** *What else has God given us to show his love? (family, friends, nature)*

Reflect: Page 41

- ▶ Display an Advent wreath or show a picture of one. **Ask:** *What is this?* Explain that your child may see an Advent wreath like this one during Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. It means Advent is half over and we are getting close to Christmas.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section What We Experience. Point out the vocabulary term. Discuss why Jesus is the Light of the World. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Gloria is what the angels sang to the shepherds when Jesus was born. We wait until Christmas Mass to sing it in celebration of Jesus' birth.*



Art Exploration: Page 166

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem before Jesus' birth.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people and the surroundings.
- ▶ **Say:** *Advent reminds us that Jesus' birth lights the world with truth and love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 166. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What event are we preparing for during Advent? (Jesus' birth)* **Say:** *Each candle is like the light of God's love. When the last candle is lit, we know Jesus will come soon.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and help your child write sentences. Share your own ideas with your child about how you would welcome Jesus into your home.
- ▶ Give your child several strips of construction paper. Invite him or her to write on each strip words of preparation for Advent, such as *pray, penance, church, and kindness*. Guide your child to make loops from the strips and attach the loops to form a chain. Hang the paper chain as a garland to decorate your home.

Respond: Page 42

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can love and welcome others.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.