



# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

**Ask:** What do you like to do with your good friends? What do you think makes someone a good friend? What makes you a good friend to someone else? Read aloud the unit title on page 43. **Say:** Our new unit will help us understand that Jesus gives us the Church as a sign of his love for us and for the whole world. We will learn how Jesus chose a good friend to help him lead his people.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 43. Read aloud the saint's name. **Ask:** Why do you think Jesus and Peter were good friends? (Possible answers: They trusted each other; they traveled together; they both wanted to help people.)

Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Say:** Fishing was a good business for Peter. He was able to make a living from it. He would spend every day going out to sea in his boat and bringing in his catch at the end of the day. Imagine what it was like for Peter to leave his work and follow Jesus. **Ask:** Do you think it was easy? (No.)

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** Jesus knew Peter would be a strong leader for his people.

With your child add Peter's feast day, June 29, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor the work of Saint Peter.



## Following Jesus

### Engage: Page 43

- ▶ With your child talk about activities and games you like to play. **Ask:** *Do you prefer playing outside or inside? Do you prefer playing with a small group or a large group?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. **Ask:** *What is important to do when you are playing?* (to share and listen) **Say:** *Friends make us happy.* **Ask:** *How does a person act when he or she is a good friend?* (kind, caring, and fun to be around) **Say:** *In this session we will learn how to be a good friend to others.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she could be a better friend. Remind your child that Peter and Jesus were good friends. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 44–45

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do we do at Mass?* (hear stories about God, pray, sing) **Say:** *We have talked about how the Mass is a special kind of liturgy. Liturgy is prayer that we pray with Jesus' friends.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 44. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Jesus' followers all over the world, including us, make up the Church.* Explain to your child that Church, with a capital C, is a community of people who follow Jesus. Church, with a lowercase c, refers to a special building in which we pray and celebrate Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph at the top of page 45. **Ask:** *Have you ever heard of a guardian angel?* Explain that even though we can't see our angel, the angel is with us all the time.
- ▶ Read aloud My Guardian Angel. Invite your child to draw a picture of what he or she imagines his or her guardian angel might look like. Point out the Guardian Angel Prayer on page 146.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Say:** *Saint Michael is an archangel, one of the chief angels. We can also ask Saint Michael to protect us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 167

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus calling Andrew and Peter to follow him.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the jobs of Andrew and Peter.



- ▶ **Say:** *To be good followers of Jesus, we must be willing to follow him even when times get difficult.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 167. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Asks Friends to Follow. **Ask:** *What are some things you can do to follow Jesus?* (care for others, be respectful, learn more about Jesus, attend Mass, obey parents)
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Asks Us to Follow. Allow time for your child to draw his or her picture.
- ▶ Using a washable ink pad, have your child make horizontal fingerprints on drawing paper. After the painting dries, help your child turn the fingerprints into fish by adding fins, gills, and eyes, using a thin black marker. Help your child write this caption under his or her picture: *Fishermen follow Jesus. I follow Jesus too!* Display the art in your home.

### Reflect: Page 46

- ▶ Together look at page 46. **Say:** *The girl in the picture looks ready to pray. Try to have quiet and peaceful feet, fingers, and eyes before you begin to pray.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph softly. Pause to allow your child time to think about his or her response. Encourage your child to talk to Jesus in his or her heart and to listen for what Jesus wants us to know about God's love for us. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *Who are some of the people in your Church?* (priests, deacons, catechists, families) Read aloud the directions and give your child time to draw the picture.

### Respond: Page 47

- ▶ 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 help and be nice to people.
- ▶ 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 Sends the Holy Spirit

### Engage: Page 48

- ▶ Surprise your child by making him or her a special treat or card. **Ask:** *How does it feel to receive a good surprise?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Sometimes the nicest things come as surprises. In this session we will learn more about the Holy Spirit, who appeared to the disciples as a special surprise from God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of surprises or good deeds he or she can give to others. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Have a race with your child, using drinking straws to blow cotton balls across a table. **Say:** *Our breath can't be seen, but it moves the cotton balls. The Holy Spirit can't be seen, but he is always with us.*
- ▶ Call attention to the photos on page 49. **Ask:** *What is happening in each photo?* (People are helping one another.) Read aloud The Holy Spirit Is with Us on page 48. Ask your child to pray the Sign of the Cross with you, saying the words *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* **Say:** *Just like God and Jesus, the Holy Spirit is always with us.*
- ▶ Together look up the definition for *parish* in the Glossary. **Say:** *We belong to a parish.* **Ask:** *What is the name of our parish?*
- ▶ Read aloud page 49. Allow time for your child to color the words.

### Art Exploration: Page 168

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus' friends receiving the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including symbols and what the symbols represent.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Holy Spirit strengthens us as he strengthened Jesus' friends. We can have courage because we know that the Holy Spirit is with us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 168. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud *The Holy Spirit Comes* and *The Holy Spirit Brings Courage*. **Say:** *Pentecost is the special day when the Holy Spirit first came to Jesus' friends.* **Ask:** *What does the word courage mean? (brave, not showing fear).* **Say:** *The Holy Spirit brought courage to Jesus' friends. He came to each of us when we were baptized. The Holy Spirit strengthens us too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to color the Holy Spirit symbols.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *It is the Holy Spirit that helps us be loving and kind toward one another.*
- ▶ Help your child tear red, orange, and yellow construction paper into small pieces. Have him or her arrange and glue the pieces on black construction paper to make the shape of a large flame. Help your child use white chalk to write this caption below the picture: *Jesus' friends saw flames when the Holy Spirit came.*

### Reflect: Page 50

- ▶ Together look at page 50. **Say:** *The boy might be thinking about how the Holy Spirit is always with us. Remember to be very still as you prepare to pray.*
- ▶ Read aloud *Pray to the Holy Spirit*, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to pray. **Say:** *Now take some time to speak to the Holy Spirit in your heart. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.*
- ▶ Read aloud *The Story of the Holy Spirit*. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends as wind and as flames of fire. Jesus' friends were surprised, but they no longer felt afraid to talk about Jesus. The Holy Spirit brought them peace.*
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to share the cartoon strip.

### Respond: Page 51

- ▶ 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 help others without being asked.
- ▶ 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 to Share

### Engage: Page 52

- ▶ Give your child a sheet of drawing paper while you hold a crayon in your hand.  
**Say:** *Let's draw a picture of a garden.* Wait a few seconds and **ask:** *What's wrong? What can we do so that we can both draw? (share)* Work together to share the crayon and paper to draw the picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's responses.  
**Say:** *In this session we will learn that when we share, we show love, care, concern, and kindness.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about ways he or she can share this week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 52–53

- ▶ Cut out four flames from red construction paper. Have your child write these Gifts of the Holy Spirit on each flame: *love, kindness, peace, caring.* Discuss each gift and display the flames in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud Sharing with Others on page 52. **Ask:** *Why did more and more people become followers of Jesus? (Jesus' followers shared, and they took good care of one another.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first three paragraphs on page 53. **Ask:** *What is the special name for Jesus' friends? (Christians) What Church do we belong to? (Catholic)*  
**Say:** *When we celebrate Mass, there is a special way to show love to one another. Demonstrate the Sign of Peace with your child.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit helps us be happy and share our happiness with others.*

### Art Exploration: Page 169

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a group of people working together, riding the subway, or playing at a park.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the people are the same and how they are different.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus tells us that everyone is our neighbor. God wants us to love our neighbors.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 169. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *Whom does God want us to love? (our families, one another, our neighbors, everyone)* **Say:** *Let's try to be kinder to our neighbors. We can smile and say hello.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to complete the sentences and the drawing. Invite him or her to share them with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to think of a person whom he or she likes to spend time with. Have your child draw a picture of the two of them taking a ride on some sort of transportation. Help your child complete this caption on his or her artwork: *I like to share time with [name of person]. It doesn't matter where we go!*

### Reflect: Page 54

- ▶ Together look at page 54. **Say:** *The girl in the picture looks happy to be alone with Jesus. Be still and open your heart to Jesus when you pray.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Today's prayer was written by Saint Richard, who lived long ago.* Pray the prayer aloud while your child prays with you in the quiet of his or her heart. Read aloud the last paragraph and allow time for your child to be with Jesus. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What's one thing you'd like a friend to share with you?* Discuss your child's response. Give your child crayons or markers and have him or her complete the activity. Discuss the responses and encourage your child to try to share these things this week with others.

### Respond: Page 55

- ▶ 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 share with 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.



## God Chooses Mary

### Engage: Page 56

- ▶ Invite your child to make an “I Love God” booklet. Fold a large sheet of light-colored construction paper in half. On each of the four pages, ask your child to draw a picture of something he or she can do to show love for God.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child’s response.  
**Say:** *Even though Tina was shy, she knew saying hello was the right thing to do. It was a way for her to show her love for God. In this session we will learn how Mary said yes to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about things he or she may not want to do but needs to do to learn and grow. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Discuss things that make you and your child happy. **Say:** *Happiness can be found in many different ways. A hug, a smile, or a kind word all have the power to make us happy.*
- ▶ Read aloud God Loves Mary on page 56. Have your child find the word *grace* in the Glossary and read aloud the definition. **Ask:** *Who gave Mary the gift of grace? (God)*  
**Say:** *Grace is a gift from God that fills us with God’s life and makes us his friends. God gives us grace because he loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Mother of God on page 57. **Ask:** *What are some things you notice about this beautiful picture of Mary?* **Say:** *Mary loved Jesus, and she became the first and greatest of all of Jesus’ followers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Statues of Mary are very important to Catholics. Let’s look for one in our church the next time we are there.*

### Art Exploration: Page 170

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the angel Gabriel visiting Mary.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the angel looks and acts toward Mary.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Holy Spirit comes to us to guide us and help us. The Holy Spirit was there to help Mary when she said yes to God.*





- ▶ Have your child turn to page 170. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the Scripture passage. **Ask:** *How do you think Mary felt after Gabriel gave her the message? (happy, special, blessed)* **Say:** *Mary's love for God was strong. She knew she could trust him, and she wanted to please God. That's why she was happy to do what God wanted.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete it. Remind your child to say yes to God as Mary did.
- ▶ Cut a large rectangular shape out of black construction paper to resemble a window frame. Give your child a sheet of wax paper that fits in the frame. Ask your child to use crayons to draw and color on the wax paper. Help him or her tape the black frame to the wax paper. Hang the "stained-glass window" against your window at home and think of the wonderful Bible stories you know whenever you look at the artwork.

### Reflect: Page 58

- ▶ Together look at page 58. **Say:** *We are going to learn a special prayer called the Hail Mary.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to fold his or her hands. Then pray aloud the Hail Mary. When you are finished, **say:** *Speak with Mary in your heart and tell her how glad you are that she said yes to God.* Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud Mary Answers God. Give your child crayons or markers to complete the activity. When your child is finished, **ask:** *What did Mary say to God? (Yes!) What do we say to God? (Yes!)*

### Respond: Page 59

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can say yes to God.
- ▶ 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 Christmas

### Engage: Page 60

- ▶ **Ask:** *When do we celebrate Jesus' birth? (at Christmas) Together imagine visiting Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Talk about how you would feel when you see the baby Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Point out the vocabulary word. Discuss the picture. **Say:** *The Christmas season includes a visit from the Wise Men on January 6 and ends with the baptism of Jesus. In this session we will learn more about Christmas, the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 61

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some Christmas decorations you see in stores or in our neighborhood? (Santa, snowmen, wreaths, trees) Describe a Nativity scene and explain that many people decorate their homes with Nativity scenes to remind them of Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate During Christmas. Point out the vocabulary term. Have your child complete the Son of God Word Search.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How is Jesus, the Son of God, part of your life? (I say my prayers to Jesus; we have a picture of him in our house; he is always with me.)*

### Reflect: Page 62

- ▶ **Ask:** *Would the Christmas season feel the same to you if we had no trees, wreaths, or lights? How would it feel the same? How would it feel different?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Christmas. Read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The celebrant is the priest or bishop who leads people in praying the Mass. The special clothes that the priest or bishop wears during Mass are called vestments.* **Ask:** *Why does the priest wear different color vestments at different times of the year? (to show which season or feast we are celebrating in the liturgical calendar)*
- ▶ Read aloud My Christmas Tree and have your child use markers or crayons to decorate the tree.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know ...? feature. **Ask:** *Can you name some of the people and animals present at Jesus' birth that would be included in a live Nativity scene? (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, donkeys, sheep, cows)*



### Art Exploration: Page 171

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, and animals.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including symbols such as halos and a star.
- ▶ **Say:** *The first Sunday following Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family. That feast day is an opportunity to honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, as well as our own family.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 171. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Christmas on page 171. **Ask:** *How did the tradition of gift giving begin? (the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus)* **Say:** *Jesus, through his example and God's Word, taught people to take care of one another, to love, and to be peaceful. He reminded people to pray and to think every day about how much God loves them. Before Jesus came, many people believed the only important things were money and power. Jesus brought the message that those things make us forget the importance of God's message.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Gift of Jesus and allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ Give your child a star of Bethlehem template on yellow cardstock. Instruct him or her to decorate the star with glitter and sequins to make it shine for all to see. Punch a hole at the top of the star. Help your child loop a piece of yarn through the hole and hang it from a high place in your home.

### Respond: Page 63

- ▶ 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 share Christmas joy.
- ▶ 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.