



Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

Ask: What does it feel like to be part of a family? **Say:** We will learn about Jesus and his family. Read aloud the unit title on page 22. **Say:** This unit will help us understand that Jesus wants everyone to be part of God's family.

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture on Saint Anne and Saint Joachim [JOH uh keem] on page 22. **Say:** Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were the parents of Mary, who became the Mother of Jesus. **Ask:** Who is the child in the picture? (Mary) **Say:** Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were loving parents. They helped Mary learn about God. Read aloud the text.

Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** Devoted means "to be very faithful and loyal."

Remind your child what a saint is. **Ask:** What is a patron saint? (a saint who watches over a special group) Why do you think Saint Anne is the patron saint of mothers and Saint Joachim is the patron saint of fathers? (They were Mary's parents and raised her to be devoted to God.)

With your child add Joachim and Anne's feast day, July 26, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love that Saint Joachim and Saint Anne had for family.



Jesus Is Faithful

Engage: Page 22

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some of the best times you think we have had as a family?* Together recall favorite times and discuss why they are important. **Say:** *Jesus was part of a family too.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the questions below it. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What does faithful mean?* (devoted, true, loyal) **Say:** *Jesus wants you to obey your parents, just as Jesus obeyed his parents. In this session we will learn how Jesus was faithful to God and to his parents.*
- ▶ Encourage your child to look for opportunities to support his or her family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 23–24

- ▶ Ask your child to name rules he or she follows at school, at home, or in sports. Record the rules by category. **Ask:** *Why do we need rules?* (Rules help us know how to behave with one another or how to play a game.)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 23 and point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *The Ten Commandments are God's special rules to help us live good lives, be kind to one another, and act more like Jesus.* Invite your child to read aloud each commandment. Discuss the sentence below it, explaining how your child might obey this rule. Have your child find the Ten Commandments in the back of his or her book on page 164.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the Sixth through Tenth Commandments on page 24. **Ask:** *Which commandments teach us to love God?* (the first three) *Which commandments teach us to love and respect ourselves and others?* (the last seven) **Say:** *When we follow the commandments, we are being like Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *It is important to remember that God is always with us.*

Art Exploration: Page 174

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a young Jesus talking to the teachers in the Temple.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the people whom Jesus is talking to as well as the surroundings.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus is a good example for us. When we obey our parents, we obey God.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 174. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus with the Teachers. **Ask:** *Why were Mary and Joseph so worried about Jesus? (They could not find him.) How did Jesus explain why he went to the Temple? (He was doing what God wanted him to do.)* **Say:** *Jesus returned home with his parents. When we obey our parents, we obey God.*
- ▶ Read aloud Lost and Found. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that he or she is in the Temple with Jesus. **Say:** *Look around. What do you see and hear?* Invite your child to have a silent conversation with Jesus. **Say:** *You can ask Jesus questions just as he asked the teachers in the Temple.* Close with a prayer asking God to help your child listen to and obey his or her parents.

Reflect: Page 25

- ▶ Together look at page 25. **Ask:** *What do you think the boy is thinking about?* Remind your child that he or she can always tell Jesus what he or she is thinking about. **Say:** *Jesus is always with you. He loves to spend time with you.*
- ▶ Read aloud Time with God. Pause after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Allow time for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Close your prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Jesus the Good Son. **Say:** *The Fourth Commandment tells us to honor and obey our parents, just as Jesus did. We can ask God to help us obey our parents, even when it might be difficult.*
- ▶ Read aloud At Church and have your child complete the sentences. Invite your child to read aloud the completed sentences.

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 he or she can follow the Ten Commandments.
- ▶ 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 Saves Us

Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Invite your child to make an “I Show Kindness” booklet. Help him or her fold paper in half to form the pages of the booklet. Ask your child to draw a picture of himself or herself helping a family member, classmate, or neighbor on each page. **Say:** *You are showing your love on these pages.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and questions. Discuss your child’s responses. Point out the picture. **Say:** *We can show love to our families, friends, and neighbors. In this session we will learn how Jesus showed his love to people in need.*
- ▶ Have your child read the completed booklet and decide when he or she will help the people shown on the pages. **Say:** *Jesus showed his love to people in need. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

Explore: Pages 27–28

- ▶ Display a crucifix. **Ask:** *Where have you seen crucifixes displayed? (in church, on rosaries) What does a crucifix symbolize? (faith, God, Jesus)*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Cares for Everybody. **Ask:** *How did Jesus show his love for people who were sick? (He healed them.) Say:* *When Jesus healed people, he showed God’s healing presence to the world. Ask:* *How did some people show they were angry with Jesus? (They put him to death on the cross.) Who raised Jesus from the dead? (God)*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is Alive on page 28. **Ask:** *Where is Jesus now? (in Heaven and with us) Say:* *Jesus taught us how to love others.*
- ▶ Read aloud Knowing Jesus’ Love. Have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child’s ideas.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *It is always best to be honest. Discuss memories your child has of telling the truth and receiving forgiveness.*

Art Exploration: Page 175

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus healing a blind man.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the artist chose to show Jesus.
- ▶ **Say:** *The message of Jesus’ love is for all people in every part of the world.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 175. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Heals. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What are some examples of Jesus' miracles? (Jesus healed those who could not see and those who could not walk.) Why do you think John the Baptist thought Jesus was the Messiah? (Jesus healed others.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Love Through Actions. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Explain that when we reach out to those in need as Jesus did, we are being like him. **Ask:** *What are some ways you can act like Jesus?*
- ▶ Have your child fold construction paper in half to make a card. On the front have your child draw a picture and on the inside write a cheery message. Tell your child to address the card to *Dear Friend*. Encourage him or her to give it to a child who misses school because of illness.

Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ Together look at page 29. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is not speaking. Ask: What do you think she is saying to God with her heart? Say: Open your heart to Jesus, and he will understand.*
- ▶ Slowly read the prayer. Pause after the second paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray *Amen* and join your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Write *What would Jesus do?* on a sheet of paper. Explain that it is helpful to ask ourselves this question when we are unsure what to do or how to help. **Say:** *It is important to do our best to act like Jesus.* Read aloud Caring for Others. Have your child complete the activity. **Ask:** *Have you ever been in a situation like any of these? What did you do?*

Respond: Page 30

- ▶ 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 help someone in need.
- ▶ 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 Calls Us to Love

Engage: Page 31

- ▶ Invite your child to talk about times he or she has felt left out of activities at home or at school. **Ask:** *How did it make you feel?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *When people include others, they are acting like Jesus. In this session we will learn how to act more like Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about someone he or she knows who might be feeling left out. **Say:** *We grow closer to God when we grow closer to others. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

Explore: Pages 31–32

- ▶ **Ask:** *Who is a leader at your school? (principal, headmaster)* **Say:** *Like schools, the Church also has many leaders.* Display a picture of the current pope.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the heading and first paragraph of Leaders of Our Church. Read aloud Our Pope and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What makes a good leader? (listening, encouraging others, being helpful)* **Ask:** *Who leads the church? (the pope) Where does the pope live? (Vatican City)* Tell your child the name of the pope. **Say:** *The pope asks us to do things Jesus wants us to do.*
- ▶ Read aloud Our Bishops on page 32 and point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Like the pope, bishops are important Church leaders.* Tell your child who their bishop is. Explain that there are thousands of parishes and bishops all around the world.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *What matters is not so much the sin, but that we ask God for forgiveness and work hard not to do the same thing again.*

Art Exploration: Page 176

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the parable of the banquet.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how it reminds him or her of a family dinner.
- ▶ **Say:** *God wants to be close to everyone.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 176. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Parable of the Banquet and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *How do you think the host of the dinner party felt when his guests did not come? (sad, angry, disappointed) Who came to the banquet? (those who were poor, sick, blind, and lame) What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this parable? (God wants to be close to everyone.)*
- ▶ Read aloud God's Invitation and have your child write a thank-you note to God. Encourage him or her share it with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that God invited him or her to a banquet. **Ask:** *What would you bring to share with the other guests?* Invite your child to speak heart-to-heart, telling God how it feels to gather at his table. Close with a prayer of thanks to God and a promise to accept his invitation to follow him.

Reflect: Page 33

- ▶ Together look at page 33.
- ▶ Read aloud God Cares. Pause after the third paragraph to give your child time to speak silently with Jesus. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus' Invitation. **Ask:** *What does it mean to be close to someone? (to know, accept, and trust the person)* Invite your child to complete the activity and share his or her work with you.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Ask:** *How did Saint Martin de Porres follow God? (by caring for others)* **Say:** *He had an orphanage and a hospital built, and he cared for African slaves who were brought to his country. He wanted the people and animals to know that God cared for them.*

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 he or she can do kind deeds for 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.



Jesus Cares for Us

Engage: Page 35

- ▶ Hide one piece from a jigsaw puzzle. Together put the puzzle together, noting the missing piece. After you find the piece, **ask:** *How does it feel to have found the missing piece?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Jesus cares for us so much that he will look for us if we are lost. In this session we will learn how Jesus cares for us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how Jesus feels when one of us is lost and wanders away from him. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Discuss stories or nursery rhymes that teach a lesson, such as "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" or "The Little Red Hen." **Say:** *Jesus told us special stories to teach us important lessons. These stories are called parables.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Parable of the Lost Sheep on page 35. **Say:** *In this parable Jesus used the sheep to represent all of us. He wants us to know that God will do whatever it takes to keep us close to him. If we drift away, he will always reach out to help us come back to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud Shepherding God's People on page 36. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Priests and deacons are a very important part of our Church. Religious sisters and brothers also serve the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *God's love is unconditional no matter what; he is always going to love and guide us.*

Art Exploration: Page 177

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the job of a shepherd involves.
- ▶ **Say:** *As a shepherd cares for his flock, Jesus cares for us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 177. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Take turns reading aloud *Jesus, Our Shepherd*. **Say:** *Tell one way Jesus cares for us.*
Ask: *Why do you think a shepherd is a good way to describe Jesus? (He leads us, feeds us, and protects us as a shepherd does for his sheep.)*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud *The Good Shepherd* and complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a poster with the caption *I Can Be Like Jesus*. Ask your child to draw pictures or cut out and glue magazine pictures to show ways he or she cares for others. Suggest that your child focus on actions that promote caring just as Jesus cares for us. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Page 37

- ▶ Together look at page 37. **Ask:** *Why do you think the girl is holding a lamb?* Remind your child that every time he or she prays, the bond of love between your child and God gets stronger.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Let's take some time to pray to God, our Good Shepherd. I will pray each line from Psalm 23. This psalm is found in the Bible.* Read aloud the psalm. Then have your child read it aloud. Read aloud the last paragraph. Close the special prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *God Is Our Shepherd*. **Ask:** *How is God like a good shepherd? (He cares for every person.) How can you be a good shepherd at school? (by caring for classmates, by making sure no one is left out)*
- ▶ Read aloud *God's Sheep*. **Say:** *The Good Shepherd cares for his sheep and watches over them.* **Ask:** *Who cares for us in a similar way? (God the Father)*

Respond: Page 38

- ▶ 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 include others in his or her life.
- ▶ 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

- ▶ Light a candle and **ask:** *Why do people use candles? (to light a room if it is dark, for decoration)* **Say:** *Our church uses candles during Advent.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 106 in his or her book and locate Advent on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Advent, the time of year when we prepare to celebrate Christmas.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can light up the lives of family members during the season of Advent. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 40

- ▶ Together write a typical daily schedule for your family. **Ask:** *When do you make time to play with friends or talk to family members?* **Say:** *Just as we need to make time for things that are important to us, we need to make time for Jesus in our lives.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *It is important to take time for Jesus because he is our way to true happiness and peace.* Read aloud and discuss the two questions on the page.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus, My Light. Offer an example. **Say:** *One way I can light the way for others is by being a leader on the playground. When someone is left out, I will be his or her friend.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How can you live as a child of light? (always set a good example, listen to my parents, show kindness on the playground)*

Reflect: Page 41

- ▶ Together make a diorama by cutting a one-inch hole in the front of a shoe box. Then cut a door into the lid by cutting three sides of a rectangle that can open and shut. Glue figures from a Nativity scene into the box. Let your child look at it with the door on the lid open and closed. **Ask:** *Why do we need light? (to see in the dark)*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. **Say:** *As we see different candles and festive lights at Advent, we are reminded that Jesus lights our way.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience and complete the activity. Remind him or her that there are three purple candles and one pink candle in an Advent wreath.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Review the meaning of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. **Say:** *Advent is the perfect time to ask for and offer forgiveness.*



Art Exploration: Page 178

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of an Advent wreath.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, focusing on the candles, colors, and shape of the wreath.
- ▶ **Say:** *The green Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end, just as God has no beginning and no end. Each candle represents one week of Advent. The purple candles remind us to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming through prayer and good works. The pink candle symbolizes that our waiting will soon end.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 178. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Lighting the Way for Jesus*. **Say:** *Light is often used to describe warmth, goodness, and love.* **Ask:** *What can we do to make room for Jesus' light in our hearts?* (pray, do good deeds)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Making Room for Jesus' Light*. Offer suggestions that your child can do, such as read stories from the Bible, go to Mass, use an Advent wreath at home, or set up a Nativity scene. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ In the center of a paper plate, have your child draw a picture of a way your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus during Advent. Have your child glue on silk or paper green leaves to cover the plate rim. He or she can cover four toilet tissue tubes with three purple sheets and one pink sheet of construction paper and glue the tubes to the paper plate to represent Advent wreath candles. Share the wreath with other family members.

Respond: Page 42

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can shine a light for 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.