



Morality, Our Lived Faith

Begin

Ask: *If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?*

Say: *We are going to learn about a saint who traveled all over the world to help others learn about Jesus. Read aloud the unit title on page 85. **Say:** Our new unit will help us learn how following the Ten Commandments can help us live like Jesus.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Francis Xavier. **Say:** *Saint Francis Xavier was a missionary. **Ask:** What does a missionary do? (travels to distant lands to teach people about God and Jesus)*

Have your child read aloud the top part of the page. **Ask:** *Who was one of Francis Xavier's friends? (Ignatius of Loyola) What religious order did Francis Xavier join? (the Society of Jesus) What did Francis Xavier do to share Jesus' love with others? (He taught children by telling them religious stories and teaching them religious songs. He visited people who were poor, sick, or in prison.) What was his great wish? (to go to China to teach people there)*

Say: *Saint Francis Xavier is the patron saint of missionaries to foreign lands.*

With your child add Francis's feast day, December 3, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the teachings of Saint Francis Xavier.

The Ten Commandments

Engage: Page 85

- ▶ Together make a list of rules that can help people follow Jesus' example of love and service. Post the rules in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's responses.
Ask: *Why are there rules for games?* (so the game is fair, to help players get along)
Say: *In this session we're going to learn about the Ten Commandments. These are 10 rules we've received from God that help us grow in our relationship with him, with our families, and with one another.*
- ▶ Discuss a game your child enjoys playing. Invite your child to imagine that the rules are taken away. **Ask:** *What do you think might happen?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 86–87

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is the Torah?* (the Law revealed by God in the Old Testament; the first five books of the Old Testament)
- ▶ **Say:** *The Book of Exodus is part of the Torah.* Have your child read aloud page 86. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *Why did God want Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt?* (They were being treated cruelly as slaves.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 87. **Ask:** *What are the Ten Commandments?* (God's instructions for how to live in relationship with him and with one another) **Say:** *The agreement between God and the Hebrews is a Covenant.*

Art Exploration: Page 189

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of God presenting Moses with the Ten Commandments.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the differences between God, Moses, and the other people.
- ▶ **Say:** *God gave the Hebrews the Ten Commandments to help them remain faithful to the Covenant he made with them.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 189. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God's Covenant. **Ask:** *What did the Hebrews agree to do when they entered into the Covenant with God?* (to live in relationship with him and with one another according to his instructions)



- ▶ Read aloud Symbols of Your Relationship. Allow time for your child to design a symbol and discuss its meaning with you.
- ▶ Explain that many artists have made images of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God. Using art supplies, have your child make his or her own illustration of God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses.

Reflect: Page 88

- ▶ Together look at page 88. **Say:** *The boy in the picture has an adult in his life to help him make good decisions. Remember that we always have the Holy Spirit to give us strength and guidance to make good moral choices.*
- ▶ Read aloud Come, Holy Spirit. Pray aloud the prayer together. Give your child time to reflect silently. Read aloud the last paragraph. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Making Moral Decisions. **Say:** *These three questions can help us make good moral choices. They can be part of our examination of conscience.*

Respond: Page 89

- ▶ 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 make good moral choices.
- ▶ 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.

Loving God Above All

Engage: Page 90

- ▶ **Ask:** *Who are some of the people in your life whom you love? (family members, friends) Why is it important to show our love to people? (When we express our love, we share God's love with others.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response.
Say: *There are many ways we can show our love to God. Whenever we do so, we give thanks for the many ways he shows his love to us. In this session we are going to learn about the first three commandments. When we follow these commandments, we express to God our love for him.*
- ▶ Invite your child to make a thinking-of-you card to give to a person he or she loves. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 90–91

- ▶ **Ask:** *As Jesus' followers, what do you believe is most important in our lives? (the Mass, the sacraments, following Jesus' example)*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud The Great Commandment on page 90. **Ask:** *What is the main message of the first part of the Law? (You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.) What is the main message of the second part of the Law? (You shall love your neighbor as yourself.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Relationship with God on page 91. **Ask:** *What do the first three commandments help us do? (grow in our relationship with God)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This passage sums up the first three commandments by reminding us that we are called to keep God at the center of our lives.*

Art Exploration: Page 190

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people entering a church.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the people in the picture are following the first three commandments.
- ▶ **Say:** *The first three commandments teach us to love God above all.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 190. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Love and Worship God. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *How do we honor God?* (use his name with reverence and love) *What does the Eucharist give us the strength to do?* (serve others by performing acts of love and service)
- ▶ Read aloud The Name of God and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Give your child time to reflect on the Art Print. **Say:** *Think about the last time you were at Mass.* **Ask:** *What did you see? What did you hear? Were you able to smell flowers or incense?* After giving your child time to reflect, **say:** *Take a moment to have a conversation with Jesus. Thank him for giving us the gift of himself in the Eucharist.* Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.

Reflect: Page 92

- ▶ Together look at the prayer on page 92. **Say:** *We are going to pray a prayer called the Divine Praises. In this prayer we honor the name of God, the names of the members of the Holy Family, and the names of the angels and saints.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Take the role as Leader and have your child read the All parts and pray the prayer together. Read aloud the last paragraph. Give your child time to reflect silently. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the directions of Love God Above All. Allow time for your child to complete the activity.

Respond: Page 93

- ▶ 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 God that he or she loves him.
- ▶ 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.

Loving Our Family

Engage: Page 94

- ▶ Display images of different families. **Ask:** *What is different about these families? What is the same about the families?* **Say:** *Even when it is difficult to do so, we are still called to love our family members.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments. These three commandments teach us how to love.*
- ▶ Ask your child to make love-one-another coupons for family members that illustrate ways he or she can show love. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 94–95

- ▶ Share stories about difficult decisions you both had to make. **Ask:** *Why was the choice difficult? What did you do to help you choose?* Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint Thomas More on page 94. **Ask:** *What was Thomas More forced to choose between?* (loyalty to the Church and loyalty to the government) **Say:** *The faith of Thomas More gave him the strength to forgive King Henry and the man who executed him.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 95. **Say:** *Obedience is the act of willingly following what God asks us to do. Parents and other leaders help us follow God's plan for us. We are obedient when we do what these people ask of us.* **Ask:** *What does the Fifth Commandment say?* (Killing is wrong.) *What does the Sixth Commandment say?* (Respect our bodies and other people's bodies.)

Art Exploration: Page 191

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of a heart, a traditional symbol of love.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the colors and the heart symbolize.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus calls us to forgive, love, and pray for our enemies.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 191. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud Love and Forgive Your Enemies. **Ask:** *What does Jesus say in the Scripture passage? (Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Prayer of Forgiveness. Allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ **Say:** *A heart is often used to symbolize love, but there are many symbols we can use for love and forgiveness. Ask your child to make a piece of art that uses symbols of love and forgiveness. Encourage your child to make abstract art and to use multiple mediums, such as crayons, markers, colored pencils, and watercolors.*

Reflect: Page 96

- ▶ Together look at the prayer on page 96. **Say:** *King Solomon is one of Jesus' ancestors. He is also the son of King David. Solomon was known to be a wise king. Many people turned to him for advice. His prayer reminds us to follow the Ten Commandments.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of God Be with Us. Give your child time to read the prayer silently. Read aloud the last paragraph slowly. Allow time for your child to complete a silent prayer. Close the prayer by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph of Live the Commandments and have your child complete the activity.

Respond: Page 97

- ▶ 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 to treat your family with love and respect.
- ▶ 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 Others

Engage: Page 98

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is one way that you cooperate with a family member? (share a bathroom, bedroom, computer; take turns using a toy or choosing TV shows to watch)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response.
Say: *Cooperating with one another helps us live together peacefully. In this session we'll learn about the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments. These commandments help us do this.*
- ▶ Together write an acrostic poem using the word *cooperation*. **Say:** *For each letter of the word cooperation, write a phrase or sentence about how you can follow God's plan by cooperating with others. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

Explore: Pages 98–99

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do the first three commandments help us do? (grow in our relationship with God) What do the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments help us do? (grow in our relationship with our family)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Relationships with Our Neighbors on page 98. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *God wants us to look to him for our happiness, not to other people or possessions.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 99. Point out the vocabulary word *temperance*. **Say:** *We practice the virtue of temperance when we show gratitude for what we have rather than wanting more.*

Art Exploration: Page 192

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Moses looking toward the Promised Land after wandering in the desert.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how he or she thinks Moses feels.
- ▶ **Say:** *God wrote the message of the Covenant on the heart of the Hebrews.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 192. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud God's Promises. **Ask:** *Where did Moses and the Hebrews arrive after wandering in the desert for 40 years? (the land God had promised to them)*



- ▶ Read aloud The Importance of the Ten Commandments and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can announce the Gospel of the Lord?* (be kind to others, obey the Ten Commandments, reach out to people who are sick or suffering)
- ▶ Give your child art supplies and invite him or her to make a keep-the-Covenant poster in which they draw ways people can keep the Covenant by obeying the Ten Commandments and following Jesus' example. Have your child write a title and caption for the poster. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Page 100

- ▶ Together look at page 100. **Say:** *As the Hebrews were getting ready to cross the Jordan River, they were preparing to cross over to a new life. You will soon be crossing over to a new grade and new challenges. God will always help you and never give up on you.*
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer slowly and reverently, pausing between sentences to allow time for reflections. Close the prayer by praying Amen and joining your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Follow God's Plan. Invite your child to share his or her advertisement with you when it is finished.

Respond: Page 101

- ▶ 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 show respect 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.

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 102

- ▶ Together sing an Alleluia your parish uses as a Gospel Acclamation during the Easter season. Then **ask:** *How else can we praise God?* (pray a prayer, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate during the Easter season?* (Jesus' Resurrection) **Say:** *We rejoice and sing our praise to God to thank him for what he has done for us through Jesus' Resurrection. In this session we will learn more about the Easter season.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family prepares for Easter. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 103

- ▶ Together read aloud from your Bible one of the accounts of the Resurrection. [Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12]
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Live in Peace During Easter. **Ask:** *Why were Jesus' disciples excited to see him?* (They missed him. They had thought he was dead.)
- ▶ Read aloud Gift of Peace. **Ask:** *Why do you think Jesus shared his gift of peace with his disciples?* (so that they could share his peace with others, so that they will know that he is always with them) Have your child read the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know...? feature. **Say:** *In Jesus' time, a lamb was often used as a sacrificial offering to God. We compare Jesus to a lamb because he died so that our sins would be forgiven. He is the Lamb of God.*

Reflect: Page 104

- ▶ Display a bouquet of flowers. **Ask:** *Why do many people like flowers? What do flowers remind you of?* **Say:** *Flowers are a symbol of the new life we receive through the Resurrection. They are also a reminder of the beauty of God's creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. **Ask:** *What are the Scripture readings about during the Easter season?* (Jesus' Resurrection, how Jesus appeared to Mary and the disciples, the Ascension, Pentecost)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The light of the Paschal Candle reminds us that we are called to share the joy of Christ's Resurrection with others. It is lit during the first part of the Easter Vigil and is lit for every Mass celebrated during the Easter season.* **Ask:** *Why do we use the color red on Pentecost?* (It reminds us of the Holy Spirit.)

Art Exploration: Page 193

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows signs of new life during spring.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the new signs of life.
- ▶ **Say:** *During the Easter season, we celebrate the new life we receive through Christ's Resurrection.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 193. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrate Easter. **Ask:** *When do we share God's love with others?* (whenever we choose to follow God's plan for us, follow Jesus' example of service, and practice the Ten Commandments)
- ▶ Read aloud Share God's Love and allow time for your child to complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the picture with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that he or she has gone to Jesus' tomb and found it empty. **Say:** *Think about what you're feeling as you walk to the tomb. An angel tells you that God has raised Jesus from the dead.* **Ask:** *What do you think and feel upon hearing this?* **Say:** *Now thank Jesus for the new life we receive through him. Tell him one way you will share his gift of peace with others.*

Respond: Page 105

- ▶ 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 Jesus' peace 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.