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# God, Our Creator and Father

## Begin

- ▶ Say: *The title of this book is Finding God.* Ask: *Who is God?* (our Father and Creator) *Where do we find him?* Discuss with your child where you each find God in your everyday life. Tell your child that you find God in him or her and in your love for him or her. Read aloud the unit title. Say: *Let's begin this book together by talking about God as our Father and Creator. God created everything that is. His creation shows his love for us.*

## Introduce the Saint: Pages 2–3

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture. Ask: *What is Ignatius carrying?* (a Bible and a satchel) *What is his expression?* (thoughtful, serious) Read aloud the first and second paragraphs on page 3. Explain that a monastery is a place where some men live apart from the everyday world to give their lives to God. Invite your child to read aloud the third paragraph. Ask: *Why do you think Ignatius recognized God's love in everything?* (God creates everything and fills it with his love.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask what Saint Ignatius might mean by "abundant grace." (More grace than we can imagine.)

## Unit Opener: Page 4

- ▶ Ask your child to imagine he or she is in a beautiful place in nature, close his or her eyes, and think of the sights, smells, and sounds of the place.
- ▶ Invite your child to describe what he or she imagines. Say: *Everything is part of God's creation. We can seek God by paying attention to the lovely things he creates.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the paragraph under it at the top of the page. Say: *Saint Ignatius teaches us that God is always with us. When we pay attention, we can see God everywhere.*

- ▶ Read aloud the activity introduction and directions. Tell your child to take a moment to think about times he or she was aware of God's presence. Ask: ***What person, place, thing, or animal has made you think of God?*** Invite your child to write his or her response on the lines.
- ▶ Repeat the line "I saw God in" and ask your child to share his or her responses.
- ▶ Call attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Remind your child that Ignatius tells us we can be close to God all the time. Say: ***Let's praise God by praying this psalm.*** Invite your child to read the psalm with you.

## Created to Be Happy

### Engage: Page 5

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Genesis 1:26–31. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God*.
- ▶ Talk about the game of hide-and-seek and how sometimes you can find someone who's hiding because you see a glimpse of that person. Say: ***Although God is hidden from our sight, we can glimpse his presence in all of creation***.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: ***What beautiful things does God create for us?*** (Possible answers: the land and sea, animals, food to eat, flowers)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask God to help us know him***. Pray aloud the prayer. Then pause for additional reflection. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Invite your child to join you for a walk around your neighborhood. Take turns pointing out the beauty and goodness of God's creation. Read aloud the session title. Ask: ***How can we care for God's creation?*** (pick up litter, water plants, take care of animals) ***In this session, we will learn about the wonders of God's creation and how we are called to take care of it***.
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what you saw on your walk and the goodness of God's creation.

### Explore: Pages 6–7

- ▶ On a sheet of paper, take turns with your child writing things you believe, such as "I believe family is important" and "I believe in my child."
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 6. Call attention to the words in bold on the page: Apostles' Creed, Apostle, and creed. Ask if your child knows what these words mean. Guide your child to understand that an Apostle was one of the twelve followers of Jesus, a creed is a statement that tells what people believe, and the Apostles' Creed is a statement of what we believe as Christians. Read the first three lines of the Apostles' Creed with your child. Then take turns saying the lines without looking at the page, alternating lines with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***We find God in his creation***.
- ▶ Read aloud the title on page 7. Ask: ***How can creation praise God?*** Read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to read aloud the psalm with you.
- ▶ Discuss beautiful things you saw this week. Read aloud Your Own Song of Praise and invite your child to write his or her own song of praise on the lines provided. Write your own and share it with your child.

## Art Exploration: Page 8

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a work of art showing a scene from nature. Discuss with your child what is conveyed in the picture through details such as colors, flowers, plants, animals, any water that is shown, landforms, and the sky.
- ▶ Say: ***Each of these things is created by God and can tell us about him. God gives us life that includes a limitless variety of beautiful living things to enjoy and care for.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 8. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud God's Wonders. Ask: ***How can we give glory to God for his creation?*** (through prayer, taking care of his creation)
- ▶ Read aloud Small Wonders. Ask: ***What does the word wonders mean?*** (something different, special) Discuss other small wonders you and your child have noticed. Say: ***All the wonderful things in nature, even the tiniest of wonders, reflect the beauty of God's creation. God must love us very much to have given us all these beautiful things.***
- ▶ Take a walk with your child or look out the window, and invite your child to complete the activity I Spy a Small Natural Wonder.
- ▶ Consider playing I Spy with your child, such as "I spy something that is green and has three round leaves." Use clues to guide your child to see the small natural wonders of creation.
- ▶ With your child, use watercolor paints, crayons, markers, or colored pencils to draw or paint garden scenes of your own. Include in your pictures both big and small wonders from God, as well as your family enjoying God's gifts.

## Reflect: Pages 9–10

- ▶ Together look at page 9. Ask: ***What do you think the child in the picture is feeling?*** (joy, freedom) Say: ***Prayer is a special time to be aware of God's presence.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Invite your child to pray the prayer with you. Read aloud the last paragraph. Invite your child to spend a few moments in silence, using his or her own words, thoughts, and feelings to talk to God. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the title on page 10. Say: ***Think about ways in which we get to know one another. Then think about how we can know God.*** (We get to know others through their words and actions. We can know God through his creation.)
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph. Ask: ***Why did God create all things?*** (because of his love)
- ▶ Read Love for God's Creation and invite your child to complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God's creation and explain each drawing.

**Respond: Pages 11–12**

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be kind to people and animals and all of God’s creation. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 12. Talk with your child about which line from the psalm each of you liked best, and why.

## Created to Be Together

### Engage: Page 13

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12. Then say: *The Word of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God*.
- ▶ Invite your child to name at least three people who helped him or her in the last 24 hours. Say: *We are blessed to have so many people who help us. As you grow older, you will be called upon to help others as well*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *How has God taught us to love one another?* (through his love for us)
- ▶ Invite your child to fold his or her hands as you pray the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

### Explore: Pages 14–15

- ▶ With your child, talk about your own experiences praying. Ask: *When do you like to pray? Is it quiet? Do you tell God about your day?*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 14. Ask: *Who are the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity?* (God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) Say: *Let's think of the Trinity as we pray the Sign of the Cross together*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *Praying together the Sign of the Cross unites our church community*.
- ▶ Read aloud page 15. Ask: *What does the Glory Be to the Father help us remember about God?* (He created us; he is with us now and always will be.) *What do the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be to the Father have in common?* (They praise God as the Trinity.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *John wrote several letters to his friends about the importance of spreading God's love. We can read his letters in the Bible*. Together find the verse in your Bible.

### Art Exploration: Page 16

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 16. Look together at the illustration on the page.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* (people who are happy, living in harmony with animals, sea creatures, and other aspects of God's creation)
- ▶ Read aloud together the Scripture passage. Ask: *How do the picture and the Scripture passage go together?* (The Scripture passage is about God's love being everywhere and shown in our love for one another. The picture shows people celebrating God's love as shown in the world he creates.)

- ▶ Go back and read aloud together the first paragraph of Sharing God's Love. Ask: ***How did Saint Elizabeth share God's love?*** (She started a hospital and cared for others.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Showing Your Love and then complete the activity. Remind your child to begin with small actions and words to spread God's love.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a watercolor painting that shows God's love all around us and how we share it. Display the picture in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 17–18

- ▶ Together look at page 17. Ask: ***Where are the children in the picture?*** (On a walking path in nature.) ***Why do you think this place is special to them?*** (It is peaceful.) Remind your child to take several deep breaths before he or she prays. Read aloud the paragraph before the Sign of the Cross. Invite your child to spend a few minutes in silence thanking God. Say: ***Now we'll pray our special prayer of praise to the Trinity.***
- ▶ Say: ***We'll pray parts of the prayer together and then pause so we can imagine walking with Jesus and reflect on each Person of the Trinity.*** Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 18. Say: ***We have heard many Bible stories about Jesus.*** Ask: ***How does Jesus act in these stories?*** (kind, loving, understanding) Read aloud What Would Jesus Say? Invite your child to complete the activity and discuss the answers.
- ▶ Read aloud Kindness Counts and invite your child to complete the activity.

### Respond: Pages 19–20

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can respond as Jesus did to people who are sick or who have few resources. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 20. Say: ***Let's remember to share God's love by speaking gently, as Jesus would, when we talk with others.***

## God Is Our Father

### Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 15:11–17. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ With your child, pantomime two conversations, one between two people who don't get along and the other between two people who care for one another. Discuss your differences in behavior in the two scenes. Say: *Jesus teaches us how to put our love into action*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *How can we show love and care for others?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Say: *Let's ask Jesus to guide us as we pray*. Pray the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus taught us how to pray to God*.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *In this session, we are going to learn about a very special way in which Jesus taught us to pray*.

### Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Together with your child, name some of your child's friends. Discuss how these friends are similar and different. Guide your child to recognize that some of his or her friends come from different backgrounds, but they enjoy playing together.
- ▶ Read aloud page 22. Ask: *What does reveals mean?* (making known what was not known before). Point out the word *Abba*. Say: *This is how Jesus referred to God, just as you call me [or your father] \_\_\_\_\_ [Supply the way in which your child addresses you or his or her father.] God our Father loves and cares for us just as our families and friends love and care for us*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *In the Lord's Prayer, we praise God. We ask him to give us what we need, and we ask for his forgiveness*.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the top half of page 23. Say: *When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we are telling God we love him*. Pray together this version of the Lord's Prayer from Luke.
- ▶ Read aloud Forgive Each Other. Invite your child to complete the activity. Then share your experiences.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask if your child remembers this from attending Mass with you.

## Art Exploration: Page 24

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a painting or other work of art showing children who are friends. Depending on what the picture you selected shows, discuss who the friends in the picture are, how we can tell they are friends, and the fact that friends sometimes have problems that they then work out, say they're sorry, forgive, and go back to being friends.
- ▶ Say: ***God wants us to know that we will always be loved even when we sin. He wants us to love others even when we feel angry with them.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 24. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Caring Friends. Ask: ***How can we care for one another? What do we ask for in the Lord's Prayer?*** (to forgive us as we forgive others)
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for What Would You Do? Give your child time to answer the questions. Discuss your child's answers.
- ▶ Ask your child to reflect on a situation when he or she was hurt by someone and then how your child felt when he or she made peace. Invite your child to draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper. On one side, guide your child to draw a picture showing how he or she felt badly about something. On the other side, invite your child to draw how he or she felt when the problem was resolved. Say: ***God's hands lifted away your heaviness.***

## Reflect: Pages 25–26

- ▶ Together look at page 25. Ask: ***What are the man and boy doing? How would this setting make you feel?*** Remind your child to picture having a conversation with Jesus before he or she begins praying.
- ▶ Read aloud each section of page 25, pausing after each part of the Lord's Prayer. Then give your child time to talk to Jesus in his or her own words. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud How We Show Forgiveness on page 26. Ask your child to write a response to each situation and then discuss each response. Give your child time to draw the scene for one of his or her answers. Say: ***It is always better to forgive than to stay angry and hold a grudge.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***What does this reading have to do with the activity we just did?*** (God wants us to help others and forgive them and show mercy.)

**Respond: Pages 27–28**

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to describe specific situations in which he or she can forgive someone. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 28. Say: *Keeping God close to our hearts helps us be kind and gentle with one another and with our friends. Having a forgiving heart helps us love others as God loves us.*

## Jesus Is with Us

### Engage: Page 29

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 6:12–15. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child if he or she remembers being at a meal where there were leftovers. Ask: ***Did we wrap leftovers for guests to take? Did we bring home leftovers following a gathering?*** Say: ***Leftovers from a shared meal continue to nourish us with the love of the people we were with.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs. Invite your child to describe the effect of Jesus' miracle on the crowd.
- ▶ Say: ***We can pray to Jesus at any time. Let us pray for his guidance.*** Ask your child to fold his or her hands and bow his or her head as you pray the prayer aloud. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Invite your child to write short prayers for special little ones in his or her life or write prayers for all babies. Ask: ***How can you help care for a new baby?***
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to imagine how he or she would help Mary and Joseph get ready for Jesus. Discuss your child's answers. Say: ***In this session, we will learn how God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us and to teach us how to live.***
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can welcome Jesus into his or her life and heart.

### Explore: Pages 30–31

- ▶ Discuss what it means to trust. Ask: ***What are some things that you trust me to do for you?***
- ▶ Read aloud Joseph Trusted in God on page 30. Ask: ***What did the angel tell Joseph?*** (to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt) Say: ***Joseph trusted God and knew God wanted the best for Joseph and his family.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: ***What does the name Jesus mean?*** (God saves us.) ***Can you tell me three of the names for Jesus that are on this page?*** (Emmanuel, Savior, Son of God)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 31. Ask: ***How do you feel knowing that God sent his Son to be with you always?*** (warm, cared for) Invite your child to write about a time he or she trusted in God. Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Trust that the Lord is always with you.***

### Art Exploration: Page 32

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a work of art showing an angel or angels. Discuss with your child how the angel(s) are characterized and the kinds of feelings they evoke. Say: *An angel is a messenger from God. Joseph trusted the angel that told him Mary would have a baby.*
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 32. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Ask: *What does Emmanuel mean?* (God is with us.) *What does Christ mean?* (the anointed one)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Our Names. Help your child find the meaning of his or her name in a book or on a website.
- ▶ Provide art materials and invite your child to draw a self-portrait. Then mount the drawing on a sheet of construction paper and write his or her name on it. Ask your child to write around his or her picture all the names to which he or she might answer, such as nicknames and names like *brother, daughter, niece, or friend.*

### Reflect: Pages 33–34

- ▶ Together look at page 33. Ask: *How would you describe the girl in the picture?* (She is bowing her head in order to focus on God's love for her.)
- ▶ Remind your child of the first phrase of the Apostles' Creed that he or she learned in Session 1. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 33. Pray the sentence of the Apostles' Creed on this page together. Then invite your child to read the last paragraph. Say: *You can spend special time with Jesus any time.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read the first paragraph on page 34. Ask: *What are some ways that Jesus lived a good life and cared for others?* (He taught others about God, helped Mary and Joseph, and healed sick people.)
- ▶ Read aloud Good Examples. Invite your child to complete the activity and explain the reasons for choosing the pictures he or she circled. Say: *Remember that one way to pray is to say a prayer of thanksgiving. This is the kind of prayer you will write in the last activity.* Read aloud the directions and give your child time to reflect and write. Invite your child to share his or her prayer.

### Respond: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways of helping others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 36. Say: *Let's remember to trust in God always, knowing that he is with us.*

## Celebrating Ordinary Time

### Engage: Page 37

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Mark 10:13–16. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child to describe ways in which he or she is included in the life of your parish. Say: ***Since the moment when Jesus invited the children to come to him, children have added joy and energy to church communities***. Read aloud the paragraphs. Then ask: ***How are you growing in your faith?*** (Accept reasonable answers.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's take a moment to talk to Jesus in our hearts***. Pray aloud the prayer. Pray together the Sign of the Cross. End by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. If your child knows about the two periods of Ordinary Time, say: ***In this session, we will learn more about Ordinary Time, when we express gratitude for our church community***. If not, explain that Ordinary Time occurs between the end of the Christmas season and Ash Wednesday (when Lent begins) and between the end of the Easter season and Advent. Invite your child to create a time line that shows each month of the year. Encourage your child to make Ordinary Time stand out.

### Explore: Page 38

- ▶ Talk about the community you live in. Ask: ***What makes up a community?*** (people who live near one another and share common interests) ***What is a church community?*** (people serving Jesus together)
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Say: ***Members of church communities can be Christ to the world by serving in ways such as working in soup kitchens***. Ask: ***What are some other ways we can be Christ to the world?*** (outreach programs, mission trips)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Be Like Christ. Say: ***One way I can be more like Christ in my home and work is by being patient with others***. Invite your child to complete the activity and discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***How do you feel when someone tells you, "Thank you"?*** ***How do you think God feels when we remember to say thank you to him?***

## Reflect on the Mass: Page 39

- ▶ Together look at a recent parish bulletin. Ask: *What kind of information do we find in our parish bulletin?* Discuss the various items in your bulletin.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Ordinary Time and What We Experience. Ask: *What do the activities found in a parish bulletin say about our church community?* (Parish members look for ways to serve others in the community and around the world.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the section What We Experience. Ask: *How would Sunday Mass feel different if you attended alone?* (Discuss your responses with one another.)
- ▶ Read aloud My Parish and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *A parish missal contains the information needed to participate in Mass and states the season or feast being celebrated that week.* Together look for that information in your parish bulletin.

## Art Exploration: Page 40

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a work of art that represents the Eucharist.
- ▶ As you look at the picture together with your child, discuss aspects of the Eucharist that are shown.
- ▶ Say: *Whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, we are reminded of God's presence in our lives. Whenever we gather at Mass, we are surrounded by the church community.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 40. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Rejoice and Be Glad. Say: *During Ordinary Time, we celebrate our church community.* Ask: *How does the church community spread love?* (religious education classes, parish activities, visiting those who are sick)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Give Thanks for Your Gifts and complete the activity. Say: *We will celebrate Ordinary Time by being aware and thankful for the ways in which our church community helps us.*

## Respond: Pages 41–42

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest other ways he or she can spend time with someone in need. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 42. Say: *Let's think of ways we can love and serve the Lord and our church community this week and always.*

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# Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

## Begin

- ▶ Say: *Today we will begin a new unit in which we will learn more about Jesus' life.* Share a story about a friend who moved away but with whom you kept in touch. Discuss how friends and family are important to us.
- ▶ Say: *In this unit, we will learn about Jesus' friendships with the Apostles and disciples. We will learn how we can be good friends and followers of Jesus and good friends to one another.*

## Introduce the Saint: Pages 44–45

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture. Say: *Saints Scholastica and Benedict were brother and sister. They were also best friends.*
- ▶ Read aloud the unit title, then the first paragraph. If you have other children, ask, using one of their names: *Do you think of \_\_\_\_\_ as also being your friend? How are you friends?* If there are no other children in your family, ask: *Do you know anyone with a brother or sister that is also a friend? What form does that friendship take?* (have fun together, talk, respond to one another's needs) Have your child read aloud the remaining three paragraphs. Say: *Scholastica and Benedict formed communities of nuns and monks, which are called religious communities.* Ask: *What was important about the storm that occurred?* (It showed that God had heard Scholastica's prayer.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask: *How are guests at the monastery to be treated?* (in the way Jesus would be treated if he visited)

**Unit Opener: Page 46**

- ▶ Ask your child to discuss his or her experiences with prayer. Ask: ***How do you know that God listens to you when you pray?*** Tell your child that many people wanted to be part of the religious communities that Benedict and Scholastica began. Explain that people were drawn to the siblings because of their love of God and their ability to listen deeply to God and others. Then read aloud the title on the page. Invite your child to read the paragraph.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Ask your child to take a few moments to think of a time God answered his or her prayer. Have your child write what happened. Ask your child to read his or her responses. If you choose, write and share your own response.
- ▶ Call attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***We can always look to God because he is good, forgiving, and merciful.*** Have your child pray the psalm aloud. Then pray the psalm again together with your child and reflect quietly when finished.

## Jesus' Good News

### Engage: Page 47

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 8:11–15. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Remind your child of a seed he or she once planted and how it grew, or discuss planting seeds generally. Ask: *What do you think made the seed grow?* (soil, water, light) Say: *We can be rich soil for Jesus' teaching, helping the seeds of the kingdom grow within us so that others can know the kingdom too*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *By being the rich soil for Jesus' teaching, how will we act in God's kingdom?*
- ▶ Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us learn from him*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Together with your child read one of Aesop's fables. Discuss with each other the moral, or lesson, of the fable you read. Say: *Jesus knew people enjoyed stories, so he told a lot of them. Jesus told us parables to teach us about God and his creation. In this session we will learn about parables that Jesus used to teach about the Kingdom of God*.

### Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Ask your child to act out these similes: tired as a horse, quick as a cricket, drink like a fish, eat like a bird. Say: *Sometimes we can explain something by comparing it to something else*.
- ▶ Read aloud page 48. Say: *This parable helps us understand the Kingdom of God*. Ask: *What are small acts we might do to serve the kingdom?* (respect elders, greet neighbors) Have your child read aloud the title and first two paragraphs on page 49. Ask: *What did Jesus do to show us how to serve the Kingdom of God?* (He worked hard, practiced his faith, and loved all people.) Read aloud A Small Act of Kindness. Ask: *What are some ways we can help others?* (sharing our resources; stopping to help; being kind and friendly) Say: *When others see our good deeds, it encourages them to do good deeds as well*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mustard Seeds and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.

### Art Exploration: Page 50

- ▶ Go to the website of a monastery such as Montecassino, where Saint Benedict's order was housed, or the Convent of San Marco in Florence, Italy. Explore the images there and select one or more to view with your child. Alternatively, look for books at the library with images of monasteries or monks.
- ▶ Look at the picture together and ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Share impressions. Elicit from your child that this is a place where people live simply and can pray quietly.
- ▶ Say: *Saints Benedict and Scholastica dedicated their lives to God. They founded a monastery and a convent.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 50. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Saints Serve the Kingdom. Ask: *Why was Saint Benedict's work like planting a mustard seed?* (The small seed of his monastery sprouted many branches.) Read aloud What's Your Motto? Give your child time to think about what his or her personal motto might be and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud Did You Know? Say: *Learned means "wise" or "knowledgeable."* Ask: *What do you think Benedict's and Scholastica's names say about them?* (Benedict was blessed to carry out the work of God; Scholastica devoted her life to learning about God and Jesus and sharing what she learned.)

### Reflect: Pages 51–52

- ▶ Together look at page 51. Ask: *How is the boy in the picture aware of the presence of God in his life?* Have your child find a comfortable position as you read aloud the first three paragraphs. After each sentence and question, give your child time to reflect. Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask your child to think of what he or she can do to serve God's kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first section on page 52. Ask: *How does this story help us understand how to serve the Kingdom of God?* (Each small thing that we do for others helps us serve the Kingdom of God.) Have your child read aloud Can You Be Like Yeast? Give your child time to write his or her ideas in the space provided. Invite your child to share with you what he or she wrote.

### Respond: Pages 53–54

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can do small things to help others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 54. Discuss with your child ways to be helpful and kind to others.

## Following Jesus

### Engage: Page 55

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Mark 8:34–36. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *Was there ever a time when a friend needed your help when you were looking forward to doing something else?* Invite your child to describe what happened. Say: *Putting others' needs first is how Jesus wants us to live*. Read aloud the paragraphs.
- ▶ Ask: *What does it mean to leave your comfort zone?* (to act differently than the way you are used to) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us learn what is important*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Ask your child to think of a person who is very important to him or her—a “VIP.” Have your child write the name of his or her VIP vertically on a sheet of paper. Say: *Think of words that tell why you trust this person. The words should start with the letters of the person's name*. Have your child share his or her “trustworthy” word picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the text on this page and discuss the picture. Ask: *Why do you trust Jesus?* (He loved others and always did what was right.) Ask your child to think of other people he or she trusts, along with Jesus. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Ask your child to name some of his or her favorite personal objects. Ask: *How would you feel if you had to give them away?* Read aloud page 56. Ask: *What was more important for the rich man, keeping his money or following Jesus?* (keeping his money) *What do you think the rich man will do next?* Have your child read aloud page 57. Ask: *What does it mean to sin?* (to make a choice that hurts our friendship with God and other people) Say: *Conversion means “change.” It is a change of heart that directs us away from sin and toward God*. Have your child write on the lines a choice that brought him or her closer to God.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *When we offer the Sign of Peace, we recognize those around us as brothers and sisters of Jesus*.

### Art Exploration: Page 58

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of a child praying outside. As you and your child look at the picture together, ask: *What do you see in this picture?* (a girl or boy praying outside) *When do you like to pray outside?* (when the weather is nice; when I want to feel surrounded by God's beautiful creation) *What do you like about praying outside?* (The sun and the breeze help me relax and open myself to God; I feel free of distractions.)

- ▶ Say: *Following the Ten Commandments helps us stay close to God. There are other times and places when and where we can feel close to God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 58. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Say: *When we are close to God, we show our faith by our actions.* Ask: *What are some ways to show faith through our actions?* Read aloud the activity directions for Paying Attention and have your child read aloud each situation. Have him or her consider the situations and circle the answer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Take a moment to think of people and things you treasure most. If you share your treasure with others, your love will spread.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about when and where he or she likes to pray. Ask your child to draw or paint a scene showing that place and explain his or her choice of that spot.

### Reflect: Pages 59–60

- ▶ Together look at page 59. Ask: *If this girl is imagining the conversation between Jesus and the rich man, what do you think she hears?* (a worried tone on the part of the rich man, a caring tone on the part of Jesus) Read aloud the reflection. Pause at the end to allow your child to answer the questions silently. Close the reflection time by praying *Amen.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Beyond the Commandments on page 60. Say: *By following Jesus' example, you are taking the next step in being a good Christian.* Read aloud Treasure in Heaven and have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to give reasons for the choices he or she made.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Discuss with your child what each of you thinks the verse from Tobit means. Discuss how a person can give even if he or she has little.

### Respond: Pages 61–62

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can cheerfully do things for others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 62. Talk with your child about how God is helping and caring for us today.

## Jesus Gathers Disciples

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read John 1:35–39. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child to name one of his or her favorite athletes, musicians, scientists, or other public figure he or she admires. Ask: *If you could ask this person to teach you something, what would you ask?* Discuss your child's response. Then read aloud the paragraphs.
- ▶ Ask: *Why do you think the disciples followed Jesus?* (They knew he was the best one to teach them about God.) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us be a good friend to him and to one another.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Ask: *How do friends show they care for one another?* (They seek one another out, go places together, share interests, encourage one another, listen when the other is upset.)
- ▶ Say: *The way Jesus cared for and loved others shows us how we should treat our friends. In this session, we will learn how to care for others.*

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ If you and your child sometimes go fishing, discuss what that is like. If not, discuss what each of you imagines it might be like. Say: *Sometimes when we fish, we catch a few fish, and sometimes we don't catch anything.*
- ▶ Read together pages 64 and 65. Ask your child to summarize the story of Jesus calling Peter. (Jesus helped a fisherman named Simon catch an amazing amount of fish, which made Simon think that Jesus was too good for him. Nevertheless, Jesus insisted that Simon go with him, and Jesus renamed him Peter.) Ask: *What does this story from the Gospel tell us about Jesus?* (That he is there for everyone.)
- ▶ Say: *In the early years of the Church, Christians used the shape of a fish as a symbol of their faith.* Have your child make a fish out of a 12-inch-long craft stem by bending the stem in half and twisting it together near the end to make a tail. Pull apart the middle to resemble a fish. Have your child hang the fish in his or her room.

### Art Exploration: Page 66

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a painting whose theme is proclaiming the kingdom. As you look at the picture together, discuss with your child what is shown. Ask your child what he or she thinks it means to proclaim the kingdom and how the painting shows this. (Depending on the painting, it may be by Jesus pointing to heaven, it may be through the light in the painting, it may be through the attitudes and expressions of the people shown.)
- ▶ Say: *All of us can be disciples by proclaiming God's message and by doing good deeds to serve the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 66. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud Proclaiming the Kingdom. Ask: *Whom did Jesus choose to proclaim God's kingdom?* (Peter, the other Apostles, and the disciples) *Who helps do Jesus' work now?* (We all do.) Have your child read aloud Lean on Me and complete the activity. Invite your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *The pope is the head of the Church. He follows in Saint Peter's footsteps.*

### Reflect: Pages 67–68

- ▶ Together look at page 67. Say: *Pretend you are the girl in the picture. Use your senses to describe what she sees, hears, feels, and smells.* Say: *When we quiet ourselves for prayer, we can listen for Jesus' call and respond to him in our hearts.* Read aloud the reflection and ask your child to imagine the scenes. Pause after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Close by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud page 68. Say: *Jesus knew that he could accomplish more with the help of his friends, the Apostles.* Have your child read Plan a Task and complete the activity. Together brainstorm more ways to work with others to follow Jesus' path.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Why did Jesus send so many people out to the villages?* (so that as many people as possible could hear his message)

### Respond: Pages 69–70

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can listen to and respect members of a group. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 70. Say: *Let's remember to be good friends to one another just as Jesus was to the Apostles.*

## Jesus Dies and Rises

### Engage: Page 71

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 24:1–12. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child to pretend he or she is observing an amazing natural phenomenon such as a volcano, an eclipse, or the aurora borealis. Say: *This is how Jesus' followers must have felt when they learned he had risen from the dead*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Say: *Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension are the most important beliefs in our Catholic faith*.
- ▶ Say: *Let's pray to Jesus to help us live as he did, then share our own thoughts with Jesus*. Ask your child to pray silently as you pray aloud the prayer. Pause. Then pray together *Amen*.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus proclaimed his love for us in a way that left no room for doubt. In this session, we will learn what that was*.

### Explore: Pages 72–73

- ▶ Together recall times each of you has wanted to proclaim good news about something that happened to you. Explain that *proclaim* means “announce publicly.”
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 72. Say: *The term Paschal Mystery describes how Jesus saves us through his life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension*. Point to the picture. Ask: *What do the pictures on these two pages show?* (a lily for Jesus' Resurrection; the risen Jesus welcoming families going to see him) *How does Jesus share his life with us?* (He sends us the Holy Spirit.) Read aloud page 73. Say: *This states our belief in God the Creator; his Son, Jesus Christ; and the power of the Holy Spirit. Each sentence describes part of the Paschal Mystery. We proclaim our belief in the Paschal Mystery when we pray the Apostles' Creed*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *This summarizes the basic meaning of the Paschal Mystery*.

### Art Exploration: Page 74

- ▶ Find in a library book or online an image of Saint Paul writing. As you look at the picture with your child, ask: *What do you see in this picture?* (a man from ancient times; he's writing something) Say: *This is Saint Paul, who wrote letters to help spread God's Word*.

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 74. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Have your child read aloud Remember My Message. Ask: ***What was Saint Paul worried about?*** (that people had forgotten what he had told them about Jesus' Death and Resurrection) ***Why did Jesus die?*** (because he loved us and wanted us to know and love God) Read aloud What Would You Say? and have your child complete the activity. Discuss other things you want people to know about Jesus.

### Reflect: Pages 75–76

- ▶ Together look at page 75. Say: ***The cross the boy is making serves as a symbol of the Paschal Mystery.*** Remind your child that when we pray the Apostles' Creed, we are affirming the basic truths of our faith.
- ▶ Pray the first part of the Creed together. Then read aloud the first paragraph on page 75 and pray aloud the new part of the Creed. Give your child time to reflect. Then close by praying together *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 76. Ask: ***What happens to a caterpillar in the chrysalis?*** (It turns into a butterfly.) Read A Symbol of Our New Life. Say: ***The butterfly is a symbol of Jesus' Resurrection.*** Give your child crayons or markers to color the butterfly.

### Respond: Pages 77–78

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive enemies. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 78. Say: ***As we move through this week, let's put the needs of others before our own, just as Jesus did.***

## Celebrating Advent

### Engage: Page 79

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Isaiah 40:3–5. Then say: *The Word of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God*.
- ▶ Ask: *What preparations would you make if your favorite music or movie star was coming to our home?* (clean up my room, put up the star’s poster) Say: *During Advent, we prepare to welcome Jesus into our hearts*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *What prayer can we pray to welcome Jesus into our lives?* (Come to save us, O Lord, our God!) Say: *Close your eyes and imagine a peaceful night sky*. Pray aloud the prayer. Pray Amen and conclude with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you know about Advent?* Together share family memories of past Advent seasons you have celebrated.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 211 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 ourselves to welcome Jesus*.

### Explore: Page 80

- ▶ Discuss with your child some ways your family observes and decorates for Advent. You may put out an Advent wreath or display an Advent calendar.
- ▶ Read aloud We Prepare During Advent. Ask: *How can we open our hearts to make room for Jesus?* (by helping others) *How were Mary and Joseph faithful to God?* (Mary agreed to become the mother of Jesus. Joseph agreed to marry Mary and become the foster father of Jesus.) Have your child read aloud We Prepare, We Remember and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: *Jesus’ birth was a sign to the world that God loves us. The story of his birth is told each year at Christmas Mass*.

### Reflect on the Mass: Page 81

- ▶ Together sing or read aloud the lyrics to “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Say: *God sent his Son, Jesus, to show us how to live and to save us from our sins*.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. Ask: *What are some items that you see in church during Advent?* (Advent wreath with candles, purple altar cloth and priest’s vestments) Read aloud the section What We Experience. Have your child read My Advent Hymn, complete the activity, and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: *Why is the arrival of Jesus important?* (It shows God’s love for us.)

### Art Exploration: Page 82

- ▶ Go to “Arts & Faith: Advent” at the Loyola Press website. Preview the videos linked in the lists for Cycles A, B, and C, and choose one to explore with your child. After viewing the video together, share with your child your responses to the painting in the video you chose, visually and in terms of its meaning for us as we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 82. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud Celebrating Advent. Ask: ***What do we prepare for during Advent?*** (our celebration of Jesus’ birth at Christmas) Have your child read aloud Family Traditions. Discuss your own traditions as your child completes his or her drawing and finishes the sentence below the drawing frame.

### Respond: Pages 83–84

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can put someone else’s needs first. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 84. Say: ***As we celebrate Advent this year, let’s share some ways we’ve thought of to act more like Jesus.***

Multimedia for each lesson are accessed by scanning the QR code on the Children's Book page. If you don't have access to a QR code digital device, contact your child's catechist for assistance.

# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

- ▶ Write the word *mission* on a sheet of paper. Ask: *What is a mission?* (a job or goal to achieve) Say: *In Unit 2, we learned that Jesus sent his Apostles and disciples on a mission. What was the mission?* (to proclaim God's Word and continue the work of Jesus Christ) Read aloud the unit title on page 85. Say: *Since then, many members of the Church have accepted a mission to continue the work of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. In this unit, we will learn more about the Catholic Church and its gifts and about important leaders of the Church.*

## Introduce the Saint: Pages 86–87

- ▶ Point to the picture on page 86. Tell your child that Katharine Drexel accepted a mission from the pope to serve the Kingdom of God. Read aloud the text. Say: *People who travel to tell other people about God are missionaries.*
- ▶ Have your child look at page 87. Ask him or her to read aloud the text. Say: *Katharine continued the work of Jesus Christ through her generosity to Native American and African American people.* Ask: *What group did Katharine organize to help others?* (Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) Ask: *What do you think Jesus' mission is for you?* Guide your child in answering by calling attention to his or her strengths and interests and how they could be put to the service of others. With your child, add Katharine's feast day, March 3, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the generosity of Saint Katharine Drexel.

### Unit Opener: Page 88

- ▶ Remind your child that Jesus invites us to be generous. Give examples of generosity, such as sharing a snack or helping with a chore. Ask your child to give other examples.
- ▶ Ask: *How does it feel to be generous?* (Possible answer: It feels good to know I can help someone else.) Say: *Saint Katharine teaches us that we can share God's love by being generous in many different ways.* Then read aloud the title on the page and the first paragraph.
- ▶ Read aloud We Can Be Generous. Say: *Katharine was wealthy and generous with her money, but she was even more generous in other ways.* Ask: *What are some things or qualities you have to offer?* Help your child recognize qualities from your earlier discussion as he or she writes the three ways in which he or she can be generous.
- ▶ Call attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Remind your child that as Katharine was generous with what she had, God is generous with his gifts to us. Say: *Let's thank God for the many gifts he has given us.* Pray the psalm together.

## Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

### Engage: Page 89

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 14:15–21. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child about a time when a friend stood up for him or her. Say: *As I read, think about how reassuring it is to know that someone will watch out for you*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Say: *Now think about how reassuring it is to know that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to help and guide you every day*. Ask: *How does the Holy Spirit help us?* (He makes sure we are not alone but always have Jesus' love with us.) Say: *Let's ask Jesus to help us receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Ask: *What is a disciple?* (a person who is a follower of Jesus) Say: *The disciples were excited when the Holy Spirit visited them. In this session, we will learn how the Holy Spirit is part of our lives*.
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how the Holy Spirit helps him or her.

### Explore: Pages 90–91

- ▶ Find and play from the internet a video with the sound of wind in nature. (Alternatively, invite your child to listen as you make the sound of a breeze.) Say: *The disciples heard a strong wind when the Holy Spirit first visited them. They heard the wind inside the room where they were*.
- ▶ Tell your child that you are going to read a story that comes from a book of the Bible called Acts of the Apostles. Read aloud A Wind from Heaven on page 90. Ask: *What amazed the crowd about the disciples?* (The crowd consisted of people who spoke many different languages, and yet each person in the crowd heard the disciples speaking in his or her own language.) Look at the picture. Say: *The Holy Spirit got the disciples "fired up" to tell the world about Jesus*.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Disciples Accept Jesus' Mission on page 91. Say: *Every Christian has a duty to give witness to the Good News about Jesus, which is that he loves us and wants us to love God and one another*. Read aloud The Holy Spirit Builds the Church. Ask: *How does the Holy Spirit continue to build the Church today?* (by giving us the strength to spread God's Word) Invite your child to read aloud Jesus' Mission in Our Lives and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to the Liturgy feature. Say: *On Pentecost Sunday, priests wear red vestments. The color symbolizes the tongues of fire that appeared above the disciples' heads when the Holy Spirit came*.

## Art Exploration: Page 92

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of a work of art featuring a dove or doves. Ask: *What do you think the dove stands for in this picture?* (hope, the Holy Spirit, reconciliation, forgiveness, peace, inspiration) Say: *Sometimes we feel closest to God and the Holy Spirit when we are with God's wonderful creations in nature.*
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 92. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Then read aloud together The Holy Spirit Is with Us. Ask: *How does the Holy Spirit help us?* (He shows us how to live prayerful lives and guides us on our journey to heaven.) Give your child time to complete the sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud Doves. Remind your child of your discussion of what a dove might stand for. Have your child complete the activity and invite him or her to share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Invite your child to read the passage. Ask: *Why was Jesus coming out of the water?* (He had just been baptized.) *Why is the Spirit compared to a dove?* (It flies down lightly and is white, like light.)
- ▶ Around your house, hide some doves that you cut out from white paper, and invite your child to find them. Remind him or her that the Holy Spirit is always with us.

## Reflect: Pages 93–94

- ▶ Together look at page 93. Say: *We open our hearts to the Holy Spirit to feel his presence and great love for us.*
- ▶ Have your child get comfortable as you read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to pray aloud the prayer with you. Read aloud the last sentence and give your child time to reflect. Lead him or her in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first section on page 94. Ask: *What happens when we let the Holy Spirit guide our actions?* (We see the results in the form of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.) Ask: *How do the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us?* (They strengthen us and help us do what God asks of us.) Have your child read aloud The Spirit in Our Actions. Give your child time to complete the activity and invite him or her to share the sentences with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature as your child follows along. Say: *This is from one of Paul's letters to his friends. He lists some of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit: qualities we possess when we are guided by the Spirit.*

## Respond: Pages 95–96

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show kindness to others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 96. Talk with your child about how he or she knows the Holy Spirit is with him or her.

## The Catholic Church

### Engage: Page 97

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 16:4–5. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ If your child does not know what a relay race is, explain that it is a race between groups of runners or swimmers in which one runner or swimmer on a team starts when the one before finishes. Say: ***Jesus handed on to the Apostles the task of carrying out his mission. They handed it on to the people who came next, like in a relay race.*** Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: ***How do our church leaders help us today?*** (They watch over the church family.) Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to help us follow him.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen.*

### Explore: Pages 98–99

- ▶ If your child participates in a sport, ask: ***What does your coach do?*** (leads, trains, teaches, supports, and encourages the team; helps all the players do their best and work together) If not, substitute the leader of an activity he or she participates in, or a teacher, and ask the same question. Read aloud Popes, Bishops, Priests on page 98. Ask: ***Who is the Vicar of Christ?*** (the pope) Have your child read aloud My Church Leaders. Help your child complete the activity by filling in the names of your parish, pastor, bishop, and pope.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***Why did Jesus tell Peter to feed his sheep?*** (He wanted Peter to take care of Jesus' followers.) Take turns reading aloud page 99 with your child. Say: ***Let's name some key words for each of the Marks of the Church.*** (one—one faith, one life; holy—Body of Christ, sacraments; catholic—accepts everyone, universal; apostolic—Apostles, church leaders) Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: ***Why do you think we pray for our leaders?*** (They have difficult jobs, and their work affects all of us, so we want to ask God to help them.)

### Art Exploration: Page 100

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a newspaper, a book, or online an image of Saint Peter holding keys.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including objects shown in the artwork.
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus told Peter he was the rock on which Jesus would build his Church and that Jesus would give Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 100. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Peter and the Church. Ask: *To what object did Jesus compare Peter? (a rock) What did Jesus give Peter? (keys to the Kingdom of Heaven)* Read aloud the activity directions for Symbols of Peter and have your child complete the sentences. Share your own responses to these questions.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *When we look at a rock, we can think of how Jesus chose Peter to be the foundation on which to build the church.*
- ▶ Invite your child to make a key out of modeling clay that hardens. While the clay is still moist, insert a pencil point to make a hole so that later your child can pull string through to hang the key. Give your child the key to keep as a symbol of his or her faith.

### Reflect: Pages 101–102

- ▶ Together look at page 101. Say: *The girl in the picture looks peaceful.* Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and receive God's peace.
- ▶ Remind your child that you have been learning the parts of the Apostles' Creed together. Read aloud the first paragraph. Say: *Repeat each line of the last part of the Apostles' Creed after me.* Then invite your child to pray the entire Creed with you. Read aloud the Reflection, pausing after each sentence. Allow time for your child to talk to Jesus silently and then pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 102. Read aloud the activity directions and have your child answer the questions. Read aloud the directions at the bottom of the page. Ask your child to share his or her answer with you.

### Respond: Pages 103–104

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can spread God's love in your church community. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read With My Family on page 104. Invite your child to pray the Apostles' Creed often to learn it by heart. Offer to help.

## The Church Prays

### Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 6:5–8. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a list of people he or she talks with most often. Say: *We talk most often with those who are closest and most important to us. It is important that we talk with God so that we can grow closer to him*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *How does praying quietly and sincerely help us feel closer to God?* (We give God our full attention.) Say: *As we pray, think of how blessed we are when we receive the sacraments*.
- ▶ Pray together the prayer. Pause for reflection; then pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Show your child pictures of some traffic signs that do not have words on them. Together state the signs' meanings. Say: *These signs give us directions and protect us*. Say: *Like these signs, God's signs give direction and send important messages to us. In this session, we will learn more about God's messages*.

### Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Ask: *When we go to Mass together, who else is there with us?* (friends, the priest, Jesus) Have your child read aloud page 106. Ask: *What do the sacraments do for us?* (They help us grow in faith and live as God wants.) Look together at the picture of the boy and the priest. Make sure your child knows that the boy is receiving Holy Communion. Model with your child the gestures we perform when receiving Communion as shown in the photograph. Read with your child Prayer, Gesture, and Ritual. Ask your child to tell you one or two gestures or prayers he or she remembers performing or praying at Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 107. Ask: *What is grace?* (the gift of God that fills us with God's life and makes us his friends) Say: *Both objects and actions can be sacramentals*. Ask: *What action is a sacramental?* (a blessing) Say: *A blessing is a prayer that calls upon God to care for a person, a place, a thing, or an activity*.
- ▶ Read aloud A Sacramental at Your House and have your child write his or her description. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *Sacramentals help prepare us to receive the grace of the sacraments*.

### Art Exploration: Page 108

- ▶ Find in a book or online an image that shows Jesus healing someone. Discuss with your child the aspects of Jesus that convey he is a healer. Say: *Jesus Christ reaches out to all people.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 108. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud Jesus and the Roman Officer. Ask: *Why did Jesus heal the man's servant?* (He was impressed by the man's faith, and he wanted to show that his mission was to all people.) Invite your child to read aloud the last paragraph and complete the activity. Discuss the ideas that your child has written.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, we ask for God's healing grace.*
- ▶ Provide art supplies for your child. Invite your child to imagine being present when the servant realizes he is well again and to draw what he or she imagines.

### Reflect: Pages 109–110

- ▶ Together look at page 109. Say: *It is important to feel comfortable as you prepare to pray. Let's close our eyes and quiet ourselves.* Read aloud the introduction. Then read the reflection in a reverent tone, pausing after each paragraph. Pause so that your child has time to talk to Jesus. Lead your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read the first paragraph on page 110. Have your child complete the sentences and fill in the puzzle. Together unscramble the circled letters to complete the last sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *What does Jesus' answer mean to you?* (When we are helping people, Jesus is working through us. The Kingdom of God is among us.)

### Respond: Pages 111–112

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be helpful to friends and family. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read With My Family on page 112. Invite your child to reflect on how Jesus taught us to pray.

## Mary Is Holy

### Engage: Page 113

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 2:15–20. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child if he or she has ever received praise—such as from you, a teacher, a coach, or a friend—and then kept the resulting warm feeling with him or her. Say: *Sometimes we like keeping something good in our own minds so we can always come back to it*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *What did Mary keep in her heart?* (God’s message that her son would be the Savior) Say: *Let’s pray to Mary’s Son, Jesus, who can help us follow Mary’s example*. Pray the prayer together. Then pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Write the letters of the word *mother* down the side of a sheet of paper. Together think of words and phrases beginning with each letter that describe why mothers are special.
- ▶ Say: *We are going to talk about a mother that everyone shares*. Ask: *Who is it?* (Mary) Say: *In this session, we will learn about how Mary said yes to God*.

### Explore: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Together find images of Mary in books or on the internet. Ask: *Where else can we see images of Mary?* (statue in church, statue or painting in a museum) Have your child read aloud page 114. Say: *Mary is an excellent example of what it means to be a saint because she devoted her life to serving God*. Ask: *How can we be like Mary?* (trust in God always, care for others, listen to God) *What is one word to describe the Communion of Saints?* (togetherness, one, united) Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *In 1846, the U.S. bishops placed our country under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate her Immaculate Conception on December 8*.
- ▶ Read aloud page 115. Say: *We just finished learning the last part of the Apostles’ Creed, so you now know all the prayers that make up the Rosary*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *Ruth and Hannah were mothers who served God. Esther rescued the Jewish people from an enemy*.

### Art Exploration: Page 116

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a work of art showing the Annunciation. Look at it together with your child and discuss what each of you thinks Mary might be experiencing. Say: *God called Mary to be the mother of his Son, the Church, and all of God’s children*.

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 116. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Invite your child to read aloud *Mary, Full of Grace*. Ask: ***What did Gabriel say to Mary?*** (that she was going to have a baby) ***How did Mary react?*** (She was happy, excited; she felt blessed.) Read aloud *Mary as Our Mother* and invite your child to complete the activity. Briefly discuss your child's response to the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***Why did Elizabeth say that Mary was blessed?*** (Because Mary trusted in him, God gave her his most precious gift of all—his Son, Jesus.) Invite your child to think about what it is like to visit a mother and new baby. Ask: ***What would you say and do? Would you ask to hold the baby, help with chores, bring food, ask questions?*** Role-play visiting Mary and baby Jesus. Together improvise a conversation between your child and Mary.

### Reflect: Pages 117–118

- ▶ Together look at page 117. Say: ***As you pray each Hail Mary in the Rosary, think about one of the five Joyful Mysteries and its importance in the lives of Mary and Jesus.*** Invite your child to read aloud each event and then close his or her eyes while you describe how Mary felt at each one. Read aloud the last sentence and give your child time to reflect silently. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud *Mary's Song of Praise* on page 118. Ask: ***Why were Mary and Elizabeth so happy?*** (They were going to have very special children.) ***Who were these children?*** (Jesus and John the Baptist) Say: ***Mary prayed the Magnificat to praise God for the great things he had done for her.*** Read aloud the activity *I'm Thankful for . . .* Give your child time to reflect before writing his or her list.

### Respond: Pages 119–120

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show love for Mary and follow her example of faith and love. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read *With My Family* on page 120. Invite your child to take time to praise our mother Mary this week by praying the Rosary.

## Celebrating Christmas

### Engage: Page 121

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Matthew 1:18–23. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ If there has recently been a newborn baby in your family or you and your child have ever visited a family with a newborn, talk together about what it was like. Ask: *How do people interact with a newborn baby?* (They look at the baby, admire it, marvel at God’s creation of new life. They may softly greet the baby. They speak softly around it.) *Can you imagine if a newborn baby you were visiting was God come to earth to save us?* Invite your child’s response. Then read aloud page 121.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you think was the response of the Magi when they first saw Jesus?* (in awe at being in the holy presence of the Savior) Ask your child when the Christmas season begins and ends. (at the celebration of Mass on Christmas Eve; at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord) Ask: *Who were the Magi, and why were they important?* (They were wise leaders from far away whose visit signaled that Jesus is the Savior.) Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Say: *In this session, we will learn about Christmas as the time of year when we celebrate Jesus’ birth and pray to be more like him.*

### Explore: Page 122

- ▶ Discuss with your child how your family celebrates Christmas, including your Christmas traditions. Read aloud *We Celebrate During Christmas*. Call attention to the sentence about the Eucharist. Say: *When we receive the Eucharist at Christmas Eve Mass, we remember Jesus coming to be with us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Christmas Morning* and complete the activity. Invite your child to share his or her sentences with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: *How is Jesus referred to in the passage?* (“one who is to be ruler in Israel”) *Where did the prophet say this ruler would come from?* (Bethlehem)

### Reflect on the Mass: Page 123

- ▶ Look at pictures of two different Nativity scenes and discuss how they are alike and different. Say: *All Nativity scenes have the same essential pieces: Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.*

- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. Ask: *What is the Hebrew meaning of the word Bethlehem?* (house of bread) *Who is the Bread of Life?* (Jesus) Read aloud the section What We Experience. Discuss the symbols of Christmas that your child might see at Mass, such as a Nativity scene, evergreens, lights, and the color white. Read together Your Nativity Scene and invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *The word Christmas is formed from two Old English words, Christes and Maesse.*

### Art Exploration: Page 124

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a work of art that shows the Nativity and/or the adoration of the Magi.
- ▶ Discuss with your child the setting, the people, and what is happening in the picture. Point out that people are in awe of the divine child that has been born. Look together at the expressions on the faces of the people shown in the painting. Say: *When we celebrate Christmas, it reminds us of how much God loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 124. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Christmas. Ask: *What do we celebrate at the Feast of the Epiphany?* (the visit paid by the Magi to Jesus, revealing to the world that he is the Savior) Have your child read aloud The Gift of Jesus and the passage from 1 John. Ask: *What do you think this passage from 1 John means?* (that God and love are the same) Have your child read A Gift for Baby Jesus. Give him or her time to draw the picture. Ask your child to explain the gift he or she chose for Jesus.
- ▶ Play or sing "Silent Night." Ask: *What does this song convey about Jesus' birth?* (The night was quiet and holy. Although it was night, it was bright around Mary and the newborn Jesus.)

### Respond: Pages 125–126

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can help in your community. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read With My Family on page 126. Invite your child to think about gifts you can give to Jesus to celebrate his birth—to celebrate God's coming to be with us.

Multimedia for each lesson are accessed by scanning the QR code on the Children's Book page. If you don't have access to a QR code digital device, contact your child's catechist for assistance.

# Sacraments, Our Way of Life

## Begin

- ▶ Together write a letter to a family member who lives far away. Have your child write about what he or she has learned about God, Jesus, and the Church. Read aloud the unit title on page 127. Say: *In this unit, we will learn more about sacraments that help us love and forgive others.*

## Introduce the Saint: Pages 128–129

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture and read aloud the text. Ask: *What do we call someone who travels to spread the faith?* (a missionary) Say: *We will learn about Saint Paul, his travels, and the letters he wrote.*
- ▶ Turn to page 128 and look at the picture. Say: *This picture shows Saint Paul preaching.* Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Ask: *How did Paul know Jesus was calling him?* (Jesus called in the form of a light that blinded Paul, and Paul heard Jesus speaking to him.) Have your child read aloud the rest of the page.
- ▶ Ask: *What are the two objects shown at the right?* (a sword and a page from an ancient book) Say: *The sword is a symbol of Saint Paul. The page is an early copy of one of Paul's letters, written in Greek.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask your child how we might eat or drink for the glory of God. (You and your child may have more ideas about this quotation after you have finished the unit.) With your child, add Paul's feast day, June 29, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the writings of Saint Paul the Apostle.

**Unit Opener: Page 130**

- ▶ Ask your child how Paul felt about the Church before Jesus called to him. (He wanted to destroy it.) Say: *Jesus invites us to change our minds and open our hearts to receive him.*
- ▶ Ask: *How did Paul respond when Jesus sent a disciple to cure Paul of his blindness and have him baptized?* (When Paul got his sight back, he saw the truth of God's love. He began spreading the message that Jesus is the Son of God.) Say: *Let's read to see how Paul's baptism affected his life and your life too.* Read the first paragraph.
- ▶ Read aloud News of Another's Goodness. Say: *Think of a good deed you know of that someone has done for another. Draw three pictures showing how the news of that good deed could be spread from person to person, as news of Jesus spread during Paul's time.* Invite your child to complete the activity and present his or her sequence of events to you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Remind your child that Saint Paul teaches us how to follow Jesus and love God and one another. Say: *Let's ask God to show us his way by praying this psalm.* Invite your child to pray the psalm along with you.

## Sacraments of Initiation

### Engage: Page 131

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Matthew 28:16–20. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Invite your child to brainstorm the best way to get to a familiar place such as school. Say: *Sometimes we might choose a way that is not helpful or may get us lost. Jesus shows us a better way to live so that we don't get lost in our efforts to find God*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *What sacrament celebrates the beginning of our new way of living as a member of God's family?* (Baptism) Say: *Let's pray to be faithful members of God's family*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Say: *When a group receives a new member, that person is welcomed into the group*. Ask: *When we welcome someone, what are we telling him or her?* (that we care, accept, and are happy to have him or her with us) *In Baptism, a person is welcomed into God's family*. Together with your child, look up online how to say "Welcome" in different languages. Make a colorful Welcome to Our Home poster using those words or phrases.

### Explore: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Say: *When we are welcomed into the Church, we become part of a huge family in which we are nourished by Jesus' love*. Have your child read aloud *We Belong* on page 132. Ask: *How do we begin our lives as the People of God?* (We are baptized.)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature. Discuss with your child what he or she thinks the symbols named there represent: the Sign of the Cross, the holy water, the Chrism, and the candle.
- ▶ Read aloud *Christian Initiation* on page 133. Ask: *What do the three Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist—have in common?* (In all of them, we receive and are strengthened by God's love.)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Reading God's Word* feature. Say: *The Sacraments of Initiation make up one way in which we all partake of the one loaf as one people*.

### Art Exploration: Page 134

- ▶ Find in a book or online an image of Philip and the Ethiopian. As you look at the picture together, ask: *What is happening in this picture?* (You may see two men together in a carriage; one of the men may be showing a scroll to the other; you may see a man asking to join another who is in a carriage; you may see one man baptizing another.)

- ▶ Say: *The story we are about to read tells the story behind this painting.* Turn together to page 134. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Invite your child to read aloud Philip and the Court Official. Ask: *How was Jesus denied justice?* (He was an innocent man who was punished and killed.) Say: *The man asked to be baptized because he understood that Jesus died for us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Welcome to the Church. Give your child time to complete the activity and share his or her response with you.

### Reflect: Pages 135–136

- ▶ Together look at page 135. Say: *The girl in the picture is happy because she believes in God.* Fold your hands in a prayerful position to prepare to pray.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Say: *I will ask you three questions. Respond with the words "I do."* Ask the three questions, pausing after each one so your child can reply. Read aloud the last paragraph. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Sacraments in My Life on page 136. Discuss the questions with your child. Help your child with hints to prompt information he or she may not remember. Read aloud Think Back, and have your child complete the activity based on your discussion.
- ▶ Read aloud Sacramentals for Sacraments and have your child complete the activity by writing the sacrament that goes with each item named.

### Respond: Pages 137–138

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can welcome new classmates. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 138. Talk with your child about how wonderful it is to be welcomed into the family of God. Encourage your child to be a kind and joyful family member.

## Celebrating Reconciliation

### Engage: Page 139

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 1:76–79. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ We just read Zechariah’s canticle to the Lord. A canticle is a song of praise. Ask your child to think of occasions when people sing together. (Answers will vary.) Say: *People often sing when they want to express joy, such as at a birthday party. When we experience God’s forgiveness, our hearts want to sing*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *What does God offer to us that makes our hearts want to sing joyfully?* (his mercy and forgiveness) Say: *Let us pray to accept Jesus’ gift of forgiveness*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

### Explore: Pages 140–141

- ▶ Share a Sign of Peace with your child. Say: *We exchange this sign of peace to share with one another the peace that Jesus shares with us*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 140. Ask: *When do we receive the gifts of peace and forgiveness?* (in the Sacrament of Reconciliation) Read aloud The Peace of Forgiveness on page 141. Ask your child about the two types of sin described and the difference between them. (Mortal sin involves total rejection of God. Venial sins are less serious. They might be selfish or inconsiderate acts.) Have your child read aloud Jesus’ Words of Forgiveness and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: *When do we share the Sign of Peace at Mass?* (after praying the Lord’s Prayer and before we receive Communion)

### Art Exploration: Page 142

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of a work of art that represents reconciliation. As you look at it with your child, discuss how the images or symbols in this work of art convey the idea of reconciliation.
- ▶ Say: *Forgiving people is sometimes hard, but being a member of God’s family means making hard choices*. Have your child turn to page 142. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 142. Ask: *What gives us a feeling of peace?* (when we confess our sins and receive forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
- ▶ Read aloud Forgiveness. First, discuss the prompt with your child. Then have your child write about his or her experience and share it with you.

- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *This psalm expresses how God wants to give peace and forgiveness to his people. We receive both when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Ask: *What are some symbols of peace?* (flowers, clasped hands, doves) Give your child art supplies to make a poster using one of these symbols and adding a message.

### Reflect: Pages 143–144

- ▶ Together look at page 143. Say: *The boy in the picture is sincere in his prayer. He is following in Jesus' footsteps.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Lead your child in praying the Prayer of the Penitent. Spend time in silence thanking Jesus for his gift of forgiveness. Then pray together *Amen.*
- ▶ Read aloud Penance and Reconciliation on page 144. Ask: *How do you feel when someone you've hurt forgives you?* (happy, peaceful) Take turns reading aloud the situations presented in An Instrument of Peace. Guide your child to see which choice brings peace to both people. Say: *Remember that God wants us to forgive everyone, whether or not the person asks for our forgiveness.*

### Respond: Pages 145–146

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive others and be willing to admit being wrong about something. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 146. Talk with your child about living as a forgiven and a forgiving person, forgiving others as we know that we are forgiven by God.

## Celebrating the Eucharist

### Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 22:14–20. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Invite your child to share stories of being reunited with relatives after a long time apart. Say: *We experience joy when those we love are present with us. In the Eucharist, we experience joy at Jesus' presence with us*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *How is Jesus present with us in the Eucharist?* (through the consecrated bread and wine, which have become Jesus' Body and Blood) Say: *Let's pray, giving thanks for Jesus' presence with us*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Discuss your favorite family dinners. Ask: *Who is there? What do we like to eat? What do we talk about?* Say: *The divine meal we share with our parish family is called the celebration of the Eucharist*. Discuss with your child how you celebrate Sunday—the Lord's Day—together.

### Explore: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Read aloud Do This and Remember Me on page 148. Say: *As part of the Eucharistic Prayer in Mass, the priest prays words from this Scripture passage*.
- ▶ Read Body and Blood of Christ with your child and have him or her label the picture to show where we receive each one (the Body of Christ from the paten, the Blood of Christ from the chalice).
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Tell your child that Jesus said this to his disciples, and discuss with your child the meaning of these words. (Jesus gives us himself in the form of bread; he is our nourishment; he gives us life.)
- ▶ Have your child look at the picture on page 149. Ask: *What does this picture show?* (Jesus with the disciples at the Last Supper) Have your child read aloud Our Central Celebration. Ask: *How is Christ present with us at Mass?* (He is in the people gathered, the priest, the Scripture readings, and the Eucharist.) Say: *We celebrate the Eucharist regularly to worship God*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. If you and your child have prayed together before the Blessed Sacrament, ask your child what he or she remembers about it. If not, suggest that the two of you do so soon.

### Art Exploration: Page 150

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of the Eucharist in art. As you look at the image with your child, share ideas about the scene represented. Say: *When we receive Holy Communion, we are one with Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 150. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Have your child read aloud *The Mass Makes Us One Family*. If you and your child have ever attended Mass in another church or another country, discuss anything about the experience that made an impression on each of you.
- ▶ Read aloud *Your Special Day*. Allow time for your child to write about his or her First Communion. Together share your memories of that day. If your child has not yet had his or her First Holy Communion, invite your child to write what he or she imagines it will be like.

### Reflect: Pages 151–152

- ▶ Together look at page 151. Say: *The girl in the picture is imagining herself present with Jesus at the Last Supper.* Have your child get comfortable. Pray the reflective prayer aloud, pausing after each paragraph as you and your child imagine the scene. Pray together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *We Celebrate the Lord's Day* on page 152. Say: *On the Lord's Day, Catholics all over the world celebrate the Mass in a similar way.* Read aloud *Days of Celebration*. Say: *An obligation means a duty to do something. As Catholics, it is our duty to attend Mass on holy days of obligation, just as we do on Sundays.*
- ▶ Read aloud *My Family, Parish Family* and have your child complete the activity. Review your child's lists and make any further suggestions you may have for him or her.

### Respond: Pages 153–154

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can gather for Mass and celebrate the Eucharist. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 154. Talk with your child about showing Jesus we love him by celebrating Sunday, the Lord's Day, with our parish family at Mass.

## Christian Living

### Engage: Page 155

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Mark 10:43–45. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: ***What does it mean to be “great” and “first”?*** (maybe successful, powerful, important; or maybe committed to serving God and others) ***How might you be first even if you gave your place in line to another person?*** (Others might see you as “first” because of your kindness.) Say: ***Let’s ask for Jesus’ help in seeing how we can serve***. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Invite your child to read the session title and ask: ***What does “Christian living” mean to you?*** (putting into practice what we hear at Mass and doing good in our daily lives) Talk about people in your community who help you and your child every day.

### Explore: Pages 156–157

- ▶ Discuss the special talents shared by your family members. Say: ***Each of us has received different gifts, and we are called to share these gifts in different ways***. Read aloud The Call to Share Our Gifts on page 156. Ask: ***What do we call the particular way of sharing our gifts from God to which Jesus calls us?*** (our vocation) Discuss how the people in the pictures serve God and the Church.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: ***Think about a gift you have received from God. Think about how you can use it to serve God and others***.
- ▶ Read aloud Sacrament of Matrimony on page 157. Say: ***Matrimony is one of two sacraments that bless a vocation. Being in a marriage is a vocation. The sacrament blesses those who choose to marry***. Have your child read aloud Your Vocation and complete the activity by sharing what his or her future vocation might be. Ask how this relates to his or her gifts and how your child might serve God and others.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. Discuss with your child Andrew Kim Taegon’s vocation as a priest and that we can learn how to be strong in answering God’s call from him.

### Art Exploration: Page 158

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of children painting a mural. As you look at the image, discuss the different abilities those working on the mural may bring to the project. (Some may be good at drawing outlines, some good at painting carefully to fill in shapes; some may be good at encouraging others; some may help organize the work.) Say: ***We are called upon to be helpful to our families, friends, and communities because we are all part of God's creation.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 158. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud *Many Gifts, One Spirit*. Ask: ***What are some ways we can bring joy to the work God gives us?*** (play music, sing, work with friends, pray, smile, be thankful) Invite your child to read aloud *Working Together*, complete the activity, and share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Invite your child to illustrate one of his or her responses in *Working Together* using drawing paper, crayons, or markers. Display the artwork in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: ***This Sunday at Mass, let's remember to listen carefully to what the priest says at the Dismissal.***

### Reflect: Pages 159–160

- ▶ Together look at page 159. Ask: ***What gift does the boy in the picture share with others?*** (his music) Say: ***Remember to thank Jesus for your talents and for his guidance in using those gifts and talents to help others.*** Read aloud the paragraphs, pausing after each question. Allow your child time to think about different vocations. Lead him or her in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud page 160. Help your child complete the sentences.

### Respond: Pages 161–162

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can use special talents to help others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 162. Talk with your child about how God loves us and wants us to help one another. Remind your child to use his or her gifts to serve God and help others.

## Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

### Engage: Page 163

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read John 4:5–15. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *How do we treat new classmates who move here from another town or state?* (We welcome them.) Say: *During Lent, we are called to think of people from other places as members of our family*. Read aloud the paragraphs.
- ▶ Ask: *How do our lives change when we don't focus on differences?* (We make more friends. The good we do extends farther.) Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Ask: *What do we prepare for during Lent?* (the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection at Easter) *What do we remember during Holy Week?* (Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection)

### Explore: Page 164

- ▶ Ask: *What does it mean to "put yourself in someone else's shoes"?* (pretend you are in someone else's position, feeling or reacting how that person might to something that has happened) Say: *Lent is a time to be aware of other people's situations*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two sections. Emphasize the importance of helping people in need of love, food, and shelter this Lent. Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *How can our family give to others this Lent?*

### Reflect on the Mass: Page 165

- ▶ Ask: *What is a prayer of intercession?* (a prayer that asks God for help on behalf of another) Say: *Prayers of intercession have particular meaning during Lent, when we think about all those with whom we share God's creation*.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. Say: *During Lent, we strive to think of others, not just ourselves*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Ask: *What do you notice about decorations at church during Lent?* (It is plain; there are no flowers; the priest wears purple vestments.) Read aloud Lord, Hear Our Prayer and ask your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *The Sermon on the Mount mentioned in the feature includes the Beatitudes. In the Beatitudes, Jesus reminds us to think of others*.

### Art Exploration: Page 166

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of a painting of Jesus on the Cross. As you and your child look at the image, say to one another words that come to mind, such as *sad, suffering, lonely, divine*. Say: ***During Lent, as we prepare our hearts for Easter, we remember Jesus' strength and suffering.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 166. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus in the Desert. Ask: ***How can we honor Jesus' sacrifice?*** (fast, practice positive new habits, care for people who need help, pray, go to church, be grateful for Jesus, think about how we treat others) Have your child read aloud A Lenten Promise. Ask your child to think of a meaningful Lenten promise and write about it. Invite him or her to share the idea for honoring Jesus during Lent.
- ▶ Give your child drawing paper, a paintbrush, and watercolor paints. Invite your child to paint Jesus in the desert. Say: ***Imagine how hot, hungry, thirsty, and lonely Jesus must have felt. God doesn't want anyone to suffer. Let's silently ask God to help us keep our Lenten promise.***

### Respond: Pages 167–168

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can reach out to others by being a good listener. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 168. Talk with your child about some of the ways he or she has found to act more like Jesus.

Multimedia for each lesson are accessed by scanning the QR code on the Children's Book page. If you don't have access to a QR code digital device, contact your child's catechist for assistance.

# Morality, Our Lived Faith

## Begin

- ▶ Read aloud the unit title on page 170. Say: *In our fifth unit, we will learn how God and Jesus are with us in every choice we make.*
- ▶ Ask: *Who loves you even when you do something wrong and prays that you will always love God?* (Your child may answer "Mary" or you or his or her mother.) Say: *Let's learn about a saint who, like Mary, is best known as a mother.*

## Introduce the Saint: Pages 170–171

- ▶ Ask your child to turn to page 171. Invite your child to read aloud. Then say: *Tell me about Saint Monica.* (She was a Christian in North Africa who prayed and prayed for her son Augustine to be baptized. After many years, he finally was, and Monica's prayers were answered. Monica's son became Saint Augustine.) Say: *Monica never stopped praying for Augustine. When he was baptized, she felt that everything she could wish for was fulfilled.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask your child what he or she thinks Saint Monica meant. (She meant that however far from possible something may seem to us, God knows that what he desires for us can happen in the next instant.)
- ▶ With your child, add Monica's feast day, August 27, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the patience of Saint Monica.

**Unit Opener: Page 172**

- ▶ Say: *We want good things for the people we love. What good things do you want for your loved ones?* (happiness, peace, and good lives) Say: *We can pray for our loved ones' well-being.*
- ▶ Invite your child to describe what it feels like when we see how patient someone has been with us. Ask your child to read Faith and Patience. Ask: *How do you think Saint Monica was able to live with her sadness about her son?* (through hope, which, as your child will learn in the next session, is one of the virtues)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud We Pray for Loved Ones and complete the activity. When your child has finished his or her drawings, ask: *How does it feel to know that someone loved us even when we were uncooperative?* Invite your child to take a few minutes to ask God to help loved ones, imagining each person as the child prays for him or her.
- ▶ Together read the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Let's pray to God the Father that we may receive Christ in our hearts.*

## Faith, Hope, and Charity

### Engage: Page 173

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 17:5–6. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Invite your child to brainstorm a list of habits. Write them on a sheet of paper. Say: ***Habits are actions that we perform over and over until they become automatic. A virtue is a good habit that brings us closer to God.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph. Write the word *faith* on a sheet of paper. Ask your child how he or she can make faith a habit. (pray often; think of the needs of others; attend Mass)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's pray to Jesus now and ask that our faith may grow.*** Join your child in praying aloud. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: ***We will learn ways to follow the guidance that Jesus provides and to use God's gifts to lead good lives.***

### Explore: Pages 174–175

- ▶ Say: ***Think back to people you have learned about who trusted God.*** Ask: ***How did Mary trust God?*** (She accepted God's invitation to be Jesus' mother.) ***How did Joseph trust God?*** (He took care of Mary and Jesus.) Read aloud Saints with the Virtue of Hope on page 174. Ask: ***What did Paul give thanks for?*** (the work of faith and love that his friends were doing) Talk about ways your family has helped your child follow Jesus.
- ▶ Have your child read Our Families Teach Us and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Say: ***Saint Monica and Saint Augustine were good examples of the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 175. Ask: ***What are the three most important virtues?*** (faith, hope, and charity) Have your child read Virtue in Action, complete the activity, and share his or her chart with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Saint Paul wrote this in a letter to his friends in Corinth, a city in southern Greece. He wanted them to know how important it is for Christians to love one another.***

### Art Exploration: Page 176

- ▶ Find online (or in a catalog or a Catholic store) different designs for cross, anchor, and heart charms as symbols of faith, hope, and charity (love). Look at the different options with your child and choose one you both like. Discuss with your child the symbolism of the items and how each represents its virtue.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 176. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Symbols of the Virtues. Say: ***Think about each virtue and how to make it present in your life.*** Read aloud Matching Virtues. Allow time for your child to label the symbols and name the virtue for each sentence. Check your child's answers together.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a poster with the symbols for the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, using the charms you chose as inspiration. Encourage your child to add details to enhance the poster. Display the poster in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 177–178

- ▶ Together look at page 177. Say: ***The boy and his dog are enjoying a quiet moment together. When you pray, stay calm by receiving the strength of the Holy Spirit and giving concerns up to God.***
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer slowly and thoughtfully. Pause between sentences so that your child has time to thank God for the gifts your child has received from him.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Saint Jeanne Jugan on page 178. Say: ***On October 11, 2009, Jeanne Jugan was declared a saint.*** Read aloud The Virtues of Saint Jeanne Jugan and have your child complete the activity.

### Respond: Pages 179–180

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be friendly to a child who seems lonely. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 180. Invite your child to pay attention to times when he or she shows the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

## Making Good Choices

### Engage: Page 181

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read 1 Peter 3:8–11. Then say: *The Word of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God*.
- ▶ Say: *If you visit another country, it's good to have a guide—someone who can help you, not only with the language but with the customs and traditions of the people. Jesus is our guide for how to think, speak, and act in the Kingdom of God.* Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *How might offering a blessing to someone who wronged you change both of you?* (Doing so can bring about peace.)
- ▶ Say: *Let's pray for Jesus to help us give back blessings when we feel hurt.* Pray together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *Making decisions is like deciding which path to take.* Ask your child to think about whom he or she might ask for advice when making a hard choice.

### Explore: Pages 182–183

- ▶ Say: *If someone offers you a choice of treats and you have to choose one, are you making a choice between right and wrong?* (No.) Discuss with your child an example of a choice between right and wrong. Have your child read aloud page 182. Ask: *Who can help us decide which of our choices are right and wrong?* (the Holy Spirit)
- ▶ Invite your child to read What Is a Good Choice? and complete the activity. Discuss how Mona's response corresponds to each of the three questions above.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Saint Paul tells us that our words and actions should reflect our willingness to follow Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 183. Ask: *What does it mean to follow the moral law?* (do good and avoid evil) Say: *God gave us these commandments to help us love others.*

### Art Exploration: Page 184

- ▶ Find in a book or online an image of a painting showing Jesus' temptation by the Devil. As you look at the picture together, discuss how the artist depicts Jesus' attitude toward the Devil.
- ▶ Say: *Some decisions are difficult to make. Knowing God's love for us makes decisions easier. God shows his love through our friends and family.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 184. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus Is Tempted. Say: *Jesus was always sure of the love of God, his Father.*

- ▶ Together read aloud A Prayer of Petition and have your child write one petition.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: *What does Jesus teach us?* (to follow God's will, to resist temptation)

### Reflect: Pages 185–186

- ▶ Together look at page 185. Say: *The girl in the picture is just starting her day in the morning. Remember that each day is a new gift from God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray the Morning Offering with you. Pray together slowly and softly. Then read aloud the paragraph that follows the prayer. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect. Together pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Follow the Commandments on page 186. Say: *When we face difficult choices, the Ten Commandments can help us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Which Commandment? Remind your child to look back at page 183 if he or she needs help remembering the numbers of the commandments. Check your child's answers together.

### Respond: Pages 187–188

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can make good moral choices by following the Ten Commandments. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 188. Invite your child to remember all the help God provides as we follow in Jesus' footsteps and make good choices.

## Living as God's Children

### Engage: Page 189

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 2:41–52. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *When you are at your best, how do you interact with your parents?* (I do what they ask without complaining.) Say: *When we do what our parents ask, we honor them. What does this mean?* (to recognize and accept our parents' authority) Read the paragraphs. Ask: *How did Jesus honor Joseph and Mary?* (He obeyed them.)
- ▶ Say: *Let's pray that we will always share joy with our families and with other people.* Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen*.

### Explore: Pages 190–191

- ▶ Display a greeting card. Ask: *When do we send cards?* (for birthdays, when someone is sick, when someone has completed a milestone, such as First Communion) *Why do we give or send cards?* (to show we care) Have your child read aloud The Domestic Church on page 190. Ask: *What is another word for justice?* (fairness) Read aloud A Thank-You Letter. After your child completes the letter, invite him or her to share it with you.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint Louise de Marillac on page 191. Ask: *What do the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul do?* (work in orphanages, hospitals, and schools) Say: *Louise de Marillac is an example of how even the smallest effort spreads God's love to many people.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *A burden is something that is difficult to carry. When we help people with their problems, we are sharing their burdens.*

### Art Exploration: Page 192

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of Saint Paul in art. As you look at the picture with your child, discuss how Saint Paul is characterized. (intense, purposeful, serious, caring, holy) Say: *Paul was happy when he saw how his Church family grew in their faith.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 192. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud the title and the text. Ask: *How did Paul's friends know he loved them?* (He wrote them letters.) Say: *Paul started churches in many places. He stayed close to his church family, just as we are close to those we love.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Thank You! and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Check the Sunday Connection at the Loyola Press website to find a second reading from Paul for an upcoming Sunday.

- ▶ Together with your child, make a stained-glass window of a cross. Cut out a cross from the interior of a sheet of construction paper. Invite your child to glue or tape different-colored pieces of cellophane or tissue to the back to fill the opening. Place the completed work in a window.

### Reflect: Pages 193–194

- ▶ Together look at page 193. Say: *This boy is thinking about his family. We can show our love for our family members by holding each of them in our hearts as we pray. We can look at them with Jesus' eyes of love, and we can ask Jesus to bless them.*
- ▶ Read the paragraph above the reflection together. Then read aloud the reflection slowly to your child, pausing between sentences. Allow a few seconds for reflection between paragraphs. Lead your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 194. Say: *When we work together with family members, we show one another that we care. By sharing the work, we help bring peace to our families.* Read How We Help One Another. Work through each exercise together, coming up with ways your child could help in each situation.

### Respond: Pages 195–196

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can do chores for someone who needs help. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 196. Invite your child to show your family and friends how much he or she loves them by being understanding and considerate in work and play, as Jesus would be.

## All Life Is Sacred

### Engage: Page 197

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read 1 John 4:16–21. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Ask: ***What happens in a room when it is nice enough outside to open the windows?*** (Stuffy air in the room is displaced by fresh, pleasant-smelling air.) Say: ***Let's read to see what can displace fear and hatred.*** Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: ***What displaces fear and hatred?*** (God's love)
- ▶ Say: ***Reflect on Jesus' loving presence in your life as you pray with me.*** Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen.*
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you remember about our earlier study of God's creation?*** (God created the world out of love for us; all of God's creation is good; we know God through his creation.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: ***Imagine how much God loves us to entrust his world to our care. All life is sacred, and we should help and respect others.***

### Explore: Pages 198–199

- ▶ Ask: ***How did Saint Louise de Marillac show her love for others?*** (She helped Saint Vincent de Paul work with people who had few resources, and she helped found an order of sisters to help people in similar circumstances.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 198. Say: ***Frédéric and his friends proved that they could make a difference in the world.*** Ask: ***What parables have we read about small acts of love reaching many people?*** (the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast) Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***God's love lives in all of us. We praise God when we share that love with others.***
- ▶ Read aloud Honor All People on page 199. Ask: ***Why are all people important?*** (God makes us sacred from the first moment of life.) Say: ***Every choice we make affects other people.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Choices Guided by Love and complete each sentence. Discuss his or her responses.

### Art Exploration: Page 200

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of a harvest with people working together. As you look at the picture, discuss with your child how the task each person is performing may be simple, but by working together they accomplish a lot. Discuss any experience your child may have had or that you have had together showing that “many hands make light work”; that is, a big job becomes much easier and more pleasant when people work together to complete it.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus calls us to share with one another in any way we can.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 200. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud Small Acts Make a Big Difference. Ask: *When we have a large task in front of us, what are ways to help us accomplish it?* (begin with a small step, work with others)
- ▶ Read aloud Small Steps and Teamwork. Give your child time to complete his or her drawing.

### Reflect: Pages 201–202

- ▶ Together look at page 201. Say: *The boy in the picture is at his school. We are blessed to be able to go to school and learn about the world around us, God’s creation.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer slowly and reverently. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on God and all who serve him. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Praise for God’s Creation on page 202. Say: *Because God loves us completely, he entrusts the care of his world to us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Illustrate the Psalm. Give your child time to complete his or her illustration of the verses from the psalm.

### Respond: Pages 203–204

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can brighten the day of someone who is sick. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 204. Invite your child to go in peace to love and care for all of God’s creation.

## Celebrating Easter

### Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 6:35–36. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Say: *Think of having a plant that you thought had died, but when you watered it, it became full and healthy again*. Ask: *How might that represent God's mercy?* (God gave the plant new life.) Read aloud the paragraphs. Say: *During the Easter season, we celebrate God's merciful love. What does mercy mean?* (forgiveness) Say: *The risen Christ chose mercy instead of revenge*.
- ▶ Say: *Pray in your hearts as I pray aloud*. Pray the prayer and allow a moment of quiet reflection. Then conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Display Easter symbols such as a decorated egg, lilies, or a picture of a lamb. Ask: *What important day of the church year do these symbols represent?* (Easter) Read aloud the session title. Ask: *What do we celebrate on Easter?* (the Resurrection of Jesus) *Is Easter on the same date each year?* (No, it is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring.) Together find the date for Easter on a calendar. Have your child count the next 50 days to identify Pentecost Sunday.

### Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Say: *Think of a time someone hurt your feelings but you forgave the person*. Ask: *Did you want to forgive the person or did you remain angry? How did it feel?* Have your child read aloud *Merciful Is the Lord*. Ask: *What are two parts of mercy?* (compassion and forgiveness) Read aloud *The Mercy of Friendship*. Invite your child to write a prayer for a friend who needs compassion and forgiveness.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *When we have doubts about God, what can we do to strengthen our faith?* (pray to God, think about his gifts)

### Reflect on the Mass: Page 207

- ▶ Discuss where you have seen lambs during Easter. (chocolate lambs, cake lambs, butter lambs) Say: *These Easter traditions symbolize Jesus, the Lamb of God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Easter. Say: *At one time, lambs were sacrificed as a religious offering. We use this symbol today because of the great sacrifice Jesus made by dying on the Cross for our sins.* Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Ask: *Why is joyful music played at Easter Mass?* (because the parish rejoices that Jesus is with us always) *What is the liturgical color of the season?* (white) Read aloud See the Lamb of God. Invite your child to share his or her drawing with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *The Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' Ascension into heaven 40 days after his Resurrection.*

### Art Exploration: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of Mary Magdalene and the other women at Jesus' tomb following his Resurrection. As you look at the picture, discuss with your child what is shown. (Mary Magdalene and other women went to Jesus' tomb to care for his body. They found the tomb empty and were afraid and confused until an angel appeared to them.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud A Celebration of Life and The Resurrection. Ask: *Why did God send Jesus?* (to show us his mercy and love) *How can we live as disciples?* (by committing ourselves to the service of others) Read aloud In Celebration of Easter. Give your child time to draw a picture and share it with you.

### Respond: Pages 209–210

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive others even when it is difficult. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 210. Invite your child to tell you some ways he or she found during Easter to act more like Jesus.