



God Is Our Friend

Engage: Page 75

- ▶ Together discuss your child's friends. **Ask:** *Why are these children your friends? How do friends treat each other? Do friends always get along?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *God is our friend. When we have done something wrong, we can apologize to him, just as we apologize to the people we hurt. In this session we will learn about sin and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how to be a better friend. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ Discuss the story of Adam and Eve. **Ask:** *What did the serpent convince Adam and Eve to do? (eat fruit from the forbidden tree) Remind your child that even though Adam and Eve turned away from God, he did not abandon them.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 76. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Venial sins can become bad habits that lead to more serious sins. Capital sins are like venial sins. The more often we commit them, the more likely they are to lead us to commit more serious sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 77. **Say:** *When we are truly sorry for our sins, we have perfect contrition. When we say we're sorry to avoid getting into trouble, we have imperfect contrition. Read aloud the remaining paragraphs. Reflecting on whether we should confess a sin can be part of the examination of conscience we make before we celebrate the sacrament.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Isaiah reminds us that God loves us even more than a mother loves her children. Because God has created us, he will never forget us.*

Art Exploration: Page 241

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the parable of the forgiving father.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of the father, his son, and the townspeople.
- ▶ **Say:** *Even when we do something to hurt God, he still loves us and wants us to return to him.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 241. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Forgiving Father. **Ask:** *How did the father respond to his son's homecoming? (He celebrated with a great feast.) How is God like the father in this parable? (God is always ready to welcome us.) How are we sometimes like the son? (We sometimes choose to turn away from God.)* **Say:** *Even when we do something to hurt God, he still loves us and wants us to return to him.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Lesson Learned and complete the activity. Discuss why the other two sentences are not correct.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine that he or she is one of the townspeople watching the father embrace his son. **Ask:** *What are you thinking? How do you feel?* **Say:** *Imagine that you are the son being welcomed back by your father.* **Ask:** *How do you feel?* **Say:** *Imagine you are the father.* **Ask:** *How do you feel as you welcome your son home?* Give your child time to think about these questions and then to pray.

Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Say:** *The boy in the picture is taking time to reflect on his surroundings.* **Say:** *Close your eyes, fold your hands in front of you, and listen with your heart.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph, pausing at the end of each one to give your child time to reflect. At the end of the reflection, allow time for your child to pray silently. Close by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Forgive Others on page 79. **Ask:** *When someone hurts us, what does Jesus want us to do? (forgive the person)* **Say:** *In this passage Jesus tells us that when we forgive someone, we are called to go above and beyond what is expected of us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Forgiveness Acrostic. Work together to think of words and phrases about forgiveness that begin with each letter of the word *forgive*. You may wish to use a dictionary or thesaurus for help with ideas for words or phrases.

Respond: Page 80

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