God's Presence in the Temple

Engage: Page 63

- Have your child close his or her eyes. **Say:** *Think of a place that makes you feel happy.* **Ask:** *What can you see, hear, and smell in this place? Why do you feel safe here?*
- Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *Why might the place in the picture make you feel close to God?* (It is quiet and peaceful.) **Say:** *In this session we will learn about how one king built a special place where his people could feel close to God.*
- Ask your child to think about places where he or she feels close to God. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 64–65

- **Ask:** *Have you ever observed a house or building under construction? How would you describe the construction process?*
- Have your child silently read page 64. **Ask:** *What was the most sacred room in the Temple called?* (the Holy of Holies) *What was the Ark of the Covenant?* (a large gold box containing the Ten Commandments) **Say:** *Once the Temple was built in Jerusalem, all the tribes of Israel would go there to worship.*
- Read aloud God's Presence in the Temple. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What was the tent in which the Hebrews worshiped called?* (tabernacle) **Ask:** *Who makes God's presence known today?* (priests, the Church, all of us)
- Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Invite your child to read 1 Kings 6–7 for an in-depth description of the construction of the Temple and how it was furnished.

Art Exploration: Page 239

- Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus helping someone in need.
- **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how Jesus is helping someone in need.
- **Say:** *God works through us to help people in need.*
- Have your child turn to page 239. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- Have your child read aloud God's Presence in Jesus Christ. **Ask:** *When did Jesus call the Temple his Father's house?* (when a young Jesus entered the Temple, the cleansing of the Temple scene)

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- Read aloud God's Presence Within Us. Give your child time to complete the activity and share his or her response with you.
- Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The temple the Jews thought Jesus was talking about was the physical Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was speaking of himself as the new spiritual temple, that was raised three days after he died.*
- Take turns reciting the following lines. Say the refrain after each line.

Refrain: *Whatever you do for others, you do for me.*

I was hungry, you gave me food.
Refrain
I was thirsty, you gave me drink.
Refrain
I was a stranger, you welcomed me.
Refrain
I needed clothes, you gave me some.
Refrain
I was ill, you cared for me.
Refrain
I was lonely, you visited me.
Refrain

Reflect: Pages 66–67

- Together look at page 66. **Say:** *In this prayer we express our needs as children of God and temples of the Holy Spirit.* Make yourself comfortable as we get ready to pray.
- Read aloud the first paragraph. Then have your child read aloud the prayer. Read aloud the last paragraph and allow time for your child to finish his or her silent prayers.
- Have your child read aloud We Are the Church on page 67. **Ask:** *Why is discrimination unacceptable for God's people?* (God calls us to love and respect everyone.)
- Have your child read aloud The Sacrament of Holy Orders. **Say:** *Name the three titles given to men who receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.* (priest, bishop, deacon) Have your child complete the activity. Encourage your child to choose one item from his or her ideas to do this week.

Respond: Page 68

- 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 respect his or her church and others as temples of the Holy Spirit.
- 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.

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