Celebrating Jesus

Engage: Page 105

- With your child share stories about special non-holiday meals you have shared together with your family. **Say:** *No matter what a special meal celebrates, it's always important to share food and prayer together.*
- Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *What makes a meal special?* (the people, the occasion, the place, the food) **Say:** *In this session we are going to learn about a special meal to which all of God's family is invited.*
- Together look in your pantry and find a nonperishable food item that both of you can bring to church or to a food pantry to help others have special meals together. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 106–107

- **Ask:** *What is your favorite dinner to have together?* Discuss dishes that you and your child eat at different celebrations. **Say:** *Jesus had a special meal with his friends.*
- Read aloud page 106. **Say:** *Sharing Jesus' special meal shows him that we remember him and know he is with us.*
- Read aloud The Last Supper on page 107. **Say:** *The Last Supper was the last meal Jesus ate with his friends. Soon after the meal he died, but then he rose from the dead.*
- Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *During Mass the priest repeats the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper, the special meal Jesus shared with his friends. The Bread and Wine truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.*

Art Exploration: Page 230

- Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of many people walking to church for Mass.
- **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the building to which the people are walking.
- **Say:** *In celebrating the Mass, we remember what Jesus has done for us.*
- Have your child turn to page 230. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- Read aloud the first two paragraphs of Mass, Our Special Meal. **Ask:** *What do you think the priest means when he says to glorify God?* (We should pray; we should attend Mass; we should love one another.)

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- Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow time for your child to color the picture. Remind your child that Mass is a celebration with our friends, who are followers of Jesus'.
- Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *No matter what we do, we should do it to show God that we love him.*
- Invite your child to make a collage by cutting out pictures from magazines of people sharing a meal or pictures of favorite foods and people who are special to him or her. Ask your child to glue these pictures to a sheet of construction paper. Encourage your child to add to the collage by labeling the pictures and adding his or her own drawings.

Reflect: Pages 108–109

- Together look at page 108. **Ask:** *Where is the girl in the picture? Why is she holding hands with the person next to her?* Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Before each meal we ask God to bless us and the food we are about to eat.*
- Read aloud the page. Then invite your child to pray each prayer with you a second time. **Say:** *Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together to end our prayer time.*
- Have your child read aloud page 109. Discuss the questions and then have your child use crayons or markers to complete the activity.

Respond: Page 110

- Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can make others feel special.
- 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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