



Sacraments, Our Way of Life

Begin

Together write a letter to a family member who lives far away. Have your child include sentences about what he or she has learned about God, Jesus, and the Church. Read aloud the unit title on page 91. **Say:** *In this unit we will learn more about sacraments that help us love and forgive others.*

Introduce the Saint

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 the missionary Saint Paul, his travels, and the letters he wrote.*

Turn to page 92 and point out the picture. **Say:** *This picture shows Saint Paul preaching.*

Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *How did Paul know Jesus was calling him? (A light blinded him. He heard Jesus' voice.)*

Have your child read aloud the last paragraph. Point out the map. **Say:** *This map shows where Paul traveled. During his travels Paul started churches, preached to people, and wrote letters.* **Ask:** *Where can we find Paul's letters? (in the Bible) Point out Paul's letters to the Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, and Romans.*

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.

Sacraments of Initiation

Engage: Page 93

- ▶ Together with your child, look up online how to say *welcome* in different languages. Make a colorful *Welcome to Our Home* poster using all of your “welcome” words.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child’s responses. **Say:** *When we become new members of a group, we usually go through an initiation.* **Ask:** *What is an initiation?* (an introduction to a group) **Say:** *In this session we will learn that through the Sacraments of Initiation, we are welcomed into the Church as children of God.*
- ▶ **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) Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 94–95

- ▶ Discuss groups to which you both belong. **Ask:** *Did the group have a special ceremony or activity to welcome you when you first joined?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *We Belong* on page 94. **Ask:** *How do we begin our lives as the People of God?* (We are baptized.)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature. **Say:** *During the Easter Vigil, people who have prepared to become Catholics celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.*
- ▶ Read aloud *Christian Initiation* on page 95. **Ask:** *What do we begin in Baptism?* (a new life in Jesus Christ) *Who strengthens us in Confirmation?* (the Holy Spirit) *What do we receive in the Eucharist?* (the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Reading God’s Word* feature. **Say:** *It is through the Sacraments of Initiation that we become one with God and with the Church.*

Art Exploration: Page 242

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Philip welcoming the court official to the Church through Baptism.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and what Philip is doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *The disciple Philip continues Jesus’ mission.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 242. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child 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 it with you.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine this scene happening today. **Ask:** *Where could a similar scene happen? (bus, train, car)* **Say:** *Philip and the official might be wearing suits. The Baptism could take place in a park.* Give your child time to imagine. Then invite him or her to pray: *God, help me see everyone I meet as one with you.*

Reflect: Pages 96–97

- ▶ Together look at page 96. **Say:** *The girl in the picture looks happy because she believes in God. Let's fold our hands in a prayerful position to prepare to pray.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Respond with the words "I do" as I ask each question.* Ask the three questions, pausing after each one so that 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 97. After he or she completes this section, go over the answers.
- ▶ Read aloud Remembering a Special Day. Recall events with your child before he or she begins the drawing.

Respond: Page 98

- ▶ 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 welcome new classmates.
- ▶ 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.