

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ 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 and the text. **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.)* **Say:** *In this session we'll learn more about Easter.*
- ▶ Together find the date for Easter on a calendar. Have your child count the next 50 days to identify Pentecost Sunday. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Say:** *Think of a time someone hurt your feelings, but you forgave him or her.* **Ask:** *Did you want to forgive the person or were you still mad? How did it feel?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Show Mercy During Easter and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What did Jesus do when Thomas saw and believed that Jesus had risen? (Jesus showed him mercy.)*
- ▶ 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: Page 149

- ▶ 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 religious offerings. 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? (because the parish rejoices that Jesus is with us always) What is the liturgical color for the season? (white)*
- ▶ Read aloud What Lamb of God Means to You. Invite your child to share his or her paragraph 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 251

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Christian symbols.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including each symbol.
- ▶ **Say:** *These symbols give us a message. The person and animals represented in the painting all have wings, which are symbols of heavenly power. They have books, which are the Scriptures.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 251. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the sections Celebrate Easter 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.
- ▶ Recall the Art Print. Using colored pencils and drawing paper, invite your child to draw his or her own symbols for Easter. Use the symbol to decorate your home.

Respond: Page 150

- ▶ 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 forgive others even when it is difficult.
- ▶ 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.