



## God Is Our Father

### Engage: Page 15

- ▶ Invite your child to plan a birthday celebration for a family member or pet. Make a list of different things your child can do to make it a really special day.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What are the people doing?* (having a party) **Say:** *This family is sending a message of love to one another by celebrating with the birthday child.* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about God's special message to us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of ways to show love to his or her family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 16–17

- ▶ On a sheet of paper, write a special message to each other such as *God loves us* or *I love you so much*. Leave out a few letters and fill them in together as you read them.
- ▶ Help your child read aloud the heading and the first two sentences on page 16. Read the card aloud. **Ask:** *Why did Dad write a message to Ben?* (It is Ben's birthday.) Read aloud the questions and discuss them.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 17. Point out the vocabulary words. Show your child a Bible. **Say:** *The Bible contains the story of God's promise to care for us.* **Ask:** *Who is Jesus?* (God's Son) **Say:** *The Bible tells us all about Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child connect the dots to finish the picture. Invite your child to take time to look through your Bible and ask questions about it.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *At Mass what kinds of stories do you hear from the Bible?* (stories about God and Jesus)

### Art Exploration: Page 215

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus being welcomed by a large group of children.
- ▶ **Say:** *Whom do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the emotions that show on the faces of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus is with us wherever we are. He is friendly and he loves us. Jesus makes us feel happy with his presence.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 215. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *Jesus teaches us that God is our Father. That's why we often refer to God as our Father in our prayers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the passage from the Bible. **Ask:** *Who is God's wonderful Son? (Jesus)* **Say:** *You can tell from God's words that he loves his Son, Jesus, very much.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Discuss how much God loves all of us.
- ▶ With your child use construction paper, markers, crayons, and scissors to make a Hosanna banner to decorate his or her room. Use bright colors and help your child write the word *Hosanna*.

### Reflect: Pages 18–19

- ▶ Together look at page 18. **Ask:** *Where is the boy sitting? (in a field)* **Say:** *Jesus is always with you wherever you might be and loves spending time with you in prayer.*
- ▶ Read aloud the page in a prayerful manner. Pause between sentences, giving your child time to reflect. **Say:** *Now take a few moments to tell Jesus anything you like.* Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 19. Discuss the questions. **Ask:** *Does everyone live in a home like ours?* Discuss different kinds of homes and explain that all people should have a place to live.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she would like best about Jesus visiting your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *When you love Jesus, God loves you.*

### Respond: Page 20

- ▶ 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 share God's message of love.
- ▶ 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.