



Celebrating Christmas

Engage: Page 87

- ▶ **Ask:** *When do we celebrate Jesus' birth? (at Christmas) Together imagine visiting Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Talk about how you would feel when you see the baby Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Point out the vocabulary word. Discuss the picture. **Say:** *The Christmas season includes a visit from the Wise Men on January 6 and ends with the baptism of Jesus. In this session we will learn more about Christmas, the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 88

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some Christmas decorations you see in stores or in our neighborhood? (Santa, snowmen, wreaths, trees) Describe a Nativity scene and explain that many people decorate their homes with Nativity scenes to remind them of Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate During Christmas. Point out the vocabulary term. Have your child complete the Son of God Word Search.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How is Jesus, the Son of God, part of your life? (I say my prayers to Jesus; we have a picture of him in our house; he is always with me.)*

Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ **Ask:** *Would the Christmas season feel the same to you if we had no trees, wreaths, or lights? How would it feel the same? How would it feel different?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Christmas. Read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The celebrant is the priest or bishop who leads people in praying the Mass. The special clothes that the priest or bishop wears during Mass are called vestments.* **Ask:** *Why does the priest wear different color vestments at different times of the year? (to show which season or feast we are celebrating in the liturgical calendar)*
- ▶ Read aloud My Christmas Tree and have your child use markers or crayons to decorate the tree.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *Can you name some of the people and animals present at Jesus' birth that would be included in a live Nativity scene? (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, donkeys, sheep, cows)*



Art Exploration: Page 227

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, and animals.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including symbols such as halos and a star.
- ▶ **Say:** *The first Sunday following Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family. That feast day is an opportunity to honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, as well as our own family.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 227. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Christmas on page 227. **Ask:** *How did the tradition of gift giving begin?* (the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus) **Say:** *Jesus, through his example and God's Word, taught people to take care of one another, to love, and to be peaceful. He reminded people to pray and to think every day about how much God loves them. Before Jesus came, many people believed the only important things were money and power. Jesus brought the message that those things make us forget the importance of God's message.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Gift of Jesus and allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ Give your child a star of Bethlehem template on yellow cardstock. Instruct him or her to decorate the star with glitter and sequins to make it shine for all to see. Punch a hole at the top of the star. Help your child loop a piece of yarn through the hole and hang it from a high place in your home.

Respond: Page 90

- ▶ 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 Christmas joy.
- ▶ 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.