



Serving God and Others

Engage: Page 81

- ▶ Together discuss your child's talents. **Ask:** *What do you think you are good at doing? What are activities you enjoy doing? How do you share these talents with others?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What talent might this girl have that she can share with others? (being a good violinist)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn how we can serve God by following Mary's example.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think of how to share his or her talents in a way that serves the Church. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Display pictures of Mary. **Ask:** *Why do we include pictures and statues of Mary in our churches? (They remind us that she is an important person to whom we can pray and whose example we can follow.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 82. **Ask:** *Why did Mary agree to do what God asked of her? (She trusted God.)*
- ▶ Read aloud The First Disciple on page 83. **Say:** *When Mary agreed to become Jesus' mother, she became the first and greatest of the disciples.* **Ask:** *How can we respond to the call of discipleship? (by following Jesus, by telling others about the Kingdom of God, by caring for creation)* **Say:** *Solidarity means that all people have dignity because they are children of God. We care for others because we are all equal before God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Name some of Mary's feast days: January 1, Mary, the Mother of God; August 15, the Assumption; December 8, the Immaculate Conception; December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Art Exploration: Page 242

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Mary's expression.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we follow Mary's example by saying yes to God, we help build up God's kingdom.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 242. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Mary, Mother of the Church*. **Ask:** *What did Jesus tell Mary and his beloved disciple, John, as Jesus was dying on the cross?* (to treat each other as mother and son) **Say:** *When Jesus said this, Mary became the Mother of the Church.* Explain that the Communion of Saints is the community of all those who have been saved in Jesus Christ. **Say:** *When we proclaim our belief in Jesus, we are united with those who belong to the Communion of Saints.*
- ▶ Read aloud *Mary's Flowers*. **Say:** *Modesty means "to speak and act in an appropriate manner."* **Ask:** *Why is modesty a good description of Mary?* (Rather than doing what she wanted, Mary chose to follow God's plan.) Have your child complete the activity. Discuss where you have seen these flowers in your community.
- ▶ Using construction paper, markers, and scissors, invite your child to make paper flowers. Have your child write on each flower something he or she can do to follow Mary's example. Place the completed flowers in a vase and use them to decorate your home. Encourage your child to complete the actions he or she wrote on the flowers.

Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Say:** *The Gospel of Luke tells us that Mary made it a practice to reflect on things in her heart. She understands our need to reflect.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Before praying, explain the meaning of some of the words. **Say:** *The "children of Eve" are all the descendents of Adam and Eve. The "land of exile" is the world we live in, which is full of sin and temptation as a result of Adam of Eve's choice to turn away from God. An "advocate" is someone who pleads the case of another. "Clement" describes someone who is merciful.* Pray aloud the prayer slowly, pausing after every line. If necessary, review the meaning of some of the words again. Read aloud the final paragraph and then give your child time to reflect silently. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Listening to God* on page 85. **Ask:** *Why is prayer important?* (Prayer is one way for us to hear what God is asking of us.) Give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Meet a Holy Person*. **Say:** *Father Miguel Pro used disguises to conduct an underground ministry. He celebrated the sacraments and attended to the physical and spiritual needs of the people he served.*

Respond: Page 86

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can treat others with kindness and respect.
- ▶ 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.