



## ***Celebrating Easter***

### **Engage: Page 147**

- ▶ Together sing an Alleluia your parish uses as a Gospel Acclamation during the Easter season. Then **ask:** *How else can we praise God?* (pray a prayer, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate during the Easter season?* (Jesus' Resurrection) **Say:** *We rejoice and sing our praise to God to thank him for what he has done for us through Jesus' Resurrection. In this session we will learn more about the Easter season.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family prepares for Easter. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Page 148**

- ▶ Together read aloud from your Bible one of the accounts of the Resurrection. [Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12]
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Live in Peace During Easter. **Ask:** *Why were Jesus' disciples excited to see him?* (They missed him. They had thought he was dead.)
- ▶ Read aloud Gift of Peace. **Ask:** *Why do you think Jesus shared his gift of peace with his disciples?* (so that they could share his peace with others, so that they will know that he is always with them) Have your child read the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *In Jesus' time, a lamb was often used as a sacrificial offering to God. We compare Jesus to a lamb because he died so that our sins would be forgiven. He is the Lamb of God.*

### **Reflect: Page 149**

- ▶ Display a bouquet of flowers. **Ask:** *Why do many people like flowers? What do flowers remind you of?* **Say:** *Flowers are a symbol of the new life we receive through the Resurrection. They are also a reminder of the beauty of God's creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. **Ask:** *What are the Scripture readings about during the Easter season?* (Jesus' Resurrection, how Jesus appeared to Mary and the disciples, the Ascension, Pentecost)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The light of the Paschal Candle reminds us that we are called to share the joy of Christ's Resurrection with others. It is lit during the first part of the Easter Vigil and is lit for every Mass celebrated during the Easter season.* **Ask:** *Why do we use the color red on Pentecost?* (It reminds us of the Holy Spirit.)



### Art Exploration: Page 253

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows signs of new life during spring.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the new signs of life.
- ▶ **Say:** *During the Easter season, we celebrate the new life we receive through Christ's Resurrection.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 253. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrate Easter. **Ask:** *When do we share God's love with others?* (whenever we choose to follow God's plan for us, follow Jesus' example of service, and practice the Ten Commandments)
- ▶ Read aloud Share God's Love and allow time for your child to complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the picture with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that he or she has gone to Jesus' tomb and found it empty. **Say:** *Think about what you're feeling as you walk to the tomb. An angel tells you that God has raised Jesus from the dead.* **Ask:** *What do you think and feel upon hearing this?* **Say:** *Now thank Jesus for the new life we receive through him. Tell him one way you will share his gift of peace with others.*

### 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 share Jesus' peace with others.
- ▶ 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.