

Celebrating Christmas

Engage: Page 87

- ▶ Display images of a Nativity scene. **Ask:** *What do these pictures represent? (Christmas, when Jesus was born) What do you know about Christmas? (We celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *When does the Christmas season end? (the first Sunday after Epiphany with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn more about our Church's Christmas season and discover all the wonderful reasons we have to celebrate.*
- ▶ Ask your child to make a list of things your family can do to prepare for the Christmas season. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 88

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some ways that we can live holy lives? (bring love and forgiveness to the world, understand and console others, treat others as we want to be treated)*
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate God's Gift During Christmas. **Say:** *Christmas is a time to honor God's gift to us of his Son by answering his call to live a holy life.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud How Can I Live a Holy Life? Discuss ways Jesus lived a holy life, such as spending time in prayer, attending Mass, and celebrating the sacraments. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God, who calls us to be holy, is the Most Holy. Since this call comes from him, we must try to be holy in all that we do.*

Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ **Ask:** *When do we honor people in our family? (birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day)* **Say:** *We have a special feast day to honor the Holy Family.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. **Say:** *The Holy Family is Jesus' family: Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God, but Mary and Joseph raised him as their child.*
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Discuss what you see in church during the Christmas season. Read aloud The Holy Family Inspires Our Own Family. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Joseph needed to work to support Mary and Jesus. To do this, he labored as a carpenter.*

Art Exploration: Page 239

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a Nativity scene celebrating the night Jesus was born.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the modern elements of the artwork.
- ▶ **Say:** *Although Jesus lived thousands of years ago, the story of his birth is still a relevant and important part of our lives today.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 239. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Christmas. **Say:** *The first Sunday following Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast day is an opportunity to honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, as well as our own families.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Gift of Jesus. **Say:** *Only when the people put aside their greed and selfishness and chose to love God and one another did they find peace and happiness.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Show Your Love and complete the activity. Share your own ideas about how to show your love toward others.
- ▶ Together with your child, use art supplies and a shoe box to make a diorama of your interpretation of the birth of Jesus. Encourage your child to include everything he or she remembers from the story, such as sheep and shepherds, the Magi, the star of Bethlehem, and the manger.

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 show kindness and respect to 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.