

## ***Celebrating Easter***

### **Engage: Page 147**

- ▶ Show your child an Easter lily or a picture of one. **Ask:** *What can you tell me about this lily? (It's a plant we see in the spring and use to decorate at Easter.)* **Say:** *Easter, a celebration in the spring, is like this lily—beautiful and full of new life.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. Return to the Easter lily. **Say:** *Even when the leaves of lilies turn brown, they are not dead. Lilies grow from bulbs and continue to thrive. Lent, like a bulb in winter, is a time of waiting. Easter, like a blooming lily, celebrates new life. In this session we'll learn that Easter is the time we celebrate the risen Jesus.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family celebrates Easter. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Page 148**

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is the work of a missionary?* Together find out if there are mission groups in your area and learn more about them.
- ▶ Have your child read silently Our Mission During Easter. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *We must answer God's call and do all we can to serve one another, including members of our family, our friends and neighbors, and people around the world whom we've never met.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud My Mission and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *In his Gospel, Mark emphasizes the importance of serving others rather than being served.*

### **Reflect: Page 149**

- ▶ Share a church bulletin with your child, pointing out the many activities. **Ask:** *Which activities are inspiring to you?*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter and What We Experience. **Say:** *During the Easter season, we celebrate more than the Resurrection. We also celebrate Jesus' Ascension into Heaven and the Holy Spirit coming on Pentecost.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Serve the Lord and Others and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' Ascension into Heaven 40 days after his Resurrection, on the sixth Thursday after Easter, or the seventh Sunday of Easter, depending on the diocese.*

### Art Exploration: Page 249

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus' disciples receiving the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the symbol of fire and the expressions on the people's faces.
- ▶ **Say:** *Easter is a time to reflect on the mission we are being given by Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 249. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the page. **Say:** *It is now 2,000 years later. The Holy Spirit is still giving us strength and confidence to tell others about the promise of Salvation through Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Allow time for your child to complete the activity and share the response with you.
- ▶ **Say:** *Easter is a joyful season because although Christ had died, he is now risen. Imagine you are one of the disciples visited by the Holy Spirit. Imagine what the scene is like. Allow your child a few moments of quiet reflection. Say: Let us pray. God, thank you for sending your Son to save us from sin. Help us serve others as Jesus has. Amen.*

### 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 do a nice deed without expecting a thank-you in return.
- ▶ 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.