



Celebrating Christmas

Engage: Page 87

- ▶ Together make a Venn diagram that shows at least three ways that your family is similar to and different from the Holy Family.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. **Say:** *In this session we will learn more about our Church's Christmas season and the significance of the star.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what your family could learn from the Holy Family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 88

- ▶ **Ask:** *What gifts could we give at Jesus' birth today that hold a spiritual importance? (a Theological or Cardinal Virtue or one of the Gifts or Fruits of the Holy Spirit)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate Epiphany During Christmas. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *Why didn't the Magi return to Jerusalem? (In a dream they were warned not to return and to go home a different way.)* **Say:** *We celebrate the Magi's journey to honor Jesus and the revelation that he is God's Son on the Feast of the Epiphany.*
- ▶ Have your child answer the questions and share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Visualize the Magi, exhausted from traveling so far. Imagine the joy of finding the infant Jesus.*

Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ Talk about your favorite family traditions during the Christmas season. **Ask:** *What is a tradition you might carry on with your own family some day?*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. Ask your child to share his or her impressions and experiences at Mass during the Christmas season.
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *How are the experiences at Mass similar to our family's Christmas celebrations? How are they different? Share your own thoughts with your child.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus and the Magi. **Ask:** *What does the arrival of the Magi acknowledge to the world? (that Jesus has been born)*
- ▶ Read aloud Gifts of the Magi and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Frankincense and myrrh were almost as precious as gold at the time. They are actually tree sap that has been dried. They both had a distinct scent and were used in incense, perfumes, and medicines.*



Art Exploration: Page 243

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the Magi.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the Magi are holding.
- ▶ **Say:** *Just as the Magi did, we find ways to recognize Jesus as our king and Savior.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 243. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Church Celebrates the Christmas Season. **Ask:** *What key points in the life of Jesus do we learn about during the Christmas season?* (his birth, his family, the visit of the Magi, and his baptism) *Why is the visit of the Magi to Jesus so important to all Christians today?* (It's part of the Revelation; it shows that the child of God was born.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Guiding Us and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her response with you.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that he or she welcomed the Magi to the town where Jesus is. Encourage your child to describe the faces of the visitors as they approach the baby Jesus. **Say:** *As you see these three strangers standing before you, what do you ask them? How do the Magi answer?* Give your child time to have a silent conversation with the Magi. Have your child offer a petition to Jesus to guide him or her through the day.

Respond: Page 90

- ▶ 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 take part in parish activities such as food drives and social events.
- ▶ 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.