



## Celebrating Ordinary Time

### Engage: Page 35

- ▶ Display a blank calendar of the current month. Ask your child to name special events you and your family celebrate during this month. **Say:** *Just as we mark important occasions in our lives, the Church marks time according to important events in the lives of Jesus, Mary, and the saints.*
- ▶ Read aloud and discuss the text in the box on page 35. Together read aloud the page. Discuss the meaning of *Ordinary Time*, reading aloud the definition in the Glossary. **Ask:** *What does the Church invite us to do during Ordinary Time? (grow as a disciple of Jesus')*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Display a picture of a famous athlete or musician. Talk about this person's achievements. Discuss how this person achieved his or her goals. **Say:** *This person probably made many sacrifices and mistakes but did not give up. Like most activities that are worthwhile, practice and dedication are the keys to growing.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title Helping Faith Grow. Then read aloud the text on page 36. **Ask:** *Why do you think James says that we should be slow to speak and slow to wrath? (Possible answer: so we have time to think before we do or say something hurtful)* **Say:** *Because all of us are on our own unique faith journeys, we all react differently to Jesus' call. Invite your child to reread the words of Jesus' Great Commission.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Our Catholic Character. Turn to the Glossary and discuss the meaning of the word *convocation*. Obtain a parish bulletin and together look for names of parish ministries. Share stories of ministries you know about or have been involved in.
- ▶ Together read aloud the section Everyday Disciple on page 37. **Say:** *Every action we take and every thought we have are opportunities to grow in faith and make God's presence visible in the world.*
- ▶ Complete the Practice Your Faith activity together. After your child finishes writing, **ask:** *What effect might the positive actions have on others?* **Say:** *Living out your faith in public can have positive effects on people long after the initial experience.*
- ▶ Together discuss some questions. **Ask:** *Whom do you know who is the best example of a disciple of Jesus'? Why did you choose this person?* Encourage your child to think about this person as you continue this session.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Explore: Pages 38–39

- ▶ Listen to a song about answering God's call such as "We Are Called" by David Haas from *With You by My Side*. Together discuss the song's meaning. Explain that during Ordinary Time, we hear many stories that teach us what it means to be called as a disciple of Jesus'.



- ▶ Read aloud the article title Responding to the Gospels. Take turns reading aloud page 38. Name some extraordinary disciples and cite qualities that make them so. Explain that the Corporal Works of Mercy aid the physical needs of a person, while the Spiritual Works of Mercy aid the emotional or spiritual needs. **Say:** *As disciples of Jesus, we are called to help one another in these ways.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Works of Mercy box. Help him or her understand the meaning of each one and discuss ways to practice each Work of Mercy.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Saint Thérèse of Lisieux on page 39. Ask your child to think about times when he or she worried about a new challenge, but the situation turned out well. **Ask:** *Which situation reminds you of Saint Thérèse?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the section Saint Vincent de Paul. **Say:** *God blessed Vincent de Paul with the ability to effect great change. We are called to do good work, not to please or impress God, but to discover his presence in those we serve.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Share ideas about volunteering in a soup kitchen or food pantry. **Ask:** *Which Work of Mercy does this artwork portray? (Feed the hungry.)*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Reflect: Pages 40–41

- ▶ Read aloud the title For Those Who Are Sick on page 40. Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs in the left column. Point out that one way to share in Jesus' ministry is to pray for those who are sick. Mention family and friends who are sick or in pain.
- ▶ Together pray Prayers of Intention. Ask your child to read aloud the Leader part. After the last paragraph, take turns praying aloud personal intentions, followed by the response "Jesus, heal us." After the final Leader and All parts, pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Look at page 41. Read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? Ask your child to define *discipleship*. (Possible answers: sharing God's message with others, following Christ) Take turns reading aloud Little Things Mean a Lot. **Say:** *What gifts did the author end up receiving from Ron? (friendship, a deeper understanding of the Christian life, firsthand knowledge of the power of "small acts of love")*
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 25:40–45 in the Bible. Complete the A Full Heart activity by brainstorming and recording "small things" that show love.

### Respond: Page 42

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the directions in What's What? before writing paragraphs for each phrase. Encourage your child to use the referenced page to find ideas.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Tell your child to close his or her eyes and take a moment to consider the response before writing it down. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at [www.loyolapress.com/retreat](http://www.loyolapress.com/retreat).