



Jesus Is God with Us

Engage: Page 55

- ▶ Discuss some nicknames of friends and family. Discuss how each person got his or her nickname.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the box on page 55. Point out that a nickname might be related to a person's personality, abilities, or character traits. Ask your child to think of an adjective that describes him or her in a distinct way. Explain that the names for Jesus that are revealed in Scripture carry great significance.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray together the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Write the letters A.K.A. and ask your child if he or she knows that they mean “also known as.” Point out that some people are better known by other names. **Say:** *Samuel Clemens wrote under the name Mark Twain.* Identify other names that some writers, musicians, or entertainers go by in the entertainment world. **Say:** *Jesus is known by other names too, but Jesus' names have significant meanings. They are not just for flair.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title Explore Names for Jesus on page 56. Then read together the first three sections. Discuss the meaning of *Infancy Narrative*. **Ask:** *Why is it significant that the angel addresses Joseph as “son of David”?* (It fulfills the prophecy that the Messiah will rise from the House of David.) *How does Jesus live up to the meaning of his name, “God saves”?* (Jesus won Salvation for our sins through his Death and Resurrection.)
- ▶ Read aloud the sections God Is with Us and Jesus the Christ on pages 56 and 57. **Ask:** *What does Emmanuel mean?* (God is with us.) *How does Matthew's Infancy Narrative show that Jesus is the New Covenant?* (In the events surrounding Jesus' birth, many prophecies were fulfilled. Events in Matthew's narrative parallel events in the Old Testament, such as Jesus retracing Moses's journey when the Holy Family escapes to Egypt.) *What does the word Christ mean?* (It is the Greek version of the Hebrew word for Messiah.) Explain that *Messiah* means “anointed one.” **Say:** *The name Christ is important to our faith and one of many titles assigned to Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Discuss the questions about the art. **Ask:** *How does this artist's portrayal bring you closer to understanding “God is with us”?*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 58–59

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is your favorite way to speak with a friend? Is it by telephone, e-mail, tweeting, video chat, text messaging, or face-to-face? How do you speak with Jesus?* (Possible answer: in personal prayer, spoken and written)
- ▶ Turn to page 58. Take turns reading aloud the page. Discuss how names are used during communication. Explain that God is always listening and always inviting us to respond. **Say:** *God truly has “called you by name.”* **Ask:** *What are some ways God speaks to you?* (Possible answers: in nature, in family, in the sacraments, through other people)



- ▶ Read aloud the Our Catholic Character feature. Explain that we encounter God through the inspired words of Scripture in the Mass. We celebrate Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the sending forth of the disciples to serve Christ.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the sections Through People and In Dreams and Other Ways on page 59. **Say:** *Almost everyone has heard the advice "Follow your dreams." God certainly had that in mind when he spoke to people in dreams.* Read aloud Genesis 15:1 as your child follows along and repeat "the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision." **Say:** *Abraham experienced God in the stillness and quiet of his sleep.* **Ask:** *How might technology, media, and computers separate us from an experience with God?* (Possible answer: They may distract us from God's presence.)
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the remaining three sections on page 59. Point out that some things we desire may not be part of God's plan. **Say:** *Focus on what God wants, and listen with your mind and heart in a prayerful, reflective way.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. Read aloud the definitions of *monstrance* and *adoration* in the Glossary. Explain that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI began an important new tradition at the celebration of World Youth Day in 2005 when he ended the vigil with silent Eucharistic adoration instead of a loud musical finale. The 2011 World Youth Day featured a monstrance set into a towering 16th-century silver-and-gold structure because the pope wished to proclaim Jesus Christ as the central person of World Youth Day.
- ▶ Close the discussion by asking some questions. **Ask:** *How has God spoken to you? How did you recognize his voice?*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 60–61

- ▶ Read aloud the title Called by Name on page 60. Then ask your child to read aloud the paragraphs in the left column. Encourage your child to think of prayer as a movement toward God.
- ▶ Before beginning the guided reflection, **say:** *Respond to the questions in the silence of your heart.* Slowly pray aloud the guided reflection "Am I Who I Say?" Provide time for reflection between parts. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Look at page 61. Read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? **Say:** *To discover how God answers our prayers, we can pay attention and listen closely for what God wants us to know during the events of our lives.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Answered Prayers. **Ask:** *What was Coach Wagner's advice? (Try another sport.) What was the outcome of the advice for the author? (The author discovered a new talent and met his best friend.)*
- ▶ Have your child complete the Becoming You activity independently.

Respond: Page 62

- ▶ Read aloud the directions in What's What? Explain that there is only one best answer. Encourage your child to refer to the pages shown to find the answers.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Discuss ideas with your child before he or she completes the activity independently.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.