



The Great Cathedrals and Worship

Engage: Page 99

- ▶ Look at images of magnificent structures, such as Willis Tower, the Empire State Building, the Gateway Arch, and St. Peter's Basilica. Discuss how the form of each building influences the function for which it is used.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the questions in the blue box. **Say:** *In this session we're going to learn about cathedrals and the role these buildings play in our worship of God.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ Invite your child to close his or her eyes and answer questions about your home, such as what color the walls are in the kitchen and how many windows are in a certain room. **Say:** *We often spend time in a place without paying much attention to it. We will open our eyes to the beauty and meaning of cathedrals.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the article The Great Cathedrals. Provide this information as your child explores the picture of the cathedral:
 1. Stained-glass windows show stories of faith.
 2. Symbols of the natural world point to the grandeur and glory of God.
 3. The bishop's throne is where a bishop sits when he celebrates Mass.
 4. The rounded section of the cathedral often contains the tabernacle, the altar, and the bishop's throne.
 5. A crypt is a space beneath the altar that holds the remains of those who have gone before us in faith.
 6. We use the aisle to process to the altar.
 7. The nave symbolizes the boat from which Jesus calmed the waters.
 8. Images of the heroes of our faith remind us that we are members of the Communion of Saints and the Mystical Body of Christ.
 9. These windows illuminate the central part of the interior.
 10. This window symbolizes the harmony and integrity of the life of faith.
 11. Gargoyles are statues whose purpose is to keep water away from the walls of the cathedral.
 12. The bell tower holds the chimes that call people to worship.
 13. Lofty spires allowed people to see the cathedral at a great distance.
- ▶ Together look online to find an image of your diocesan cathedral. Make a plan to visit it in the near future.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Display images of various symbols, such as fire, water, and oil. Invite your child to suggest what each symbol represents. **Say:** *Symbols help us express a reality that we cannot fully express in words.*

- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the title A Sacramental Church and the first section. **Say:** *Just as cells are the building blocks of human life, rites are the building blocks of the sacraments.* **Ask:** *How is the word sacrament defined?* (the visible signs of divine life that God shares with us) **Say:** *The sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ and given to us by the Church. Through the sacraments we receive the grace to open our minds and hearts to God and one another.* Display pictures of various sacramentals (if necessary, refer to the Glossary for the definition of *sacramental*) and invite your child to explain how the sacramentals are used in prayer and worship.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Ready for Confirmation. **Say:** *In this case the word seal means “marked, protected, and strengthened by” rather than “closed with.”*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud A Life of Prayer on page 103. Draw your child’s attention to the word *piety*. Read aloud the definition of the word from the Glossary. Point out that acts of piety are like sacramentals in that they use everyday behavior to help us grow in our relationship with God. Share particular acts of piety that are common to your parish, such as praying the Rosary before Mass or praying novenas for feast days.
- ▶ Make a two-column chart with the headings *School* and *Characteristics*. Together write the names of the schools of spirituality included in the section and describe the characteristics of each.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. Point out that we celebrate the sacraments in a church building. **Say:** *We are called to “be Church” by sharing Jesus’ peace and love with others.*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 104–105

- ▶ Read aloud the title Growing Closer to God and the paragraphs in the left column. **Ask:** *What do the seven petitions in the Lord’s Prayer teach us?* (how to place ourselves in God’s presence and speak with him in prayer)
- ▶ Have your child pray aloud the first part of the Lord’s Prayer. Pause a moment before praying aloud the first reflection. Then have your child pray aloud the second part of the Lord’s Prayer. Pray aloud the second reflection and allow time to reflect silently.
- ▶ Ahead of time, write each of the following letters on separate note cards: G, O, D, I, S, L, I, G, H, T. Mix up the cards and **ask:** *What message do these cards indicate?* (No message—they are just letters.) Work together to put the cards in order so that they tell a message about God. **Say:** *On our own, things don’t make much sense. But when we join together with others, we find meaning and share God’s light.* Read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? on page 105.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Let There Be Light! **Ask:** *What about the spectacle was particularly moving for the author?* (the fact that the people whose lights she was seeing were unaware that they were contributing to such beauty) **Say:** *This is also true for us. We are part of a design that is more beautiful than we could ever dream. If we remember this, the light of our lives will grow brighter and brighter.* Draw your child’s attention to the last sentence of the article. **Ask:** *What do you think this means?* (Possible answers: We do not accept darkness, evil, and misery as ultimate realities. We have hope.)
- ▶ Have your child complete Revealing God’s Presence independently. Encourage him or her to share the response with you.

Respond: Page 106

- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child fill in the blanks independently.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Have your child complete the activity and be mindful of his or her response during the week. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.