



Renewal in the Church

Engage: Page 143

- ▶ **Ask:** For which of these offenses do you think the offender deserves to be suspended from school: being tardy, getting into a fistfight, turning in homework late? (fistfight) **Say:** It seems just, but the student who receives the suspension might not feel that the consequence is fair. Because of our emotions, sometimes it is difficult for us to see the fairness of the consequences we face.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the blue box. **Say:** In this session we're going to learn about Church teachings that help us make good decisions so that we can avoid sin and its consequences.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 144–145

- ▶ Display a road map or a GPS unit. **Ask:** Why do we use these? (to help us find our way) **Say:** After the Reformation the Church needed to check its course to make sure that its teachings and practices were an authentic response to God's Revelation.
- ▶ Read aloud the title The Bishops Respond and the introductory paragraphs. Ask your child to summarize what happened during the Reformation. Point out that reformers challenged the Church's teachings and practices regarding indulgences, Scripture, the sacraments, and Salvation. As a result of the reformers' challenges, new Christian denominations developed.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of The Council of Trent. **Say:** The decisions made at the Council of Trent influenced the course of European history and shaped Church teaching for the next half century. Continue reading aloud the next four paragraphs. **Ask:** What effect would the opening of seminaries have? (There would be systematic and uniform formation for the priesthood.) **Say:** The members of the new religious communities that were founded after the Council of Trent responded to the needs of their time.
- ▶ Read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. Ask your child to read aloud from the Glossary the definition of the word *catechism*. If possible, together explore online the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Teaching the Faith. Together decide what teachings you both believe to be essential to pass on to those who want to become Catholic.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 146–147

- ▶ **Ask:** Do you think it would be good for us to live in a world where there weren't any rules? Encourage your child to explain his or her answer. **Say:** We will read about the consequences of choosing to act in ways that are contrary to God's rules as well as about practices that help us remain faithful to these rules.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the title Sin and Forgiveness and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** What does the term seal of the confessional mean? (that a priest can never reveal the sins that are confessed to him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation)

- ▶ Read aloud Types of Sins. Ask your child to explain the terms *mortal sin*, *venial sin*, *personal sin*, and *social sin*. Encourage him or her to refer to the Glossary if necessary. **Ask:** *What three conditions must be present for a sin to be considered mortal?* (The action must be serious. The person must know that it is serious. The person must freely choose to commit the sin.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. As you discuss the capital sins, explain that greed is also known as avarice or covetousness.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the sections The Ten Commandments and The Beatitudes on page 147. **Ask:** *What do the Ten Commandments teach us?* (what is required to love God and our neighbors) Read aloud the Beatitudes found on page 263 in the back of the book.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Precepts of the Church. Point out that the Precepts of the Church present the minimum we are called to do in prayer and in living a moral life.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for Confirmation feature. Tell your child that he or she does not have to wait to be confirmed to practice these rights and responsibilities and that maturing as a follower of Christ's takes a lifetime.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Read aloud the title Restoring Relationships and the paragraphs in the left column. **Ask:** *What do we acknowledge when we pray the Lord's Prayer?* (that God's mercy can penetrate our hearts only when we are merciful toward others and forgive those who have hurt us)
- ▶ Ask your child to pray the Leader part and you will pray the Reader part. You both can read the All part. Begin the prayer Forgiveness Reflection. When you reach the end of the reflection, conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? on page 149. **Say:** *As you get older, your decisions will get more complex and require more thought.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Decisions: Whom Do I Serve? **Ask:** *When the author was a child, what did he imagine money could do?* (solve every problem in life) *What did he come to realize about having more money than one needs?* (that one has to make choices about how to spend it) Point out that sharing our goods with others helps prevent us from turning these goods into idols.
- ▶ Have your child complete Making Decisions independently. Suggest that he or she turn to pages 290–293 in the back of the book for information about making good choices.

Respond: Page 150

- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child answer the questions 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.