



# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

**Ask:** Can you think of a movie or a book about someone going on an adventure? Share ideas with your child and then discuss any trips your family has taken.

**Say:** We will learn about a saint who went on many adventures. Read aloud the unit title on page 61. **Say:** This unit will help us understand that the sacraments help us stay close to Jesus.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Ignatius. **Say:** Saint Ignatius of Loyola served God as a soldier and as a traveler. Read aloud the text.

**Say:** Just as Ignatius learned about Jesus from his family, we can learn with our family and grow closer to Jesus together.

Turn to page 62. Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** What was Ignatius's job? (soldier) Read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** Why do you think Ignatius wanted to be like Jesus and the saints? (to spend his life doing God's work)

Tell your child that Saint Ignatius loved teaching children about Jesus.

**Say:** Saint Ignatius taught about Jesus' love. He told children that they could talk to Jesus anytime in prayer. Now as we learn to listen to God in prayer, we can find out how to love and serve him.

With your child add Ignatius's feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love of Saint Ignatius.



## We Worship God

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Discuss what it is like to be the new member of a sports team, a school, a parish, or a club. **Ask:** *How would you welcome a new member?* (invite the person to a gathering, explain any rules, help him or her find things)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *What does worship mean?* (to praise God together as a community) **Say:** *In this session we will learn about the Sacrament of Baptism, an important experience that welcomes us to the Church community.*
- ▶ Encourage your child to think of other ways to welcome people who are new to your neighborhood. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Raise your forefinger to your lips. **Ask:** *What does this sign mean?* (to be quiet) Give a thumbs up. **Ask:** *What does this sign mean?* (good job) **Say:** *The sacraments are signs too. They remind us that God is with us.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 64. **Ask:** *Who is the Holy Spirit?* (the Third Person of the Trinity) **Say:** *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the ways we act when God is alive in us.*
- ▶ Discuss the day that your child was baptized. Have your child read aloud The Sacrament of Baptism on page 65. Point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *The Rite of Baptism is celebrated by pouring water over someone's head or immersing the person in water. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, Original Sin is forgiven.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *When we talk heart-to-heart with God, we share our innermost thoughts and feelings.*

### Art Exploration: Page 245

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a beautiful flowering tree.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the flowers, buds, and trunk.
- ▶ **Say:** *Just as a branch grows strong on a tree, we grow strong and happy when we stay close to Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 245. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.



- ▶ Read aloud *Jesus Is the Vine*. **Ask:** *Why do you think Jesus calls himself a vine? (He gives us life and keeps us strong.) What do we need to grow in love of God and Jesus? (prayer, sacraments, Bible, good deeds)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Grow Like a Vine* and complete the activity. Ask your child to share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit helps us stay close to Jesus. We bear the beautiful fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness.*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw a tree, leaving the branches bare. Have your child label the tree *Jesus* and the branches *Us*. Ask him or her to add fruits to the branches and label them as the Fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. Pray silently together, asking the Holy Spirit for these gifts.

### Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is saying a prayer. Remember that we thrive as long as we are connected to Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 66, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Provide a brief time of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 67. Discuss the questions with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud *Growing Close to Jesus* and have your child complete the list. Invite your child read aloud his or her list and discuss the ideas.

### Respond: Page 68

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be kind to others.
- ▶ 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.