



## Mary Shows Us the Way

### Engage: Page 81

- ▶ With your child discuss special women you both know. Have your child design a trophy for a special woman, using gold construction paper and art supplies. Ask him or her to complete this sentence on the trophy: *You are special to me because \_\_\_\_\_.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *Whom do you turn to when you need help?* **Say:** *In this session we will learn how Mary is always ready to help us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to give the trophy to the woman he or she honored. Invite your child to think about how Mary loved her Son, Jesus, and how Mary loves us today. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Discuss a time when your family traveled to visit a friend or family member. Talk about how you got there and how long it took. Recall how you felt when you finally arrived.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Mary Visits Elizabeth* on page 82. **Ask:** *What did Elizabeth call Mary? (blessed)* **Say:** *Mary was grateful for all God had done for her.* **Ask:** *What has God given you? (a healthy body, a home to live in, a good family)*
- ▶ Read aloud the *Did You Know?* feature. Discuss any cultural experiences that are about Mary, such as the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe or a May crowning. **Say:** *Everyone calls Mary blessed as Elizabeth said they would.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and prayer on page 83. **Say:** *The Magnificat is a special prayer of praise that Mary offered to God for choosing her to be Jesus' mother.*
- ▶ Read aloud the *Ready for the Sacraments* feature. **Say:** *Let's take a few moments to recall the good things God has done for us.*

### Art Exploration: Page 248

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the Virgin Mary with flowers.



- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Mary is wearing and holding.
- ▶ **Say:** *Each time you pray to Mary, know that she is always close to you.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 248. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud *Mother of the Church*. **Say:** *Mary has the special role of being the Mother of the Church.* **Ask:** *How does God help us to be his children?* (He gives us grace.)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud *Special Women* and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Reading God's Word* feature. **Ask:** *What are some of Mary's experiences that you think she remembered?* (visit from the angel Gabriel telling her she would be the mother of Jesus, visiting Elizabeth, praising God, the birth of Jesus, finding Jesus in the Temple)
- ▶ Explain to your child that different cultures picture Mary in their own way. Have your child picture Mary and draw his or her own version of the Mother of God. Display your child's artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Ask:** *How do you think the boy in the picture feels?* (happy) Remind your child that we ask Mary to pray for us, to help and support us, and to pray with us as we ask God for what we need. **Say:** *Mary, the Mother of the Church, loves each of us and wants us to be close to God and to her Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph slowly. Allow time for silent prayer. Close the prayer by praying the Hail Mary together.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the directions on page 85. Have your child read aloud each stanza and complete each sentence. When he or she is finished, read aloud the poem together.

### Respond: Page 86

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can honor Mary, the Mother of the Church.
- ▶ 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.