



Jesus Loves the Church

Engage: Page 99

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine you have just moved into a new neighborhood. How do you feel? (nervous, lonely) What do you wish your neighbors would do for you? (welcome you to the neighborhood, include you in activities)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *When someone new comes to our neighborhood, school, or parish, we should try to make that person feel welcome. In this session we'll learn ways we can show our love as followers of Jesus by making others feel welcome.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of ways he or she would welcome a new neighbor. Share your own ideas with your child. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ Together recall experiences when you had guests for dinner. **Ask:** *Who was there? What did we talk about? What did our guest share with us?*
- ▶ **Ask:** *What is a disciple? (a follower of Jesus')* Read aloud Inviting Jesus to Dinner on page 100. **Say:** *The disciples were very sad when they met the man on the road. Ask:* *How do you think they felt when they realized the man was Jesus? (overjoyed, happy)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Invite your child to read aloud the verse, using gestures: *Jesus' followers came together to learn* [put hands together to form a book], *to pray* [join hands and bow head in prayer], *and to break bread* [mime eating].
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is with Us on page 101. **Say:** *The Sacrifice of the Mass helps us remember that Jesus died for us and saved us from our sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *We learn about Jesus and his messages for us by listening to the Gospels.*

Art Exploration: Page 251

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture showing adults and children walking to or entering a church.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the destination of all the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we serve others in our parish community, we show our love for the family of God.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 251. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of We Are Members of the Church. **Say:** *Being a member of the Church means giving time and talent to serve the community God created. This service done for others is called ministry.* **Ask:** *What are some ways that children your age can be involved in ministry in our parish?* (donate food or clothing to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, sing in the children's choir) Have your child read aloud the last paragraph. Work together to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *What do ministers of hospitality do?* (welcome people to Mass)
- ▶ Invite your child to make a hospitality cross to represent the ministry. Help him or her glue together two craft sticks to make a cross. Write *HOSPITALITY* on the vertical stick. Then write *JE_US* on the horizontal stick, using the letter *S* from *HOSPITALITY* to connect the two words. Ask your child to decorate the cross with glitter and glue a safety pin to the back. Arrange for your family to serve as ministers of hospitality at an upcoming Mass and wear pins like this one.

Reflect: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Together look at page 102. **Ask:** *Where is the boy in the picture?* **Say:** *We say a prayer of blessing before every meal. As we ask for God's blessing on "these your gifts," we can include the gift of food and all the blessings of the day.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Pray aloud the prayer. Close by encouraging your child to pray this prayer with your family at mealtimes.
- ▶ Read aloud Welcome, Jesus! on page 103. **Ask:** *How can you invite Jesus into your life?* (pray, go to Mass, do acts of service)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Message for Jesus. Invite your child to complete the activity and share with you his or her welcome message to Jesus. **Say:** *When we welcome others into our lives, we are welcoming Jesus too.*

Respond: Page 104

- ▶ 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 welcome new children.
- ▶ 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.