



Following Jesus

Engage: Page 135

- ▶ Recall a random act of kindness that someone did for you or your child. **Ask:** *Why do you think that person was kind to us?* (Jesus teaches us to love everyone.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Jesus is our role model when it comes to being kind to others. He can help us treat others as he would. In this session we will learn about the love and kindness that Jesus taught us.*
- ▶ Together make a list of kind acts you can do for family members this week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is your favorite subject in school? Why?* **Say:** *It's fun to study and learn new things. The more we study and practice, the better we become at what we do.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Great Commandment on page 136 and point out the vocabulary terms. Together find the Old Testament and the New Testament in a Bible. Draw attention to the term *Great Commandment*. Ask your child to look up the term in the Glossary and give some examples.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *To follow the Great Commandment is to love God, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Beatitudes on page 137. **Say:** *Jesus taught people the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are ways Jesus gave us to live as his followers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Discuss the importance of Jesus' love.

Art Exploration: Page 257

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of friends playing and bringing joy to their neighborhood.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the children.
- ▶ **Say:** *We can be like Jesus by loving our neighbors.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 257. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud Love Your Neighbor. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can love our neighbor as we love ourselves? (show care, friendliness, encouragement, and understanding toward others)*
- ▶ Read aloud Love in Action. Allow time for your child to write words he or she says and deeds he or she does to show love.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a special out-of-season valentine for someone. Tell your child to write a message of love or friendship. Have him or her send or hand-deliver the valentine to this person.

Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Ask:** *What kind of choice do you think the boy in the picture is thinking about?* **Say:** *We can always rely on Jesus to be present, to strengthen us, and to guide us in every decision we make.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Let's think about how we can practice the Beatitudes in our lives, especially when we have to make difficult choices.* Pray aloud the prayer, pausing for a couple of seconds after each sentence, giving your child time to reflect. Invite your child to join you in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus taught that true happiness isn't found in getting what we want, but in being kind and fair to others and working for peace. This is the happiness that lasts.* Read aloud the heading and the first sentence on page 139.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Doing What Jesus Teaches and complete the activity. Invite your child to share which beatitude is followed in each example.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Say:** *Even though Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton had a busy life, she found time to reach out to others. She was a special person who put Jesus' teaching into practice.*

Respond: Page 140

- ▶ 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 to make peace with someone he or she hurt.
- ▶ 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.