

Jesus Is with Us

Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Discuss with your child any babies that you or your child knows. Invite your child to write short prayers for the special little ones in their life or write prayers for all babies. **Ask:** *How can you help care for a new baby? (sing to and play with the baby)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Have your child imagine helping Mary and Joseph get ready for Jesus. Discuss your child's answers. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us and to teach us how to live.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about welcoming Jesus into his or her life and heart. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Discuss what it means to trust. **Ask:** *What are some things that you trust me to do for you?*
- ▶ Read aloud Trust in God on page 22. **Ask:** *What did the angel tell Joseph? (that Mary would have a baby through the Holy Spirit) What does the name Jesus mean? (God saves us.)* **Say:** *Joseph trusted God and knew God wanted the best for Joseph and his family.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *Can you tell me three of the names for Jesus that are on this page? (Emmanuel, Savior, Son of God)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 23. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *How do you feel knowing that God sent his Son to be with you always? (secure, confident)* Invite your child to write about a time he or she trusted someone. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Trust that the Lord is always with you.*

Art Exploration: Page 230

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of angels.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the angels' names, clothes, and faces.
- ▶ **Say:** *An angel is a messenger from God. Joseph trusted the angel who told him Mary would have a baby.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 230. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What does Emmanuel mean?* (“God is with us.”) *What does Christ mean?* (“the anointed one”)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Names. Help your child find the meaning of his or her name in a book or on a Web site.
- ▶ Provide art materials and instruct your child to draw a self-portrait. Then mount the drawing on a sheet of construction paper and write your child’s full name on the sheet. Ask your child to write around the figure all the names to which he or she might answer, such as nicknames and names like *brother, daughter, niece, or friend.*

Reflect: Pages 24–25

- ▶ Together look at page 24. **Ask:** *What words would you use to describe how the girl in the picture feels?* **Say:** *She is opening her arms because she feels God’s love all around her.*
- ▶ Remind your child of the first phrase of the Apostles’ Creed that they learned in Session 1. Read aloud the first paragraph slowly. Together pray aloud the second sentence of the Apostles’ Creed. Then invite your child to read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** *You can be close with Jesus at any time.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 25. **Ask:** *What are some ways that Jesus lived a good life and cared for others?* (He taught others about God, helped Mary and Joseph, healed sick people) *What are some ways that Joseph and Mary lived a good life?* (They took care of each other and Jesus, and they trusted in God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of Good Examples. Have your child complete the activity and explain the reasons for choosing the pictures he or she circled. **Say:** *Remember that one way to pray is to say a prayer of thanksgiving. This is the kind of prayer you will write in the next part of the activity.* Read aloud the second paragraph and give your child time to reflect and write. Invite your child to share his or her prayer.

Respond: Page 26

- ▶ 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 to help others he or she knows and meets.
- ▶ 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.