



Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

Ask: What do you like to do with your best friend? What do the two of you have in common? How would you feel if your best friend moved away? Read aloud the unit title on page 31. **Say:** This unit helps us learn about Jesus' friendships with the apostles and the disciples. We can be good friends and followers of Jesus as well as good friends to one another.

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture. **Say:** Saints Scholastica and Benedict were brother and sister as well as best friends. Read aloud the text on page 31. **Ask:** What is a religious community? (a group of men or women who live, work, and pray together to serve God and others)

Turn to page 32 and point out the picture. **Say:** This is what an artist thought these saints looked like as children. Scholastica holds a dove, a symbol of her spirit. Benedict holds a raven that once saved his life.

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** Remember our discussion about how important friends are to us. Have your child read aloud the remaining paragraphs. **Ask:** What was so important about this storm? (It showed that God had heard Scholastica's prayer.)

With your child add Scholastica's feast day, February 10, and Benedict's feast day, July 11, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the friendship of Saints Scholastica and Benedict.

Jesus' Good News

Engage: Page 33

- ▶ Together with your child read one of Aesop's fables. When you are finished, **ask:** *What is the moral of this story? What does this story help us learn?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *Jesus knew people enjoyed stories, so he told a lot of them. Jesus told us parables to teach us about God and his creation. In this session we will learn about some of his parables.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about fables he or she has heard. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 34–35

- ▶ Ask your child to act out these similes: busy as a bee, quick as a wink, drink like a fish, eat like a bird. **Say:** *Sometimes we can explain something by comparing it to something else.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 34. **Say:** *This parable helps us understand the Kingdom of God.* **Ask:** *What did Jesus say that a tiny mustard seed could do? (Even though a mustard seed is small, it can spread far and serve many.) What are small acts we might do to serve the kingdom? (respect elders, greet neighbors)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 35. **Say:** *What did Jesus do to show us how to serve the Kingdom of God? (He worked hard, practiced his faith, and loved all people.)*
- ▶ Read aloud A Small Act of Kindness. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can help those in need? (donate toys, give money or items to charity, spend time with those who are lonely)* **Say:** *When others see our good deeds, it encourages them to do good deeds as well.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Random Acts of Kindness and complete the activity. Encourage him or her to share the responses with you.

Art Exploration: Page 232

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Benedict and his sister Saint Scholastica.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the background and how people are dressed.
- ▶ **Say:** *Saints Benedict and Scholastica grew up to found monasteries and convents. They dedicated their lives to God.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 232. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first three paragraphs. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Under Saint Benedict's direction, his twin sister founded a convent. From their followers came many more monasteries, convents, and schools.* **Ask:** *Why was Saint Benedict's work like planting a mustard seed? (The small seed of his monastery sprouted many branches.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What's Your Motto? Give your child time to think about what his or her personal motto might be and then complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud Did You Know? **Say:** *Benedictions, or blessings, are signs, or sacramentals, of God's love reaching us through the actions of the Church.*
- ▶ Tell your child to imagine he or she has an animal friend, like Saint Benedict's raven, who could watch over him or her and warn of danger. Ask your child to sculpt this animal out of modeling clay and think of a story in which the animal helps him or her. Encourage your child to share the story and clay animal with family members.

Reflect: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Together look at page 36. **Ask:** *How is the boy in the picture aware of the presence of God in his life?* Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Have your child find a comfortable position as you read aloud the first three paragraphs. After each question, give your child time to reflect. Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask your child to think of what he or she can do to serve God's kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud Yeast Is Like the Mustard Seed on page 37. **Say:** *When dough is baked without yeast, the bread is flat. But if we add a little yeast to the dough, it rises and bakes into a bread loaf that is much larger than before it was baked.* **Ask:** *How does this story help us understand how to serve the Kingdom of God? (Each little thing that we do for others helps us serve the Kingdom of God.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Can You Be Like Yeast? Give your child time to write his or her ideas. Invite your child to share his or her response with you. Encourage your child to do the one small thing he or she wrote about.

Respond: Page 38

- ▶ 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 do small things to help 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.