

## Jesus Gathers Disciples

### Engage: Page 45

- ▶ **Ask:** *How do friends show they care for each other?* Discuss ways you both have shown that you care for your friends. Have your child make a card out of construction paper for a friend he or she is thankful for.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What are these children doing?* (picking up litter) **Say:** *The way Jesus cared for and loved others shows us how we should treat friends. In this session we will learn that Jesus wants us to know that we can accomplish much when we work together.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of other friends he or she would like to send thank-you cards to. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 46–47

- ▶ Discuss what it is like to go fishing. **Say:** *Sometimes you catch a few fish, and sometimes you don't catch anything.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 46. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *The Gospel tells us the Good News about God's mercy and love, as well as stories of Jesus' life and teachings. These stories are in four books in the New Testament. The books are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.* **Ask:** *What is an apostle?* (a special friend of Jesus') Read aloud the rest of page 46. **Ask:** *Why might it be hard for Peter to trust Jesus?* (He did not know Jesus.) *Why did Peter tell Jesus to leave him?* (He felt he was not good enough to be a follower of Jesus')
- ▶ Read aloud page 47. **Ask:** *What does it mean that Jesus accepted Peter as he was?* (Jesus knew Peter was trying his best to be a good person.) **Say:** *Jesus knows we aren't perfect, but he accepts us the way we are.*
- ▶ **Say:** *In the early years of the Church, Christians used the shape of a fish as a symbol of their faith.* Have your child make a fish out of a 12-inch craft stem. Tell him or her to bend the stem in half and twist it together near the end to make a tail. Pull the middle apart to resemble a fish. Have your child hang the fish in his or her room.

### Art Exploration: Page 234

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the apostles and the disciples spreading God's Word.

- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of the speakers and the crowd.
- ▶ **Say:** *All of us can be disciples by proclaiming God's message and by doing good deeds to serve the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 234. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first two paragraphs. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *Whom did Jesus choose to proclaim God's kingdom? (Peter, the other apostles, and the disciples) Who helps do Jesus' work now? (priests, nuns, deacons, family members)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Lean on Me and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The pope is the head of the Church. He follows in Saint Peter's footsteps.*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw a picture of a present-day disciple. Explain that it could be a priest, teacher, godparent, or even himself or herself. Then ask him or her to write a sentence or two explaining how the person in the picture is a disciple.

### Reflect: Pages 48–49

- ▶ Together look at page 48. **Say:** *Imagine you are the girl in the picture. Use your senses to describe what she sees, hears, feels, and smells.*
- ▶ **Say:** *When we quiet ourselves for prayer, we can listen for Jesus' call and respond to him in our hearts.* Read aloud the reflection and ask your child to imagine the scenes. Pause after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Close by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 49. **Say:** *Jesus knew that he could accomplish more with the help of his friends, the apostles.* Ask your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Why did Jesus need more workers? (It takes many people to accomplish a big job.)*

### Respond: Page 50

- ▶ 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 listen to and respect the members of a group.
- ▶ 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.